



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 16, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Pima County Green Team of "Green Stewards"**

In response to the request made by Supervisor Rex Scott during the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 3, 2022, the following provides a description of the proposed employee green team program called Green Stewards.

Pima County refocuses climate action efforts

On May 3, 2022, the Board of Supervisors passed a Climate Resolution ([2022-25](#)) that refocuses Pima County's climate adaptation and resiliency efforts. This resolution is a response to the urgent call of the world's leading climate scientists for global climate action at every level of governance. Pima County is especially vulnerable to various devastating climate impacts on human health and the environment, making it vital for Pima County to lead by example in the years to come.

As a result of this Board Resolution, Pima County will now be revising the currently Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations (SAPCO) into a multi-year Climate Action Plan for County Operations (CAPCO), which includes changes such as extending the plan to 2030 and increasing the carbon reduction target to 50 percent below 2005 levels.

Because our efforts are internally focused, the success of achieving Plan goals is highly dependent on an educated and motivated workforce that will understand, support, advocate, act, and hold itself accountable for the efforts it makes to reduce climate risk and increase resiliency.

Partnership with Mrs. Green's World to form "Green Stewards"

The Office of Sustainability has partnered with Mrs. Green's World, a national leader in environmental education with the mission to educate, inspire, and engage those in the private and public sectors by raising awareness about climate reality, sustainability, innovation, and mindful living.

Through interactive training content supported by leaders, experts, and scientists, Mrs. Green's World builds green teams by providing ongoing support, trainings, and activities to engage employees in helping reach sustainability and climate goals.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

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With increased engagement by County employees, strong cultures of sustainability are built and nurtured within employees' personal lives and consequently throughout the entities that invest in supporting green teams. The community at large is also greatly impacted.

Impacts of Green Teams

Mrs. Green's World has successfully established green teams locally within the workforce of Tucson Electric Power (TEP), Hotel Congress, and Chapman Automotive. For example, TEP launched "Employees Creating Opportunities for Sustainability" (ECOS) in 2020, a 'green team' that supports the company's sustainability initiatives and raises sustainability awareness among coworkers and in the community. The group revamped the TEP recycling program, donated reusable water bottles to schools, hosted sustainability 'lunch and learn' meetings, and more.

Benefits of forming green teams include:

- Generating cost savings through energy efficiency measures advocated by and implemented through employees;
- Retaining best talent by providing an outlet for employees' personal interests, increasing morale and company loyalty;
- Attracting creative new talented staff who are increasingly interested in workplaces with authentic commitments to sustainability; and
- Strengthening company branding and increasing market share through a workforce that inspires sustainability and helps to identify innovative opportunities to achieve sustainability goals.

Next Steps

It is anticipated that the Green Steward program be launched in Fall 2022. In preparation for its launch, the Office of Sustainability will prepare and deliver a curriculum for this program by July 2022. Upon completion of the curriculum, further recommendations will be made for County departmental and employee participation.

JKL/anc

- c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
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