



APPROVED 5/21/2025 CH

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

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, 2025
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale 85251

Call to Order 5:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Andrew Scheck, Vice Chair Alisa McMahon; Commission Members: Ute Brady, Alexandra Craig, Tara Iyengar, Siobhan Ulreich-Power, Judah Waxelbaum

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager; Cindi Eberhardt, Planning & Development Area Director; Justin Suryanata, Environmental Projects Coordinator; Clayton Hults, Planning Technician

Public Comment: None

Regular Meeting Agenda

1) Presentation from Waste Not

Presentation by Tonia Smith, Development Manager, Waste Not

A presentation and discussion from Waste Not Development Manager, Tonia Smith, will provide an overview of Waste Not operations with emphasis on the progression of their strategic initiative around environmental sustainability. The presentation will include information regarding the process of creating sustainable food systems and their impact.

Staff Contact: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov

Ms. Smith provided the Commission with a brief overview of Waste Not's business plan and operations. Waste Not's mission is creating sustainable food systems that help people and the planet flourish by eliminating food waste and hunger through innovative community partnerships. Waste Not collects food from businesses such as grocery stores, restaurants and caterers as well as special events such as Scottsdale's WM Phoenix Open golf tournament and delivers it same-day to nonprofits such as community pantries, domestic violence shelters, churches, group homes, sober living communities, and senior living communities for distribution to people in need.

Waste Not rescues over two million pounds of perishable food annually. In addition to paid drivers, Waste Not deploys a team of volunteer food rescue heroes to transport smaller volumes of food facilitated by the MealConnect app.

Sustainability is a key pillar of Waste Not's organizational strategic initiative. Its food rescue efforts have resulted in an average of 11.25 million gallons of water conserved monthly and over 224 metric tons of methane emissions avoided since August 2020. As part of its planned, goal-oriented sustainability efforts, Waste Not instituted route optimization software and is seeking to electrify its fleet. In addition, Waste Not is collaborating with ASU's School of Sustainability to create a community composting program and b) with the City of Mesa on the city's sustainability initiatives, including the production of renewable energy from food waste.

Discussion and Q & A also covered:

- AZ ranks #1 for food waste among the states. A contributing factor is corporate hospitality industry policies that prohibit food donation.
- Collaboration with public schools is managed by Waste Not's sister partner organization, United Food Bank.
- The grocery store sector currently provides Waste Not with the most food donations. Waste Not is actively working to increase food donations from the resorts sector.
- Waste Not delivers food that cannot be placed for human consumption to a farm for animal feed.
- Funding sources, operational limits and restrictions, donor behavior changes, and opportunities for future growth.

No Action

2) Approve Meeting Minutes for:

- January 15, 2025**
- February 19, 2025**
- March 19, 2025**

Staff Contact: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov

ITEM 2a Discussion and Action

Draft January 15, 2025, Minutes: Vice Chair McMahon proposed and read into the record an amended description of the presentation and discussion of Item 2 Plastic Waste and Health and Item 4 2024 SEAC Annual Report.

Vice Chair McMahon made a motion to approve the January 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes as amended by Vice Chair McMahon. The motion was seconded by Chair Scheck. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0. Commissioners Scheck, McMahon, Brady, Craig, Iyengar, Ulreich-Power, and Waxelbaum voted for **APPROVAL**.

ITEM 2b Discussion and Action

Draft February 19, 2025. Minutes: Vice Chair McMahon proposed deferring a vote on February 19, 2025 minutes. The Commission was reminded that minutes are posted for the public benefit. During the discussion one commissioner expressed concern about deferring minutes as a practice. Vice Chair McMahon explained the context for this action and pointed out that the recording and marked agenda were made available to the public within the statutory timeframe.

Vice Chair McMahon made a motion to defer the February 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes to the May 21, 2025, Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Chair Scheck. The motion

carried with a vote of 6-1. Commissioners Scheck, McMahon, Brady, Craig, Iyengar, and Ulreich-Power voted for **APPROVAL**, and Commissioner Waxelbaum **OPPOSED** the motion.

ITEM 2c Discussion and Action

Draft March 19, 2025, Minutes: Commissioner Craig proposed and read into the record an amended description of the presentation and discussion of Item 2 Presentation by Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona (GCNA).

Commissioner Craig made a motion to approve the March 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes as amended by Commissioner Craig. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ulreich-Power. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0. Commissioners Scheck, McMahon, Brady, Craig, Iyengar, Ulreich-Power, and Waxelbaum voted for **APPROVAL**.

3) Sustainable Scottsdale Awards

Review and discuss the date, time, location at Echo Canyon, hosting members, and other related details of the award presentation for the Sustainable Scottsdale Awards Program Honoree.

