

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES

City of Scottsdale
Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission (SEAC)
Regular Meeting

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Community Design Studio Nave 7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale 85251

Call to Order 5:34 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Ute Brady, Vice Chair Andrew Scheck; Commission Members: Natalie

Chrisman Lazarr, Walter Cuculic, Tara Iyengar, Ryan Johnson, Alisa McMahon

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director; Derek Castaneda, Environmental

Planner; Cindi Eberhardt, Planning & Development Area Director;

Stephanie Tippett, Parks and Recreation Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None; one member of the public was present.

1) Approve Meeting Minutes for February and March 2024:

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2024
- b) Regular Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2024

Chair Brady made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2024, with Vice Chair Scheck providing a Second for the motion, which carried 7-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL.

Commissioner McMahon made a motion to continue the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2024 to the next meeting date, with Commissioner Cuculic providing a Second for the motion, which carried 7-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL.

2) Parks and Recreation Department Update

Stephanie Tippett, Parks and Recreation Manager, shared updates from the Parks and Recreation Department on their master planning process (slides attached). The overview of the master plan included the six major goals: Create a vision; propose approaches for accommodating growth; identify gaps and prioritize future improvements; understand desired levels of service and facilities; understand partnership opportunities; and evaluate operations and maintenance practices.

The department's outreach included workshops, interactive websites, social media, pop-up events, an online survey, and a statistically valid mail survey. She reviewed the extensive

survey results, which will be part of the master plan once it is adopted. One finding was that the overall satisfaction and utilization of Scottsdale parks ranks higher than national averages. Once the full master plan is drafted, staff will present to the Parks and Recreation Commission (June) before taking it to the City Council for adoption in early fall.

Commissioners asked about the meaning of "expanding partnerships" and the operating budget for Parks and Recreation (including electricity costs). Commissioners mentioned sustainability measures they would like to see incorporated into the master plan, including stormwater capture/rainwater harvesting to offset potable water irrigation, solar parking canopies, and EV charging spaces.

Because the deadline for submitting master plan input is before the next SEAC meeting, Commissioners were invited to share their input and feedback by emailing Ms. Tippett by April 30.

3) Sustainable Scottsdale Awards

Ute Brady, Chair, shared slides (attached) comparing the Sustainable Scottsdale Award program with an example from the 2015 Environmental Achievement Recognition Award program. She raised concerns about the current process, especially the lack of information and data available to evaluate the applicants. Because the process precluded obtaining additional information and data before the EarthFest presentation later in the week, Chair Brady recommended SEAC not select a 2024 recipient, but rather, if a 2024 award is to be presented, that it be chosen by and presented from the Office of Environmental Initiatives.

Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director, also shared slides (attached) that recapped the award process and an initial ranking from the Commissioners who shared their input.

Commissioners discussed the differences between the Sustainable Scottsdale Award and Environmental Achievement Recognition Award programs, and the information required to perform an appropriately rigorous review. Other points discussed were:

- 1. Whether future planned efforts should qualify for the award;
- 2. Interviewing the candidates;
- 3. Assessment of applications from small versus large entities;
- 4. Making the evaluation/selection process data-driven;
- 5. Formal SEAC presentation of the award at a city council meeting.

Commissioner lyengar asked that the process for the next award be further discussed at a future meeting.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to advance Recycled City as the 2024 Sustainable Scottsdale Award winner, with Commissioner Chrisman Lazarr providing a Second for the motion, which carried 4-3. Commissioners Chrisman Lazarr, Cuculic, Iyengar, and Johnson APPROVED the motion and Chair Brady, Vice Chair Scheck, and Commissioner McMahon OPPOSED the motion.

4) Scottsdale Community Sustainability Plan

Item #4 was removed.

5) EarthFest 2024

Lisa McNeilly shared that Mayor Ortega will announce the Sustainable Scottsdale Award winner at 10:00 a.m. at the upcoming EarthFest, and that the Shade and Tree Plan consultants will be at the Office of Environmental Initiatives table.

