



Arizona Sustainability Alliance

2022

ABOUT AZSA

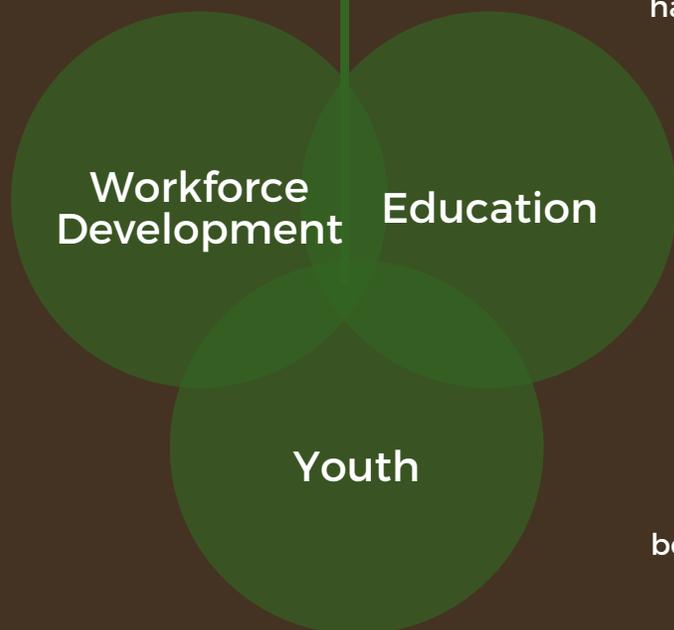
Arizona Sustainability Alliance (AZSA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit action and advocacy alliance that aims to create and support cutting-edge, project-based sustainability solutions in Arizona through civic engagement, collaboration, and education. AZSA empowers Arizona citizens to work together toward more verdant, equitable, and sustainable communities.



OUR PRIORITIES



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



AZSA has three cross-cutting themes that transect the work that we do. All of our projects have an educational component and many focus on youth in vulnerable communities.

Our workforce development programs are in renewable energy and conservation, with plans to expand into our other priorities in the future.

With a focus on youth, education, and workforce development, our projects go beyond impacting individuals to impacting communities in the long term.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

We are dedicated to creating and supporting regenerative local food systems. Through community engagement, education, and project-based assistance, we intend on empowering vulnerable communities and creating equitable, affordable food access throughout Arizona.

CURRENT PROJECTS



Sow It Forward is a vertical garden program that focuses on a “farm-to-market” approach that creates an immersive experience exploring aspects of agriculture. The goal of the program is to create opportunities to expand access to healthy foods beyond just the classrooms that have vertical gardens. Students and teachers have the opportunity to grow their own produce in the classroom, while learning how these actions relate to nutrition and food system sustainability. At the conclusion of the curriculum, schools host a local farmers markets with the produce they have grown.



Food Tech For The Future
Growing Digital Farmers

The Food Tech For the Future: Growing Digital Farmers Program introduces students, teachers, volunteers and the community to the world of food computers. The innovative nature of this project inspires engagement from tech industries, as well as global support from tech giants like Google. This program is highly interactive and students get the chance to build their own food computer, conduct plant growth experiments, share the data globally and learn about biology, genetics, technology and robotics through first-hand experience.



URBAN FORESTRY



Our work in urban forestry centers around increasing and maintaining the urban tree canopy in low income, low shade communities as a public health necessity. Additionally, we strive to educate the public, educators and organizations on the benefits of urban forestry, including carbon capture and mitigating extreme heat.

CURRENT PROJECTS

ARIZONA URBAN FORESTRY EDUCATION INITIATIVE

This is the first Arizona-specific urban forestry curriculum. Since its inaugural year in 2021, this initiative works to educate youth in grades K-12 on the foundations of urban forestry in Arizona by collaborating with local educators. The curriculum focuses on tree structure and anatomy; ecosystem impacts such as biodiversity conservation and urban wildlife; social impacts such as urban infrastructure, urban heat island, air quality and stormwater management; and an introduction to arboriculture and agriculture as potential career pathways.

TREE PLANTING

Extreme heat has devastating impacts on our communities and ecosystems alike. AZSA's Tree Planting Program addresses public and environmental health challenges directly through an increase in shade coverage and a range of other ecosystem services provided by trees. AZSA partners with local communities to identify high-need areas and collaborative shade solutions. We are in the process of exponentially expanding our tree plantings in order to combat extreme heat as Arizona's urban population continues to increase.



CONSERVATION



AZSA engages in projects that preserve and protect the natural beauty and ecosystems of Arizona. Working with local organizations and city municipalities, we promote sustainable projects while preserving local flora and fauna.

CURRENT PROJECTS

ADOPT-A-PARK

Through our Adopt-A-Park Program, AZSA organizes park cleanups, invasive species removal, trail maintenance, and pollinator planting events throughout Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, North Mountain Preserve and beyond to increase park integrity and accessibility for all Arizona residents. Adopt-A-Park events center around park and community member needs.

ARIZONA YOUTH CONSERVATION WORKFORCE

This program provides environmental education, stipends, and mentorship to students from vulnerable communities to develop the next generation of conservation leaders in Arizona. AZSA collaborates directly with land agencies along the Rio Reimagined to restore riparian areas while engaging youth in meaningful, hands-on fieldwork in their communities.



CITIES



We believe every city in Arizona should have the resources, connections, and capacity to implement high-impact sustainability projects, programs, and initiatives. Our mission is to connect cities to resources and opportunities to galvanize sustainability efforts in local communities.

CITY LIAISONS

The role of the city liaisons is to work directly with city officials to understand what the sustainability needs of each community are, what needs are already being met by the cities, and what the cities are presently unable to do.

CURRENT CITIES

- Apache Junction
- Buckeye
- Chandler
- Gilbert
- Mesa
- Phoenix
- Tempe



RENEWABLE ENERGY



We aim to demonstrate renewable energy in creative, innovative, and interactive ways through projects that incorporate community health, connectedness, and beautification. Our vision is to cultivate a sustainable energy culture shift where renewables are the norm in Arizona, not an afterthought.

CURRENT PROJECTS

CLEAN ENERGY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

This project is focused on accomplishing two essential tasks within Arizona communities: providing essential job skills to students from vulnerable communities and contributing to the clean energy revolution taking place globally. By partnering with Title I school districts, public and private partners, Maricopa community colleges and industry professional certification programs, this project will provide students with job skills in a variety of clean energy sector pathways.

MAYA'S SOLAR FARM INSTALLATION

This multifaceted project works towards a renewable energy future. AZSA is providing resources to design and install solar panels at Maya's Farm in Phoenix. This project will allow for the opportunity to research growing food underneath solar panels, a system known as agrivoltaics.

This project will also have a stand-alone documentary sharing Maya's journey with sustainable urban farming.



OUR LEADERSHIP

The Board of AZSA has expertise in sustainability balanced by a significant variety of business and nonprofit experience that blends together into an exceptionally strong team. The group delivers its messaging differently from typical environmental organizations, as AZSA is nonpartisan and committed to systemic change in communities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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OUR TEAM

We are a nonprofit action and advocacy alliance who aims to create and support cutting-edge, project based sustainability solutions in Arizona.

Our team is comprised of dedicated individuals with a passion for sustainability. We collaborate with communities and hands-on projects to bring about positive change throughout Arizona. Our goal is to use our knowledge to inspire those around us to better their environment.



Michelle Bevins
Chief Executive Officer



Michelle Bevins
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