



**Community Name:** Pima County  
**Current Status:** Approved  
**Overall Score:** 124/150 - 100%  
**Community Size:**

**Section 1.- Responsibility & Accountability**

**1.- Is your general/comprehensive plan current and inclusive of all Growing Smarter elements as required by state statute? Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. Our plan is current with all required elements and is reviewed annually by staff.

**Comments:** All required elements, prior to the State mandate of an Energy Element, are included in the Comprehensive Plan. Our current Comprehensive Plan addresses Solar Energy only, but a more comprehensive Energy Element is to be included as part of the 2011 Update. Staff currently reviews and amends the Comprehensive Plan annually, as necessary. The Water Element has been recently updated.

**2.- How do you engage the local community in planning activities? Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. We have an adopted public participation plan for amendments to our general /comprehensive plan; and we have a neighborhood participation plan for rezonings.

**Comments:**

**3.- Are you using your general/comprehensive plan to determine your funding and planning priorities? Required**

**Answer:** 1 Pts. We have a general/comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance and capital improvement plan (CIP) but they are not linked.

**Comments:** Linkage will be addressed in the 2011 Plan Update.

**4.- Does your community participate in regional planning by coordinating with Tribal governments and State and Federal land managers, and utilize regional plans and policies to guide local decisions and implementation? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We meet regularly with regional entities that are involved in land use decisions and we utilize cooperative mechanisms, such as sharing land use data, joint planning meetings, revenue sharing and intergovernmental agreements, to address regional issues and adjacent land use impacts.

**Comments:** Regional entities that we regularly meet with include: Pima Association of Governments, Planning Directors, Basin Managers, Four-County Consortium, Land Use Technical Advisory Committee - Pima Assoc. of Governments

**Section 2.- Preservation of Community Character**

**5.- Has your community developed a vision statement with public participation that is reflected in the general/comprehensive plan? Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. We have a vision statement but it is not incorporated into our general/comprehensive plan.

**Comments:** The Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution on Sustainability in May 2007 (Resolution 2007-84) which contributes to the community's vision. The Pima Assoc. of Governments has a Regional Vision Statement that was adopted in 1990 which Pima County participated in, but this vision is not called out specifically in the current Comprehensive Plan. We anticipate that the Comprehensive Plan 2011 Update will include a visioning process/statement.



- 6.- Does your community have design mechanisms, such as design guidelines, form-based codes, special districts, area plans, or overlay zones so that streets, buildings, and public spaces work together to create a sense of place and promote local character? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have more than one of these or similar mechanisms in place overseen by a design review process.

**Comments:** This occurs, though not on a comprehensive scale. It is most consistently applied at area-specific/project-specific levels. Design review occurs on projects presented to Design Review Committee and is also incorporated into staff's administrative reviews. Examples include staff and/or Design Review Committee administration of the Gateway Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan Policies, Mixed Use Ordinance, Cluster Development Option, Conservation Subdivision Ordinance, Buffer Overlay Zone Ordinance, and Specific Plans.

- 7.- How does your community protect historic and cultural resources? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. a). Our city/town has policies in the general plan to inventory and protect historic and cultural resources; an active historic preservation commission and is a Certified Local Government (as defined by the State Historic Preservation Office); or b). Our county has a comprehensive plan with polices to inventory and protect historic and cultural resources and communicates regularly with unincorporated communities to implement these policies.

**Comments:** Pima County expects to receive Certified Local Government status by the end of 2009 calendar year. Application for certification is in process.

- 8.- Where does new development connect to your community? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. New development is encouraged to locate within designated Growth Areas and corridors, infill and redevelopment areas with planned or existing infrastructure; and includes a variety of uses and community services, such as employment, shopping, housing, public spaces, and multimodal opportunities.

**Comments:** The most prominent examples of how Pima County relates land use to infrastructure are Comprehensive Plan Growth Areas, Re-Development Plans for Mount Lemmon, and the Southwest Infrastructure Plan.