6) Staff Updates

Lisa McNeilly shared several updates:

- Derek Castaneda started as the new Environmental Planner on April 8th.
- The Request for Qualifications for the City of Tucson's study on Community Choice Aggregation closed in December 2023. The funding source is a 2023 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant from FEMA. The objective of that Energy Sourcing Study is "to analyze various options to source 100% renewable power for the Tucson community. Options to be analyzed will include:
 - A. A feasibility study on the formation of a public power utility;
 - B. Opportunities and barriers to co-forming a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program;
 - C. Opportunities for solar service agreements (SSAs) or virtual power purchase agreements (PPAs) to meet the City's power needs for municipal operations; and,
 - D. The ability to deploy micro-grids to support the clean energy transition."
- Community meetings for the Shade and Tree Plan are tentatively scheduled for on May 15 (mid-day at Nave) and May 16 (evening at FEN). All Boards and Commissions will be invited.
- City Council will make nominations for the vacant Commission seat on May 6th and vote on the appointment on May 14th.
- The draft Community Sustainability Plan has been posted for public comment, in advance of the May 21st City Council meeting. The draft plan reflects consensus direction received at work study sessions, legislative edits (e.g., new or updated data), consistent format for targets and new sections (Executive Summary, Glossary, Appendices, Acknowledgements).

7) Identification of Future Agenda Items

Commissioners were requested to send any suggestions related to desired future agenda items to the staff liaison and Chair Brady.

8) Recognition of Service: Commissioner Natalie Chrisman Lazarr

The Commission recognized Commissioner Chrisman Lazarr for having completed two consecutive terms of service with the Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission. Commissioners and staff shared their appreciation for her service.

Adjournment 7:26 p.m.



Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting the Office of Environmental Initiatives at 480-312-2831. Requests should be made 24 hours in advance, or as early as possible, to allow time to arrange the accommodation. For TTY users, the Arizona Relay Service (1-800-367-8939) may contact the Office of Environmental Initiatives at 480-312-2831.







What is a Master Plan?

A long-range plan that identifies key initiatives, policies, and implementation strategies to guide Scottsdale's Parks and Recreation Department projects and services over the next 10+ years.

DWL ARCHITECTS+ Kimley »Horn











Project Goals



Create a comprehensive and compelling vision and direction for Parks and Recreation



Gain understanding of current and desired levels of service and facilities in order to demonstrate more equitable distribution of service and opportunity

DWL ARCHITECTS+ Kimley»Horn



Propose various approaches for the fiscal picture in balance



Understand potential partnership opportunities and funding options



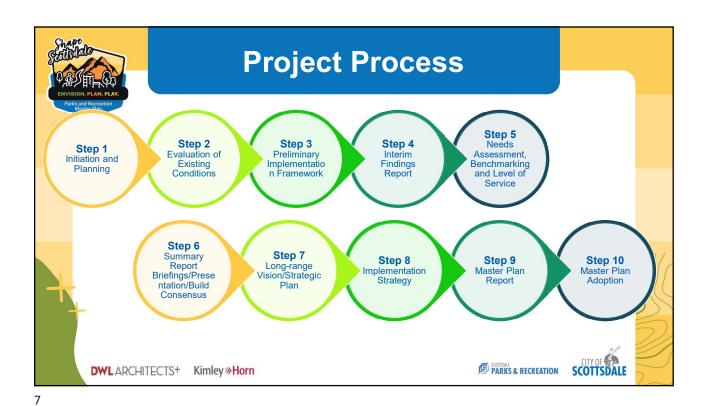
Strategically identify gaps and prioritize accommodating growth while keeping future improvements and programming for Parks and Recreation



Evaluate operations and maintenance practices with an aim to generate longterm sustainability and resilience benefits







