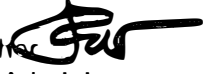




MEMORANDUM

Date: August 5, 2026

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

From: Jan Leshar 
County Administrator

Re: Pima Climate Action Now! Climate Action Plan for County Operations Update

Introduction

The August bi-monthly climate update will focus on the Climate Plan for County Operations (CAPCO) Landscapes strategies and working group activities, the Tucson Electric Power (TEP) Integrated Resource Process and the County's participation in the Resource Planning Advisory Committee ([RPAC](#)), and Energy and Water use assessments and data.

Pima County's Landscapes Working Group

The County's Landscapes Working Group is comprised of several County departments overseeing Natural Areas, Urban Landscapes, and Food Systems. The Landscapes working group includes Conservation Lands & Resources (CLR), Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) and Parks and Recreation (PR). This working group has several members with critical expertise in green infrastructure investments, conservation lands and natural areas – to include natural habitats, riparian areas, wildlife linkages, native plants, invasive species. This team has deep expertise in rangelands, active farming and ranchlands, and broader food systems.

While Landscapes has its own working group and strategy set within the CAPCO, the core areas are inextricably linked to the full CAPCO – carbon, extreme heat, wildfire risk, and water. The Landscapes team works closely with (or directly participates in) the Water Working Group (WWG), Extreme Heat (Pima County Health Department and partners) and Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) efforts to ensure there is connectivity across our County climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience priorities strategies.

In the first year of the CAPCO there are several baseline activities that will be developed by the Landscapes Working Group across the core areas – **Natural Areas, Urban Landscapes and Food Systems.**

The goals and strategies in the *Natural Areas* section of the CAPCO include monitoring, measuring and enhancing several geographic areas. These include but are not limited to conservation lands / cultural resources, ecosystem protective opportunities in undeveloped areas across the County, restoring and enhancing riparian areas, and acres protected within Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) wildlife linkages / corridors and protected habitat (driven by acquisitions).

APL
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The *Urban Landscapes* components in the CAPCO are dedicated to enhancing our tree planting and native plant strategies, in addition to expanding green infrastructure in priority zones (such as heat vulnerability, or qualified census tracts as examples). The County has set a goal to plant 10,000 trees and expand green infrastructure. Within the first year (calendar year 2026) the Landscapes Working Group will draft a 10,000-tree strategy for the subsequent year of the CAPCO, in addition to strategies that enhance critical green infrastructure projects – all of which using predominantly plants from the County's Native Plant Nursery. Several data elements will be used to craft this goal including - but not limited to - Tree Equity Score data and heat priority zones. Tree Equity Score data combines several data elements into one measure (0 – 100) that can help prioritize investment opportunities. These data include existing tree canopies, building density, census tract data (such as income, employment, and demographic data), and surface temperatures, among others. A lower score designates a greater need for investment and often guide investment in areas where there is also disproportionate vulnerability.

The Landscapes Working Group is also exploring a first-year role for growth and access in *Food Systems*. This includes looking at the growth and preservation of County's existing farm and ranchlands – such as Buckelew Farms. The Landscapes Working Group will be developing first-year strategies to also look at collaborations for food systems opportunities – such as food access, urban and natural area farming, food deserts, and nutrition programs.

In alignment with the Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) effort, the Landscapes Working Group will be leading the development of a County Administrative Procedure on *Invasive Species* remediation and data management. There is already substantial departmental involvement in invasive species remediation and reducing wildfire risk, additionally, the County teams have built extensive capacity in geospatial information systems (GIS) tracking of remediation / priority areas. There are several components of remediation that would benefit from the development of a County procedure – such as remediation methods, volunteer enhancement, data tracking, and priority sites. This AP will continue to be developed and finalized in the upcoming quarter.

Landscapes, ecosystem protection, conservation and restoration of the Sonoran Desert directly promote climate resilience. Healthy connected landscapes remain not only a commitment to the County's conservation efforts but represent essential climate adaptation strategies through protection of native species, removal of invasive species, reduction of heat island effects, investment in green infrastructure, preservation of water resources, food systems, and protection of our natural areas, conservation lands, and urban landscapes. The County will provide an update on the Landscapes Working Group first-year strategy development.