- 9.- Does your community promote art, cultural, and community events for its citizens (such as festivals, farmer's markets, youth events, regional fairs, and rodeos)? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We encourage community events through expedited permitting and/or a dedicated revenue stream; and financial or in-kind support for local and regional organizations that coordinate such events (such as convention and visitor bureaus, local visitor information centers, tourism councils, regional entities, chambers of commerce, and neighborhood groups).

**Comments:**

- 10.- Does your community have flexible parking regulations to improve circulation and promote community character? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. Our development regulations prescribe maximum parking provisions; allow parking reductions for mixed use projects, development near transit facilities, or off-site parking provisions (e.g. on-street parking); allow for shared parking; and/or offer credit for parking provided off-site.

**Comments:** Off-street Parking and Loading Standards allow parking reductions for shared on-site parking and off-peak parking. Provisions for Individual Parking Reduction Plans offer flexibility to consider off-site parking credits and allows for tailored parking reductions without a cap.



**11.- Does your community have a sign ordinance that is protective of the community's architectural and historic character? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have a sign ordinance with design review requirements that promotes community character through context sensitive design; parameters for size, color, lighting, and digital capabilities; or similar mechanisms.

**Comments:** Our Zoning Code requires sensitive design adjacent to designated scenic routes, historic zones, and within designated "Gateways". Other signage is subject to size, color, lighting, etc. limitations.

**12.- Does your community have requirements and incentives such as a streamlined permitting process, fee waivers, density bonuses and/or other incentives to encourage redevelopment, infill, and adaptive reuse of underutilized and vacant sites and buildings? Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. We have a couple of these or similar incentives.

**Comments:** We have implemented a Shovel Ready Program for projects involving new employment for new and redeveloping sites. We are waiting on creation of a Flowing Wells In-fill Incentive District as well.

**Section 3.- Stewardship of Natural Resources**

**13.- Has your community identified its natural assets (rivers, mountains, mesas, open space, viewsheds) and taken steps to restore or protect them? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We identify our natural assets in our general/comprehensive plan and have taken steps to protect/restore them through water, wastewater and conservation easement programs; wildlife corridor planning; incorporating recommendations from Arizona Game and Fish Department's Wildlife Friendly Guidelines; etc.

**Comments:**

**14.- Does your community have programs to acquire and maintain open space? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have regulatory mechanisms and resources to acquire and maintain open space.

**Comments:**

**15.- How does your community plan to minimize its susceptibility to wildfires? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have a plan and/or ordinance that identifies defensible space and buffer zones that includes a process for reduction of hazardous fuels.

**Comments:** We have adopted the 2006 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code for Mt Lemmon.

**16.- Do local regulations require open space within new development? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. New developments must contribute additional open space and should provide connections to adjacent open spaces (either existing or planned, such as a planned park or recreation trail).

**Comments:** There are a variety of regulations/policies that result in set-aside of significant amounts of open space including: Native Plant Preservation Ordinance, Buffer Overlay Zone Ordinance, Hillside Development Zone Ordinance, Cluster Development Option, Conservation Subdivision Ordinance, Recreation Area Plans, Comprehensive Plan 2001 Update - Regional Environmental Policies (aka Conservation Lands System.)

**17.- Do you have a comprehensive water resource management plan(s) in place? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. Our community has a comprehensive water resource management plan, and a drought and conservation plan that is enforceable by ordinance; and we have an adequate and assured water supply for 100 years or more.

**Comments:** Most developing areas within Pima County are within the Tucson Active Management Area; Pima County itself, however, is not a water provider.



**18.- Does your community's general/comprehensive plan have a natural open space element that strives for a regional integrated system that includes protected land critical for preserving wildlife habitat connectivity? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We emphasize conservation of wildlife habitat and corridors in our general/comprehensive plan; strive for a regionally integrated system of open space that includes habitat that we are taking steps to conserve.