Community
Outreach



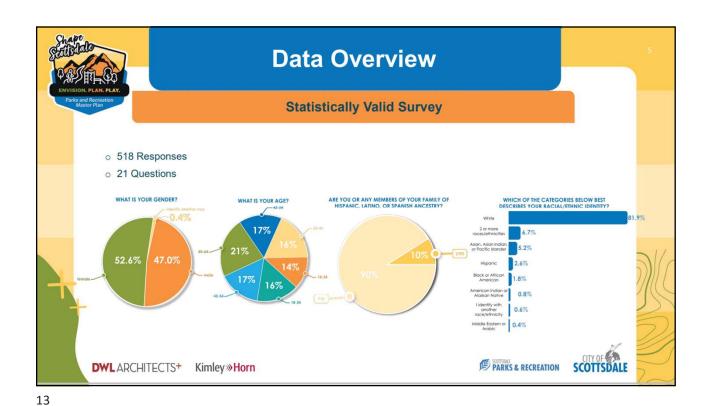


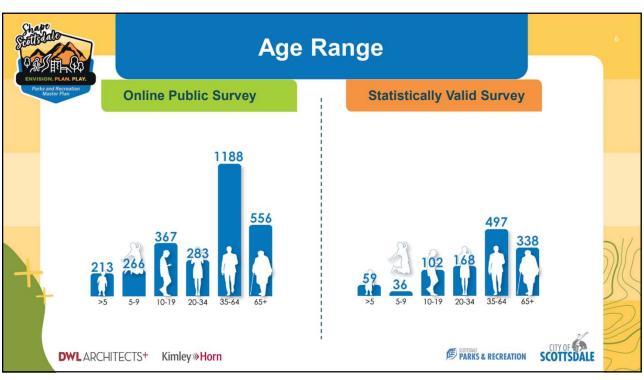


Data Overview

Online Public Survey

Online



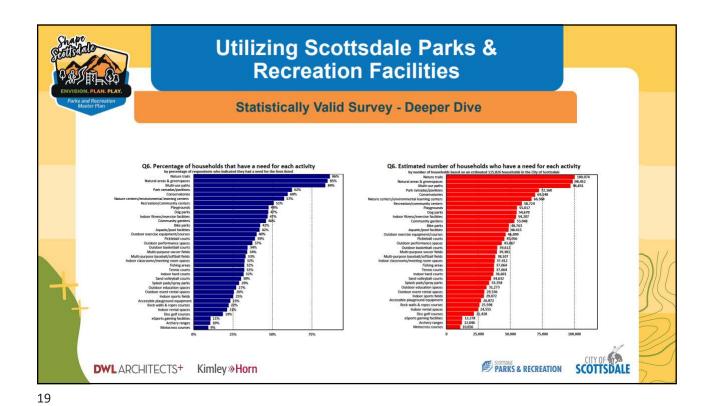


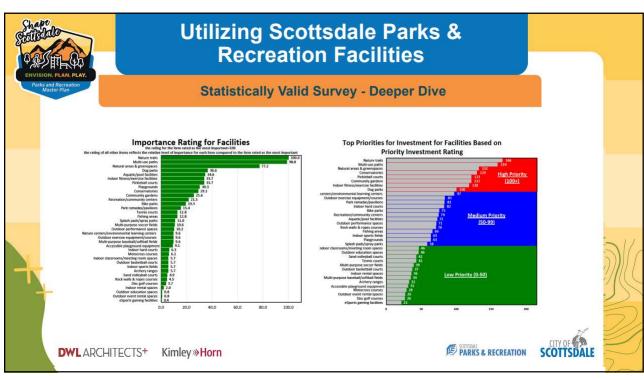




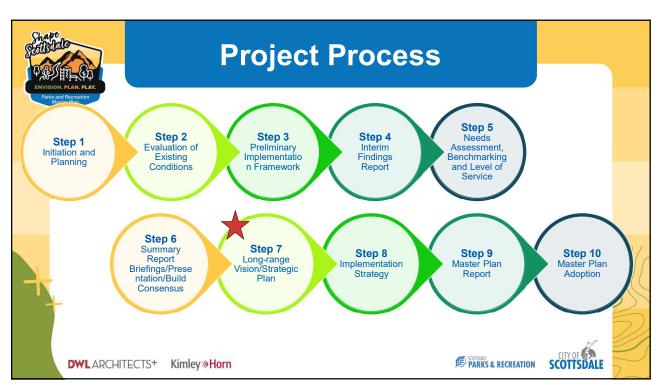


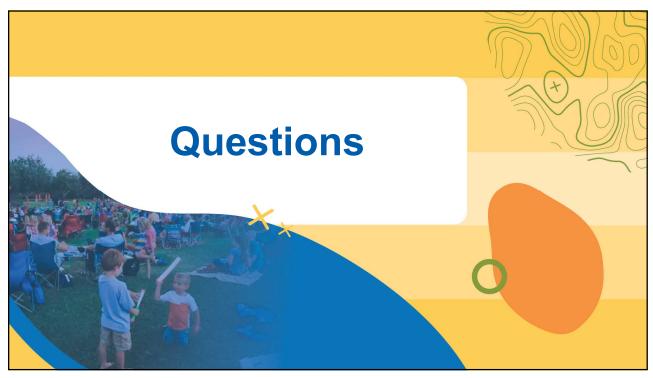
















Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission

Item 3: Sustainable Scottsdale Awards

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Sustainable Scottsdale Awards Program versus

Environmental Quality Advisory Board's Environmental Achievement Recognition Program