Water and Energy Assessments and Baseline Data

The Climate Action Executive Team (CAET) is proceeding with a Request for Information / Proposals (RFI / RFP) to conduct an Energy and Water Assessment on County Operations / properties. This will enhance the ability to plan and recommend projects that will ensure the County meets its 60% emission reduction goals and water conservation goals.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: **Pima Climate Action Now! Climate Action Plan for County Operations Update**
August 5, 2026
Page 3

There were several discussion items posed by the Pima County Board of Supervisors (BOS) in the July Study Session regarding the increased water use. The County departments are still analyzing the data across the County facilities / properties to determine the water use increase and causes – leaks, increased activation of outdoor spaces requiring water, and increased heat and cooling needs. We will report the data (or data gaps) to the BOS. The Energy and Water assessment goals will be foundational in creating a comprehensive data baseline and better project the impact of our climate investments and activities.

The Memorandum prepared on the TEP IRP process is relevant to this activity, because the County's carbon emissions and energy goals are directly impacted by TEP's IRP process. The County measures its emissions and energy mix based on the TEP provision of clean energy resources.

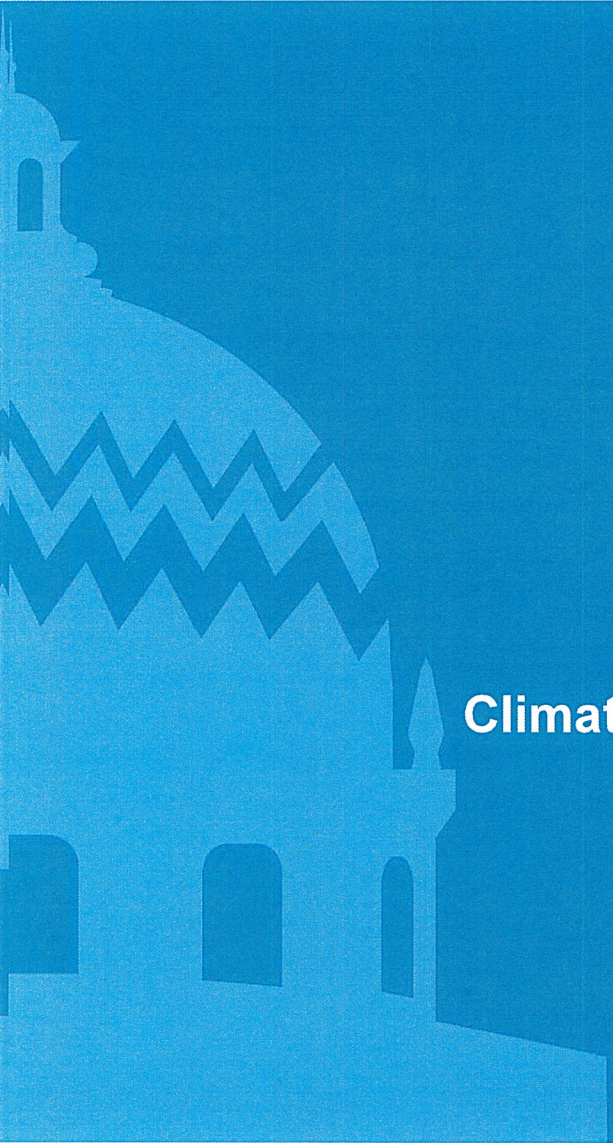
There will be a detailed memorandum and presentation on Carbon and Energy prepared for the Board in the October bi-monthly update – and will include the County's 2025 Carbon Emissions data.

Attached please find the Climate Update prepared for the August 11th Study Session.