**Comments:** We do this primarily by implementing the Comprehensive Plan 2001 Update - Regional Environmental Policies (aka Conservation Lands System)

**19.- How does your community encourage actions that mitigate negative impacts to wildlife habitat from development? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have an environmental planning element in our general / comprehensive plan that contains policies to mitigate quantifiable habitat loss for new development and redevelopment; development guidelines that require mitigation; and we encourage developers to use techniques, such as mitigation banking.

**Comments:**

**20.- Does your community protect open space, manage growth and infrastructure and encourage economic development through programs like cluster development, transfer of development rights (TDR), conservation easements, and partnering with land trusts? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We utilize more than one of these or similar programs.

**Comments:** Pima County utilizes all the tools listed in this question plus, we were the 1st county in the state to adopt a Transfer of Development Rights Program (Ordinance 2007-7).

**21.- Does your general/comprehensive plan include provisions to reduce adverse air quality impacts? Required**

**Answer:** 1 Pts. We are (or collaborating with the responsible party) developing policies, regulations and funding to promote air quality.

**Comments:** The Comprehensive Plan promotes densities to achieve transit opportunities which lead to better air conditions. Additionally, through policies, we strive to minimize dust pollution by requiring paving of rural roads.

**22.- Does your community have an energy efficiency plan? Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. Alternative energy sources are addressed in the energy element of our general/comprehensive plan.

**Comments:** Currently, the Comprehensive Plan only addresses Solar Energy. A more comprehensive treatment of alternative energy will be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan 2011 Update. The Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations which the Board of Supervisors adopted separately (Resolution 2008-234), includes energy efficiency goals for County buildings and community-wide sustainability goals.

**23.- Does your community require and/or provide incentives for green building? Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. We offer incentives to new commercial and residential development, including multifamily, and public facilities to build to our community's green building or industry recognized standards.

**Comments:** Pima County is the 1st governmental entity in the country with the authority to certify for LEED Residential Building. We have a dedicated Residential Green Building Program with dedicated staff.

#### **Section 4.- Opportunity**



**24.- Does your general/comprehensive plan address the following housing issues: elimination of substandard dwelling conditions, the improvement of housing quality, variety and affordability, provision of adequate sites for housing and identification and analysis of existing and forecasted housing needs?** **Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. Our general/comprehensive plan includes policies that address more than one of the housing issues listed above.

**Comments:** Our Comprehensive Plan has several policies within its Land Use Element that pertain to increasing housing density and creating variety in housing products.

**25.- Does your community track the balance of jobs, wages and housing to inform land use decisions?** **Required**

**Answer:** 1 Pts. We are studying how to link housing, economic development and employment information.

**Comments:** We intend to include this in the 2011 Comprehensive Plan Update.

**26.- Which option best describes the mix of housing types approved in your community?** **Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. We approve a limited mix, including some affordable housing.

**Comments:**

**27.- Does your community include in its planning process the reservation of school sites in locations that foster safe learning environments for students, such as within walking distance from home and safely away from major transportation corridors?** **Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. We coordinate with the local school board about the feasibility of requiring school sites to be located within direct walking distances from the neighborhoods they serve, preferably away from (or buffered from) major transportation corridors.

**Comments:** Currently, our Safe Routes Ordinance is well into the public hearing process.

**28.- Does your community have pedestrian mobility options that include an integrated system for bicycling and walking linking residential, commercial, and recreation areas?** **Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have bike lanes, trails and pedestrian areas that are interconnected with design features, such as landscaping, sidewalks, trees, shade, lighting, and benches.

**Comments:** Unincorporated Pima County is part of a larger, regional and interconnected non-motorized trail system that exists and which is in a continual state of improvement.

**29.- Can community residents meet most daily shopping needs – food, hardware, banking and clothing – locally?** **Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. Everyday needs can be met through a diversity of local businesses.

**Comments:** Unincorporated Pima County is a large and diverse landscape that has urban, suburban, rural, and conservation areas. Everyday needs can be met locally except for those residing in rural/remote parts of the county.

**30.- Does your community provide incentives to support affordable housing?** **Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. We offer some incentives but they are not often utilized.