A comparison of the two

EQAB's Environmental Achievement Recognition Award

- Created, promoted, organized, evaluated, and approved by EQAB
- Application materials required evidence of actions taken, procedures in place to reach specific sustainability goals (e.g., reductions in electricity, gas, and water usage), and evidence of results (data!).
- EQAB conducted follow up investigations and meetings before making a final decision

Sustainable Scottsdale Award Program

- Promoted and organized by staff
- Limited input from SEAC on selection process
- Award based on promotional materials advanced by applicants
- No real application requirements (promotional only)
- No concrete measurements for sustainability goals achieved
- No SEAC follow-up (no opportunity to ask questions, request more data/additional information, etc.)

3

A comparison of the two

EQAB's Environmental Achievement Recognition Award



Sustainable Scottsdale Award Program

Salt River Project Biomass Power Partnership Impact Statement

scientific reports

OPEN GHG displacement factors of harvested wood products: the myth of substitution

Philippe Leturcq
A common idea is that

better strategy in mitigating climate change than storing more curbon in forests. This opinion remains highly exectionable for at least two reasons. Firstly, the carbon footprints of woodproducts are underestimated as far as the "biomass carbon neutrality" assumption is involved in their determination, as it is often the case. When taking into account the forest carbon dynamics consecutive to wood harvest, and the limited lifetime of products, these carbon footprints are timedependent and their presumed values under the carbon neutrality assumption are a chieved only in steady-state conditions. Secondly, even if carbon footprint are correctly assessed, the benefit on-wood products whatever the market conditions. Indeed, substitutions are effective only if an increase in wood product consumption implies verifiably a global reduction in non-wood production. When these flaws in the evaluation of wood substitution effects are avoided, one must conclude that increased harvestring and wood utilization may be counter-productive for climate change mitigation objectives, expectally when wood is used as a field.

(R) Check for updates

A comparison of the two

EQAB's Environmental Achievement Recognition Award

Environmental thought, leadership and innovation Arizona's Birds of Prey Take Flight





Liberty Wildlife, a local rescue, rehabilitation and education facility for injured birds, presents this weekly program to our resort guests. Guests will have an up close and personal experience with their rescued "winged warriors" and includes a free-flying raptor demonstration with Harris and Red Tail Hawks, Falcons and the majestic American Bald Eagle, to name a few.

Sustainable Scottsdale Award Program

This garden is also a crucial hub for local biodiversity. As Scottsdale continues to face challenges like habitat loss and declining pollinator populations, the Pollinator Garden offers a refuge for birds, bees, and other essential pollinators. The garden's strategic design and choice of plants create a harmonious environment that supports and sustains local wildlife, contributing to the broader ecological health of Scottsdale.



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Sustainable Scottsdale Award Program

1. Designed, launched, and implemented by staff in January with the following objectives:

The Sustainable Scottsdale Awards program is a recognition for those spearheading significant environmental advancements in Scottsdale. This award spotlights the "change makers" that have made a tangible difference by completing projects that positively impact both our environment and community.

- 2. Applications do not include enough data/information to assess the objectives the program sets for itself
- 3. Some applications are about future projects, others are funded or conducted in partnership with the city
- 4. Accordingly, SEAC is unable to assess whether any of the applicants are actually contributing to the preservation and enhancement of the environment to a degree worthy of the award.
- 5. Recommend the 2024 Scottsdale Award Program be a staff award only (all decisions made by staff) without SEAC involvement or vote.

SUSTAINABLE SCOTTSDALE AWARDS



SCOPE

THE AWARD HONORS PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES COMPLETED, DELIVERED, IMPLEMENTED, OR EXECUTED BETWEEN 2019 AND NOW

THAT FOCUS ON:

- Leadership in Sustainability
- Innovative Solutions
- Measurable Impact
- Exceeding Standards

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)//submission process

- Behavioral Insights Team Scottsdale (BITS) Recommendations
 - One-step, single-form submission process
 - Short application to gather more applicants
 - Apply behavioral insights (EAST)

TIMELINE

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January 2024

• January 18 - 31: Website and Content Preparation

February - March 2024: Program promotion through various city channels

• Examples: CityLine, social media channels, etc.