JKL/je

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Chad Kasmar, Deputy County Administrator
Sarah Davis, Senior Advisor, Pima County Administrator's Office
Pima County Climate Action Executive Team Directors



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CLIMATE ACTION NOW

Climate Action Plan for County Operations (CAPCO) 2025-2030

Pima County Board of Supervisors Update August 11, 2026



Climate Action Plan for County Operations 2025-2030

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CHAPTER 1

Carbon
& Energy

CHAPTER 2

Waste &
Materials

CHAPTER 3

Extreme
Heat

CHAPTER 4

Wildfire &
Invasive Species

CHAPTER 5

Water

CHAPTER 6

Landscapes

CHAPTER 7

Climate &
Community



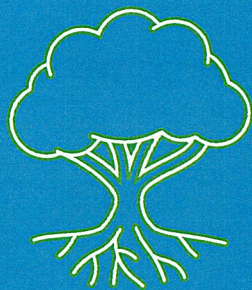
CAPCO August Update

- **Landscapes**
(Urban Landscapes, Natural Areas and Food Systems)
- Tucson Electric Power Integrated Resource Plan Update
- GIS Maps and PimaCan Website Enhancements



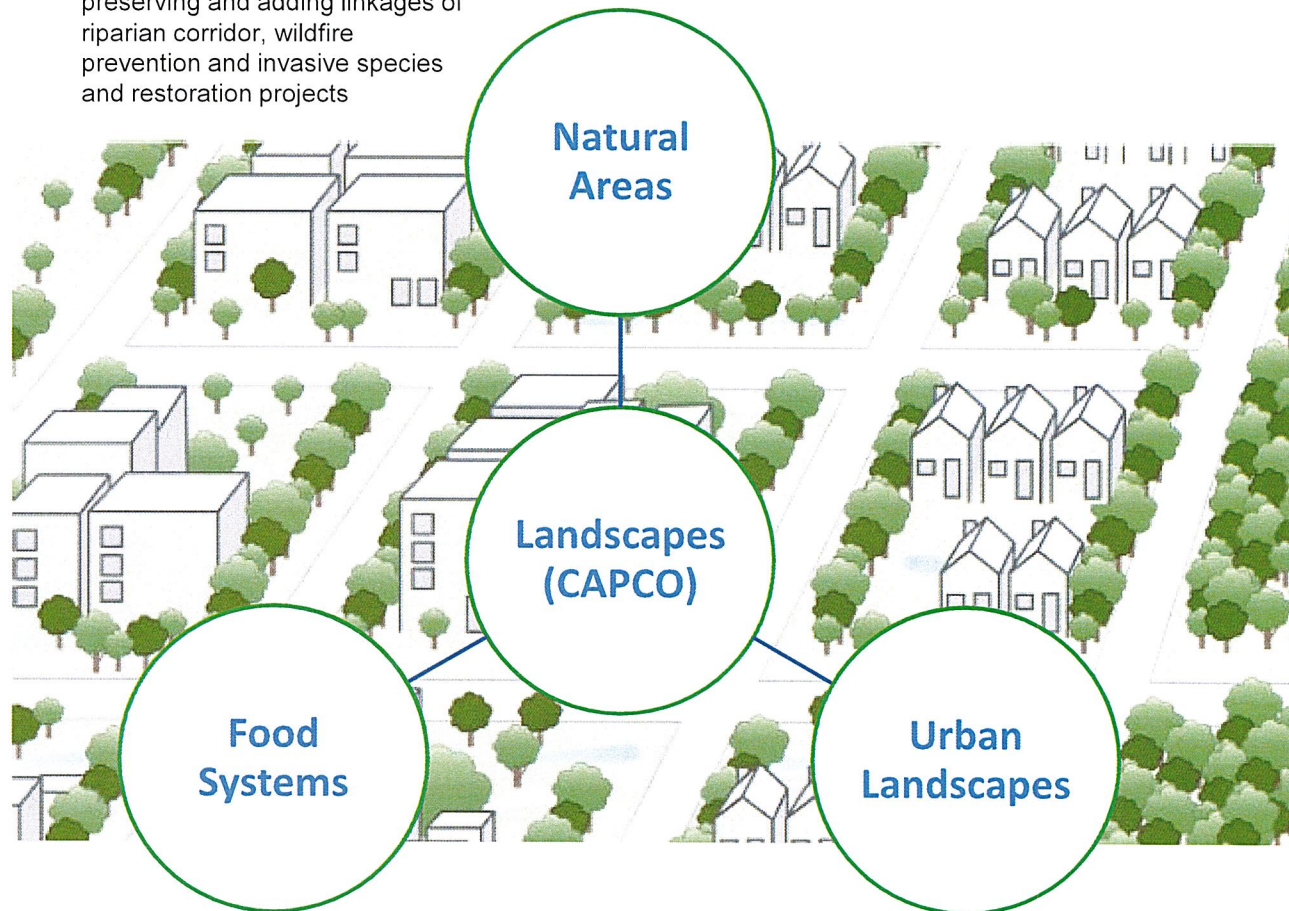
Landscapes Working Group