**Comments:** We have a Housing Trust Fund to assist with providing Affordable Housing.

**31.- Does your community plan for and track the mix and affordability of housing at the local or regional level?** **Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. We track housing data (or collaborate at a regional level).

**Comments:** Pima Association of Governments tracks housing data for the region.



**32.- Does your zoning allow for mixed uses, especially in designated growth areas or corridors? Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. Mixed land uses are allowed, but in limited zones.

**Comments:**

**Section 5.- Essential Service Infrastructure**

**33.- Does your community encourage new development to locate where infrastructure and services already exist? Required**

**Answer:** 1 Pts. We have an adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that is linked to our general/comprehensive plan.

**Comments:** The existing Comprehensive Plan is not linked to the Capital Improvement Program, but this is a priority for the 2011 Comprehensive Plan Update.

**34.- How does your community plan for its future social infrastructure and service needs, such as child and dependant care, senior services, disability services, food assistance, shelters, etc.? Required**

**Answer:** 1 Pts. Our community has engaged government and nonprofit social service providers, community organizations and faith-based groups in community planning issues.

**Comments:**

**35.- How does your community plan and coordinate the development of public utilities, including power, water, and sewer? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We plan and coordinate with local utilities and the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), when possible.

**Comments:** Pima County operates the regional wastewater treatment system. Pima County and Tucson Water (the largest local water utility) are presently engaged in a joint study of infrastructure systems and impacts on/from growth. Pima County works closely with Tucson Electric Power which serves a significant portion of eastern Pima County.

**36.- Does your community track (or collaborate at the regional level) travel patterns to better understand how and why people travel in your area? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We conduct (or collaborate at a regional level) traffic pattern studies every few years and review the need and efficiency of programs that are impacted by the study (such as ride-share, HOV lanes and regularly scheduled public transit).

**Comments:** This is addressed regionally through Pima Association of Governments.

**37.- How does your community or region address airport planning? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. Airport planning is part of our regional land use and transportation planning process that includes access, land use compatibility, and noise mitigation.

**Comments:** Our Airport Environs Overlay Zone has been in place since the mid 1980's; it was updated in 2008 pursuant to the Davis-Monthan Joint Land Use Compatibility Study. We work very closely with the Tucson Airport Authority and we require aviation easements on rezoning within the vicinity of airports.

**38.- Does your community's general/comprehensive plan address access to or construction of hospitals, healthcare clinics, pharmacies, and location of emergency and social service facilities? Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. We consider access and location when planning for future hospitals, healthcare, pharmacies and emergency and social service facilities.

**Comments:** We do not presently apply this in an across-the-board manner, but is considered in a specific geographic area through implementation of the Southwest Infrastructure Plan



**39.- How does your community integrate wildlife movement corridors (connecting larger blocks of wildlife habitat) to ensure motorist safety and provide safe wildlife passage? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We identify important wildlife crossing sites in our environmental planning, open space, and/or transportation elements of our general/comprehensive plan and we incorporate open space and wildlife passage structures along existing and future roadways and infrastructure, when possible.

**Comments:** Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and the Conservation Lands System are national models for identification of important wildlife-related resources, including areas important for wildlife movement. The Regional Transportation Authority has \$45 Million available for funding wildlife-friendly improvements to existing roadways and wildlife-friendly designs for new roads.

**40.- Does your community have a transit program? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. Our transit program includes ride-share, HOV lanes and regularly scheduled public transit, such as bus and trolley, or similar programs.

**Comments:** This regionally coordinated by Pima Association of Governments.

**41.- Does your community have incentives and flexible regulations to promote Transit Oriented Development (TOD)? Required**

**Answer:** 1 Pts. We are developing incentives to promote TOD.

**Comments:** To date, the Zoning Code allows for reduced parking requirements and some recently adopted Specific Plans accommodate TOD. We are currently augmenting the Rezoning Site Analysis to reflect the status of transit opportunities as part of specific projects. We have required transit accommodations in site plans as part of rezoning approvals when the opportunity is present.