April 2024

• Honoree(s) selected

May 2024

Award presentation at Earth Fest/recognition at City Council

Initial Ranking from Commissioners: "Top 5"

Applicant #	Applicant Name	Organization Type
		Small Business
10	Recycled City LLC aka R.City	(11-75 employees)
7	Charlie Popeck	Individual Nominee
	Old Town Recycling Pilot	Small Business
3	Businesses	(11-75 employees)
1	Lauren Click	Individual Nominee
		Micro Business
9	MODUS Companies	(1-10 employees)

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10. Recycled City LLC aka R.City

Organization Type: Small Business (11-75 employees)

R.City has been collecting food waste from Scottsdale residents and businesses for 10 years and has diverted millions of pounds of food waste from landfills to be used in local farming. R.City's current initiative is to double the number of residential customers in Scottsdale this year. One way they plan on doing so, is by partnering with Mill Industries. R.City and Mill have formed a groundbreaking partnership, between local service provider and in-home Food Recycler. All residents can enjoy diverting their food waste without the fear of smells, pests or much effort. R.City is creating access to local, organic produce to Scottsdale's doorsteps with their full circle, curbside delivery. They take pride in partnering with local city departments to create sustainable events like the Canal Convergence, Spring Training, West World and More. The founder, JD Hill was recently recognized by Arizona Forward as the 2024 Rising Sustainability Star. R.City is dedicated to making Scottsdale a more sustainable city with food waste collection options for everyone.

7. Charlie Popeck

Organization Type: Individual Nominee

Charlie Popeck is a long-time Scottsdale resident and has been a leader in the field of sustainability for over twenty years! He is recognized nationally as an authority and expert in sustainability, more specifically the sustainable area of the Architecture-Engineering-Construction (AEC) industry. In 2002 Charlie founded the Arizona Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) along with a small group of other sustainability-minded individuals at the old church on Indian School Road in Scottsdale. The Chapter was the second-ever of the USGBC national non-profit organization responsible for creation of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System that the City of Scottsdale adopted as their sustainable building standard in 2005. Charlie has been active with the USGBC organization locally, regionally and nationally for over 22 years!

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3. Old Town Recycling Pilot Businesses

Organization Type: Small Business (11-75 employees)

As a proud participant in the Old Town Scottsdale Recycling and Alley Refresh Campaign, our businesses are thrilled to submit this application for the Excellence in Sustainability and Community Impact Award. When the Business Recycling Pilot Program was introduced, we saw it as an unparalleled opportunity to align our operations with our core values of sustainability and community service. The initiative targeted the business district spanning from Drinkwater Blvd to Goldwater Blvd, and from Indian School Road to 2nd Street, including our business, and was aimed at promoting recycling practices, enhancing alleyway aesthetics, and fostering overall sustainability.

Achievements and Impact: Throughout the program, our businesses actively participated in weekly inspections, embraced educational outreach, and contributed to the collection of metrics that highlighted the program's success. Notably, we achieved a remarkable 19.5% diversion rate from landfill, surpassing initial expectations and underscoring the collective effort of our community in embracing sustainability. The program's average contamination rate of less than 5% speaks volumes about the effectiveness of the education and monitoring efforts. Moreover, the absence of food waste or illegal dumping within our alleys showcased our commitment to maintaining the integrity of our recycling efforts.

1. Lauren Click

Organization Type: Individual Nominee

Scottsdale resident Lauren Click continues to show her environmental stewardship, as she was awarded the Scottsdale Neighborhood Enhancement Grant, approved by the Scottsdale Neighborhood Advisory Commission, to spearhead the design and implementation of a Pollinator Garden at Scottsdale's Agua Linda Park. This initiative aligns seamlessly with the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge, which was adopted by the city of Scottsdale on January 14, 2020. This garden has not only enhanced the aesthetic appeal of Scottsdale but also plays a pivotal role in fostering sustainability and biodiversity.

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9. MODUS Companies

Organization Type: Micro Business (1-10 employees)

At MODUS, we are dedicated to continuous improvement in our processes. This involves staying updated on the latest advancements in products and technologies. Such as advanced insulation strategies, mini-split AC units, and solar panels.

As we look to the future, our vision includes integrating batteries and energy management systems. This forward-thinking approach aims to reduce our reliance on the grid, paving the way for more sustainable and self-sufficient energy solutions.

Lastly, our commitment to innovation led us to create the first Build-To-Rent (BTR) community in the U.S to achieve Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) certification, demonstrating our dedication to providing cutting-edge, sustainable housing solutions for multiple product types. These three milestones underscore our unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of sustainable development and revolutionizing the way we approach multifamily living.

