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# Board of Supervisors Memorandum

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December 21, 2021

## Update regarding the Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations

### Background

The December 21, 2021 Board Agenda contains an item requested by Supervisor Heinz to provide an update on the Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations (SAPCO).

Pima County adopted its Sustainable Action Plan in 2007, which was the first effort of its kind in Arizona to develop measurable targets and concrete actions to “green” internal operations and facilities. The 2007 Plan was first initiated and directed through the County Administrator’s Office and is now coordinated by the Office of Sustainability and Conservation. Various departments across the County are charged with taking action to further the Plan goals.

The Plan was updated in 2014 to integrate the best available science and evolving practices and metrics to advance work towards deepening sustainability efforts throughout County departments and operations. In 2017, when the United States withdrew its commitment to the international Paris Agreement, the Board of Supervisors responded by passing two climate resolutions (2017-39 and 2017-51) upholding the United States’ greenhouse gas emissions pledge. To operationalize this mandate, the Board also directed staff to update the Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations (SAPCO) to align with Paris Agreement’s objectives.

The [Pima County Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations \(Fiscal Year 2018-2025\)](#) was produced with input from department directors and staff experts. The Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2018 and is organized into chapters for Carbon, Water, Landscapes, Materials and Workforce. Each chapter contains targets related to the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 baseline measures derived through analysis of the County’s energy and water use, fleet, and waste data, along with GIS analyses of land use.

The most recent annual report regarding the 2018 Plan was transmitted to the Board of Supervisors on [July 28, 2021](#). Highlights from this report for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 included:

- Fleet emissions reduced by 5 percent (2025 reduction goal: 10 percent)
- 30 fully-electric vehicles (EVs) were purchased, increasing our total number of EVs to 72 (2025 goal: 120 EVs)
- The amount of waste sent to the landfill decreased by 7 percent (2025 reduction goal: 20 percent)

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
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- We planted 1,942 new trees, increasing our total number of new trees to 2,741
- (2025 goal: 10,000 trees)
- We installed 16.7 new acres of green infrastructure (2025 goal: 40 new acres)

As noted in the transmittal letter from the County Administrator, the next step was for County departments to collect and analyze data for the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 annual report.

### **Recommendation**

The most recent published information on progress implementing the SAPCO is the Fiscal 2019/2020 Annual Report. Collection and analysis of data for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 has been ongoing in preparation for publishing the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Annual Report.

Based on the request for an update, I am directing Office of Sustainability & Conservation staff to work with the departments charged with implementing SAPCO to complete the following actions within 90 days:

- Generate the SAPCO FY 2020/2021 Annual Report;
- Gather input and prepare a report that identifies the current challenges faced by departments, and any necessary changes in approach or new strategies, for fulfilling the Plan goals; and
- Prepare a summary of new federal funding opportunities to advance SAPCO with assistance of the Grants Management & Innovation Department.

This information will be communicated to the Board of Supervisors by March 31, 2022.

Sincerely,



Jan Leshner  
Acting County Administrator

JL/anc – December 17, 2021

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,  
Health and Community Services  
Yves Khawam, PhD, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works  
Linda Mayro, Director, Office of Sustainability and Conservation