

For immediate release – NAZCCA celebrates eighth year bringing climate activism to Northern Arizona

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The Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance (NAZCCA) was founded in 2016 to combine climate science expertise and efforts of climate activists in the City of Flagstaff. Over the last eight years, the group has grown to a mailing list of over 13,000 supporters regionally with over 14,000 signatures on NAZCCA petitions expressing concern about our need to reduce carbon emissions.

NAZCCA has made significant progress in its efforts to accelerate city-level climate action. The group supported Flagstaff executive leadership in their efforts to develop a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan in 2017. This plan was passed by a unanimous City Council in November of 2018. With continued encouragement from NAZCCA and other environmental groups, the City Council went on to declare a Climate Emergency in 2020 and ratify the Carbon Neutrality Plan (CNP) in 2021. The CNP sets the goal for Flagstaff to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The net zero by 2030 goal also became part of Flagstaff's Regional Plan with the requirement that new development proposals must help the city reach that goal.

NAZCCA provides climate science education through public presentations, monthly columns in Arizona Daily Sun, and ongoing "Climate Talks for Everyone" series. The group aims to help people understand how human actions are causing climate change, what the consequences are, and how we can mitigate these effects.

NAZCCA's approach from the start was for ordinary citizens to increasingly take the lead in N. Arizona cities. "People stepping up are the backbone of our organization," Beverly Hedden from Cottonwood emphasizes. The group believes that smart, net zero development is the basis for a sustainable future for Flagstaff and wholeheartedly supports it.

Other communities are setting similar goals with cities like Copenhagen, Denmark setting the goal of net zero by 2025 and cities like Aspen, CO, Georgetown, TX, and Burlington, VT already achieving 100% renewable energy. By 2016, there were already 479 LEED-certified buildings in Arizona. Flagstaff has two LEED Platinum-certified buildings that were built in 2007 and 2008. In 2017, the US Army built the Weed Community Hospital in the Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin, which is certified LEED Platinum and carbon neutral. The current standard for smart development is LEED Zero Carbon, and this is now being met by new buildings in Arizona such as DPR Construction's new Regional Office in Phoenix.

In the last eight years, NAZCCA has integrated climate concerns into legislative budget conversations, zoning and permitting decisions, and regional planning efforts. NAZCCA's 14 Climate Action Teams are currently working to ensure that city stewardship of public capital, bicycle safety, fleet electrification, and many other activities are aligned with achieving a net-zero future as soon as possible.

In honor of its eighth anniversary, NAZCCA invites residents of Flagstaff, Sedona, Prescott, and Verde Valley to participate in local climate activism by signing a petition, attending an educational event, or joining the Earth Day celebration on April 20, 2024, at Flagstaff's Bushmaster Park from 11AM to 2PM and NAU's Earth Jam that same day between 2PM and 5PM on the NAU North Quad.

To learn more about NAZCCA, please visit www.nazcca.org or contact:

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