Conservation Lands & Resources, Regional Flood Control District, Parks & Recreation



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Conservation of natural habitat, preserving and adding linkages of riparian corridor, wildfire prevention and invasive species and restoration projects



Working ranchland and farmland preservation, enhancement of food systems opportunities

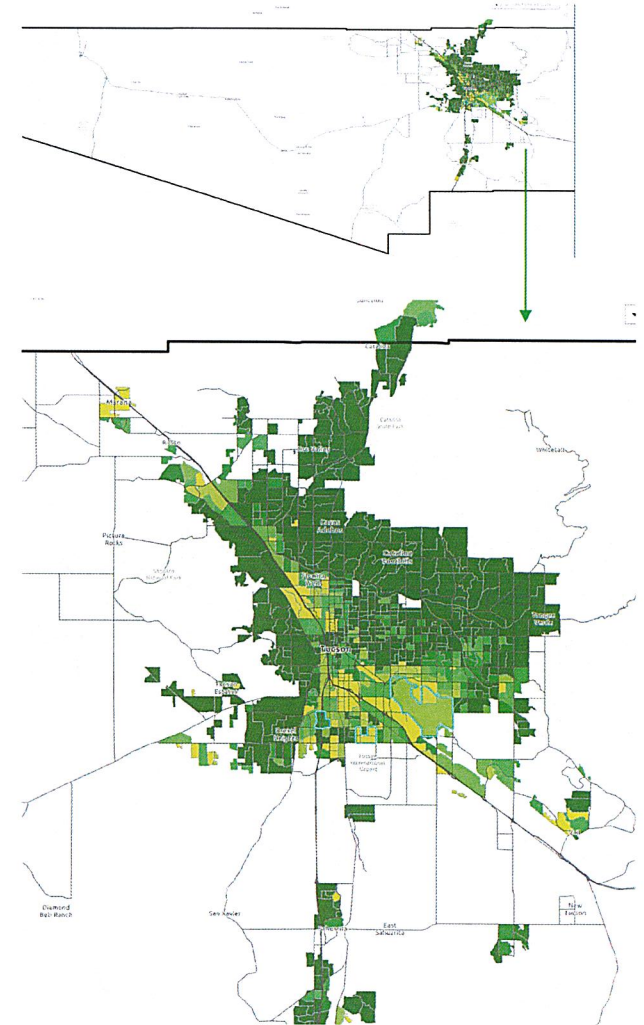
10,000 trees and green infrastructure investment



Goal: 10,000 trees planted over the 5-year period

Landscapes: Develop the 10,000-tree plan strategy by CY2026

- Integrate **Tree Equity Score** to define priority areas
- Leverage **Green Infrastructure Investments** in heat-priority zones
- Maintain and document **existing tree canopy** across County operations
- At least **50% of plants** for green infrastructure and tree planting activities come from the County's Native Plant Nursery





NATURAL AREAS Invasive Species & Wildfire Mitigation Plan

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Invasive Species Remediation and Wildfire Mitigation Plan