### Section 6.- Economic Development

**42.- Does your community have an economic development element in your general / comprehensive plan or a specific plan to address economic development? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have an economic development element or plan that addresses current and projected conditions.

**Comments:** Although not found in the existing Comprehensive Plan, economic development in Pima County is handled regionally and cooperatively through Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities (TREGO) which has released the Blueprint for Economic Development.

**43.- Does your community designate areas with employment centers and corridors? Required**

**Answer:** 2 Pts. Future housing and employment centers and corridors have been identified.

**Comments:** Within the area affected by the Southwest Infrastructure Plan, we have done more to create live/work/play environments. On a county-wide basis, however, the Comprehensive Plan's Land Use Element addresses future housing and employment.

**44.- Has your community created specific training and workforce development programs to meet the needs of current and emerging industries? Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. Our community works closely with our one-stop career center(s) and/or education providers to create industry tailored training programs that meet the needs of our community and local industries.

**Comments:** We operate two One-Stop career centers. These centers coordinate with Pima Community College and proprietary education programs; have an active employere out-reach team and on-the-job training program. They facilitate a number of industry-tailored training programs with particular attention to programs for health care, electronics technician, and construction (including construction apprentice programs). A recent addition is a solar installation program developed with the electrical apprentice program. These centers also developed and operate two separate H1B education programs.



**45.- Does your community support entrepreneurs and start-up businesses?**

**Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have information to direct people to educational organizations which provide one-on-one assistance and workshops on how to start and operate a business.

**Comments:** Pima County sponsors Pima County Small Business Commission which hosts a wide variety of assistance and workshops.

**46.- How does your community support existing businesses?**

**Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have an active business retention and expansion program that includes an action plan to meet with targeted business owners and conduct annual surveys.

**Comments:** We have an action plan created through partnering with the University of Arizona and Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities. Through Pima County Development Services, we are actively engaged with the business community to help streamline expansions and new development to house businesses.

**47.- Do you have an active business attraction program?**

**Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have developed a marketing plan with goals and objectives to identify potential businesses that fit the strengths of the community and region; have performed effective targeted marketing strategies to those businesses (such as industry newsletters and fairs, magazines, direct mailings and email); ensure the community website provides information crucial to site selectors; and we have an established process to meet and greet site selectors.

**Comments:** Through Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities (TREO), we have a blueprint to attract businesses to the area. Pima County has worked with TREO to develop a Shovel Ready Program to assist site selectors in identifying sites that are pre-approved for development and utilities. TREO maintains the website.

**48.- How does your community attract higher wage jobs while also addressing low and middle-skilled worker advancement?**

**Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. Our business attraction and expansion efforts recruit jobs that offer employment opportunities for all skill levels, pay wages above the average median income in Arizona and provide employee benefits, including skill development and advancement.

**Comments:** TREO plans to attract higher wage level jobs. The City of Tucson and Pima County have adopted living wage standards for all public jobs. Skill development through the One Stop Career Centers and Pima Community College is geared to all level of wages and focuses on career paths.

**49.- Does your community regularly track (or work with an entity that tracks) local and regional economic information and trends?**

**Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have regular reports on local and regional economic information that includes data on sources of income, job creation, wages and housing affordability.

**Comments:** Pima County works with TREO who tracks jobs and business information. We also work with the University of Arizona - Eller School of Management which produces regular reports for the community and the state. Pima County is a sponsor of the Eller Quarterly Economic Update for Arizona - Maricopa and Pima Counties. We have two County staff economists to track economic trends and project impacts.

**50.- Does your community have communication/broad band services or plans to acquire them?**

**Required**

**Answer:** 3 Pts. We have broad band or a plan in place for how to acquire it that includes diverse community involvement (i.e. local businesses, emergency responders, community colleges, school districts, libraries, etc).

**Comments:** Yes, we have broad band access and wifi available downtown and we have an emergency responder program.