Staff Contact: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov

Commissioner Craig provided an update regarding the award presentation at Echo Canyon School on April 28 at 9:00 a.m., including an overview of the agenda. Mayor, Council, the Commission and Scottsdale Unified School District guests are invited to attend. On behalf of SEAC, Commissioner Craig will present the award and make comments. Commissioner Craig shared general, in-progress talking points with the Commission for input.

No Action

4) Staff Updates

Staff will present updates pertaining to Scottsdale's environmental initiatives for Commission information only. Arizona State law prohibits the Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission from discussing or taking action on an item that is not properly noticed on the posted agenda.

Staff Contact: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov

Tim Conner shared that the city's Sustainability Data Intern has submitted a LEED for Cities certification application at the Gold level. Commissioner Brady inquired into the status of the Shade and Tree Plan. The city expects to receive the final draft from the consultant soon, perhaps within the next two weeks. The draft will then undergo review by the management team.

No Action

5) Identification of Future Agenda Items

The Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission may suggest items they wish to be placed on a future agenda. Per Arizona State law, the Commission shall not discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item suggested as a future agenda item, unless the specific item is properly noticed for Commission discussion.

Staff Contact: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov

The commission expressed consensus for the May 21, 2025, regular meeting agenda to include:

- Recap of the 2025 Sustainable Scottsdale Award presentation
- Presentation by the City of Mesa on its Food Waste to Energy initiative and anaerobic digestion facility (Vice Chair McMahon will provide contact information to staff to schedule presenter)

No Action

Adjournment 6:58 p.m.



Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting the Office of Environmental Initiatives at 480-312-7833. 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) others may contact the Office of Environmental Initiatives at 480-312-7833.



waste not

wastenotaz.org

480-941-1841

Every year,

40%



of fresh food in the US
is sent to the landfill

This results in over
63 MILLION TONS
of waste!





MEANWHILE...



1 in 4
children
and



1 in 7
seniors



**LACK
ACCESS
TO
ADEQUATE
FOOD
IN
ARIZONA**



At Waste Not, we're creating
sustainable food systems that help
people and the planet *flourish*





We do this by eliminating
food waste and hunger through

INNOVATIVE

COMMUNITY

PARTNERSHIPS





Our trucks deliver food



days per week...





Straight to our



60+

nonprofit partners





ADDITIONALLY

Waste Not's team of

 **VOLUNTEER FOOD RESCUE HEROES**

transport smaller volumes of
food that would otherwise

BE THROWN AWAY



HUNGER

IS

SOLVABLE



We're on track to rescue over

2024
2 MILLION POUNDS

of perishable food from

our partners **every year**



What does this mean for the environment?

Food rescue efforts have resulted in

An average of 11.25 million gallons of water conserved each month

224 metric tons of methane avoided since August 2020

Looking Ahead

Waste Not is utilizing route optimization software to maximize driver time on the road and pursuing the path towards electrifying our vehicle fleet



What is on the horizon for Waste Not?

Strategic Initiative-Sustainability is one of the key pillars of Waste Not's organization strategic initiative. The organization has developed objectives aimed at promoting water conservation, recycling of materials, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions throughout the next five years. Through this strategy, Waste Not seeks to communicate organizational vision to the community at large and provide the non-profit with a pipeline for targeted growth of its mission's work.

Community Partnerships- Waste Not and the Arizona State University School of Sustainability are collaborating to create a community composting program with the goal of promoting education around the long-term benefits of diverting food waste and increasing Waste Not's greenhouse gas reduction efforts. Additionally, Waste Not has begun to align its strategic initiative with the city of Mesa's sustainability efforts, including its recycling of materials and new food waste initiatives. Waste Not is working to emerge as a community leader of sustainability efforts.



But we can't do it without YOU!

- Invite friends and family to follow us!   
- Subscribe to our newsletter! 
- Make a financial contribution! 
- Encourage food businesses to donate! 

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ECHO CANYON SCHOOL TO RECEIVE SUSTAINABLE SCOTTSDALE AWARD

The Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission will recognize Echo Canyon School as the 2025 Sustainable Scottsdale Award honoree at 9 a.m. Monday, April 28 during a presentation at the school, 4330 N. 62nd Street.

City council is invited to attend.

The award recognizes exceptional environmental contributions and advancements by individuals or entities that positively impact the Scottsdale community. Echo Canyon is a K-8 school in the Scottsdale Unified School District. The school is being recognized for its future-focused learning and ability to engage students with hands-on sustainability activities. Most recently, Echo Canyon has been tackling the issue of food waste.

The award presentation will begin at 9 a.m., followed by a small group tour of the school's sustainability efforts, including gardens, a worm farm and recycling bins.