6. Mike Myers

Organization Type: Individual Nominee

The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess (FSP), part of the ACCOR hotel group, proudly showcases their unwavering dedication to sustainability through their "Planet 21" platform. With 76 action-oriented initiatives, they've integrated environmental management into every facet of their operations, earning recognition from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for three consecutive years with the Platinum award.

FSP would not be able to achieve any of their goals without the hard-working staff that run their operations. Specifically, Chef Mike Myers deserves to be highlighted for his passion and dedication to reducing food waste at FSP. He has been a pivotal member in FSP's journey to making food waste reduction a priority at the hotel and deserves to be recognized for his efforts.

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4. Exceptional Water Systems

Organization Type: Micro Business (1-10 employees)

Our systems are designed to restructure and oxygenate water utilized in lakes, ponds, swimming pools, spas, agriculture, wastewater treatment, drinking water, and much more. These systems provide healthier water to all of these industries which in turn provides even greater benefits even after it returns to our groundwater and sewer systems. Once the water has been treated, plants and vegetation that are fed can grow 3 - 4 times larger and faster with about 25% less water. The soils benefit from the water through the increased oxygen which helps aerate the soils naturally over time. Instead of the soil becoming depleted over time it becomes more and more rich and won't require excessive tilling for aeration. Wastewater treatment plants can save as much as 80% in electricity due to the highly enriched oxygenated water that is fundamental in the beginning stages of the treatment process. It not only does a better job of aerating the water, but it also aids in separation of the solids in a shorter period of time. Swimming pools and spas use less chemicals which in turn reduces the amount of unwanted chemicals going to our water treatment plants that are extremely difficult to remove. Utilizing the systems in the right spaces can greatly reduce the amount of water we use by 25% as well as provide a positive impact on our environment without leaving behind hazardous chemicals.

5. Fairmount Scottsdale Princess

Organization Type: Big Business (76+ employees)

The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, part of the ACCOR hotel group, proudly showcases our unwavering dedication to sustainability through our "Planet 21" platform. With 76 action-oriented initiatives, we've integrated environmental management into every facet of our operations, earning recognition from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for three consecutive years with the Platinum award. We are proud to have accomplished many milestones in the following areas: Guest Experience, Water Conservation, Energy Conservation, Waste Reduction, Sustainable Partnerships and Community Engagement.

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8. Salt River Project

Organization Type: Big Business (76+ employees)

Annually, Salt River Project ("SRP") delivers about 16,000 acre-feet of water to customers in Scottsdale that's enough water to serve about 48,000 homes. SRP also provides power to over 40,000 homes and businesses throughout Scottsdale. SRP recognizes the threat of unhealthy forests and wildfire to our water supplies and power infrastructure and has sought out strategic partnerships to restore forests to a healthier state. SRP's Resilient Water and Forests Initiative brings together non-profit, private, state, local, and federal partners to collaboratively fund and implement landscape-scale forest thinning projects that aim to increase forest resiliency and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

In July 2023, SRP and 5 valley municipalities (Scottsdale, Mesa, Phoenix, Gilbert, and Tempe) recognized the impacts of wildfire on the watershed and decided to take action to help mitigate this risk. The partners signed a historic 10-year Biomass Power Partnership that provides funding to extend SRP's power purchase agreement with Novo BioPower ("Novo") in Snowflake, AZ. Novo generates renewable bioenergy by processing the biomass that is removed from forest thinning projects across SRP's watersheds. The SRP capacity output of the plant will support approximately 80,000 acres of forest thinning over the next 10 years while providing renewable power to more than 3,000 SRP customers.

2. Optima McDowell Mountaim

Organization Type: Small Business (11-75 employees)

Optima McDowell Mountain™ will create an environmentally friendly residential neighborhood in the burgeoning area of North Scottsdale with a state-of-the-art, all-inclusive, well-being-based, amenity-rich community. Most notably from a sustainability perspective, it will be the largest private rainwater harvesting site in the U.S. Rainwater will be stored at the parking levels at the southeast corner of the project in a concrete vault that is designed to hold ~210,000 gallons of storm water. The stormwater that is harvested will be utilized for irrigation, reducing the water use on the project. The residences within the community are expected to use half as much water as the average Scottsdale multi-family residence and a quarter as much water as the average Scottsdale single-family home. As part of the development, Optima is also providing the City of Scottsdale with 2,750 acre-feet of water that will be deposited into the Scottsdale water system.