Flipchart Notes

Summary of topic posting exercise:

Individuals indicated their interest by posting stickers next to a topic area that was relevant to them. Below is the summary of topic areas and interested individuals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Area</th>
<th>Interested Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renewable Energy/Solar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment and Sustainability</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecology and Urban Design</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Sustainability Projects</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Community Sustainability</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Sustainability</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development and Sustainability</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging Businesses Through Reverse Boycotting</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Energy Benchmarking Ordinance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renewable Energy/Economic Issues</td>
<td>13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Group Discussion Notes

Summarized below are notes from each group’s discussion.

**Group 1: Green Group**

- A lot of cities have a General Plan for the city vision which leads to a holistic vision
  - This is helpful for connecting departments
- Challenges: Lack of a common vision, not having enough staff, no mandate from city manager office, not having a local culture, lack of education, not having common language for sustainability.
- Collaboration: Working with other cities is always helpful.

**Group 2: 1st Gold Group**

- Partnerships are very important as is engagement with community partners.
  - Ex: ASU and Americorps.
- Infrastructure is important as a best practice for cities.
- Working with neighboring communities.
Finding creative ideas for funding.
  o Public/private opportunities.
  o Working with the health community as well as local utilities.

Group 3: 2nd Gold Group

• Series of best practices were mentioned in the group: Home energy audits, environmentally sensitive land ordinances, financial sustainability (especially for Coconino County).
  o Additional best practices in composting, green waste, as well as in analyzing health benefits of transportation and development. Maricopa County is advising Valley Metro on this transit topic.
  o University Sustainability Practices, Arizona State University, is looking at a green awards/recognition program for employees. This can be helpful in developing further for communities.
• The main thing that came out of the group discussion was the importance of sharing best practices. The other thing was motivating people in the city. Making it personal.
• Challenges: Liability is a huge issue in addition to creating something with political viability.
  o Education is crucial, to both the public and politicians.

Group 4: Blue Group

• General topics: Solar shade structures, tradeoff for public shade structures/trees. Green building codes, and energy efficiency retrofits.
  o A lot of work was completed through ARRA grants. Question: How can we accomplish more without this funding source?
• Best Practices: Mesa has accomplished many things in education, educating residential contractors, working on spreading the word about hazardous waste.
• Utilize the press and take the opportunities that are available.
  o Work with local media like city publications/AZ Republic.
• Work with schools in terms of the education aspect. Coordinate with interns.
• Projects: Demonstration gardens, working with Luke AFB
• Phoenix: GHG reduction, waste reduction. There is 100% staff training for new employees in regards to sustainability.
• Maricopa County: Procurement code
• Avondale: Municipal sustainability plan, already adopted by council.
• Important takeaway: The role of language and how we talk to our directors/elected officials.
Group 5: Silver Group

- **Best practices:** Set transformative policies to drive change. Work on specific mandates.
  - Examples: LEED certification for municipal buildings, reclaimed water use.
- **Provide support for voluntary sustainable development.**
  - Streamlining permitting, education, plan review incentives, award programs.
- **Teaching through example.**
  - Showcasing demonstration projects, energy efficient homes.
  - Rainwater harvesting demonstration projects.
- **Collecting green waste.**
  - Curbside pick-up/alley
  - Municipal offices, parks, golf course.
  - Repurposing.
  - Giving compost back to the community.
- **Enforcing regulations**
  - Backflow prevention
  - Sizing heating and cooling systems.
  - Inspection codes, working with 3rd parties.
- **Challenges:** Communication and building inertia
  - Short and long range planning
  - Education, building community awareness.
  - Coping with uncertainties.
  - Identifying individual community issues. Ex: Rural issues: illegal dumping.
- Encourage diverse input from different communities statewide.
- Big idea: Mayors summit, gather buy-in from mayors all over the state. A shared vision.
- Grow the network.
- Develop policy that all SCN members can uniformly pass, something that gets the inertia going on these sustainability policies.

Group 6: Red Group

- Group mentioned several community best practices:
  - Glendale’s Xeriscape demonstration garden
  - Tucson commercial rainwater harvesting ordinance and green streets initiatives,
Session Notes

- Tempe’s LEED buildings/Tree and Shade program
- Pascua Yaqui tribe’s historical sustainability study turning into an actual renewable project: 40 Megawatt Solar system
- Watershed Management Group’s public outreach project: “Do Labor with Your Neighbor”
- Chandler’s energy audits and Fleet Right-Sizing
- Maricopa County Flood Control District’s public education efforts
- Desert Botanical Garden’ canal water project, LED overhaul.

- **Challenges:**
  - Cultural obstacles
    - Example: Pascua Yaqui tribe has sacred areas.
    - Change can be interpreted as bad. Education is key.
    - Another example: Tucson has historical districts.
  - Design issues: Lack of leadership at the top or too much leadership.
  - Political obstacles: Agenda 21 group, economic obstacles

- **Partnerships:**
  - Sharing solutions
  - Community engagement
  - Engaging kids and parents,

- **How can cities work together?**
  - Lobby decision makers with case studies