In the first year of CAPCO, **create an Administrative Procedure across County Departments to remediate invasive species**

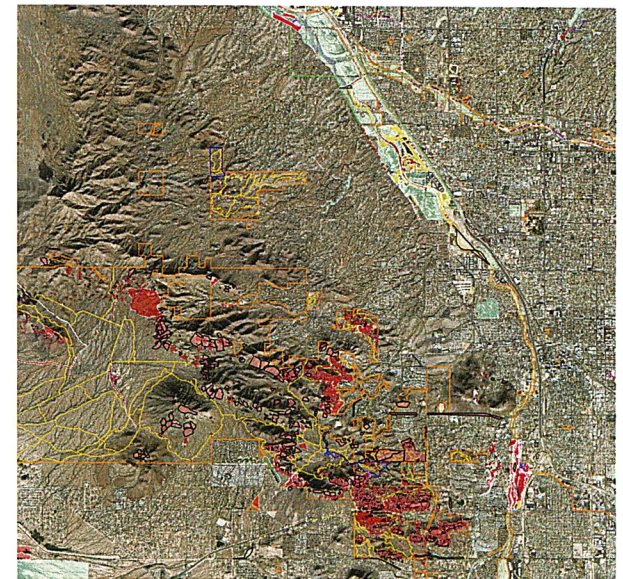
County departmental remediation and **data contributions to GIS modeling** – e.g., number of sites treated or remediated for invasive species

Build capacity to overlay invasive species data with other partner data sets such as Wildfire Risk Maps

Departmental Invasive Species Engagement – such as remediation pulls, and other volunteer events



County green team turns buffelgrass into bricks



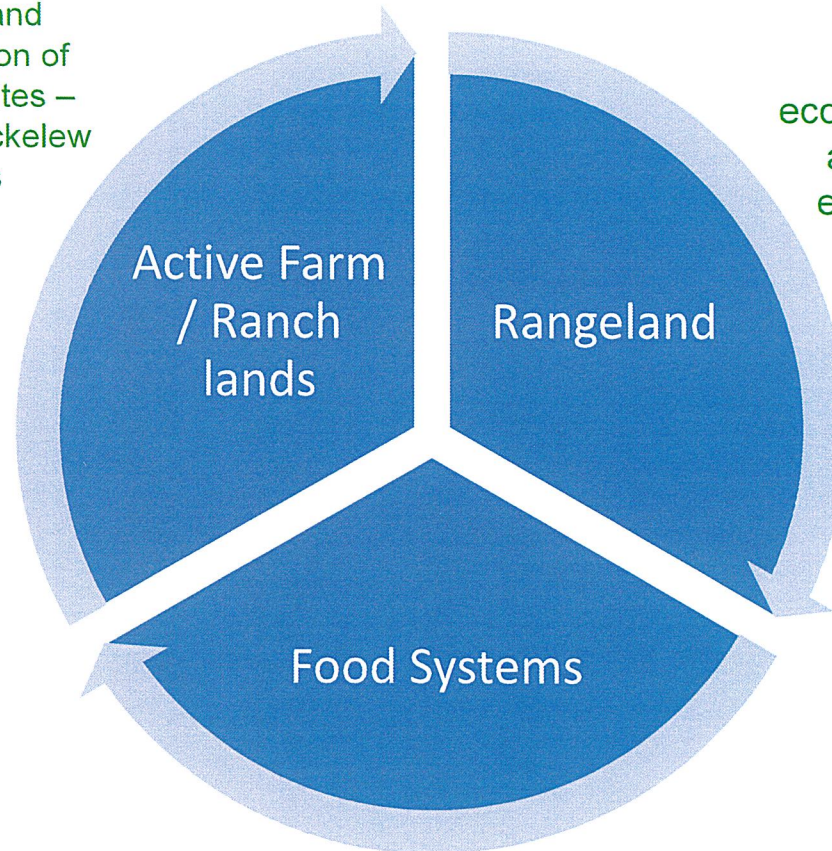


FOOD SYSTEMS

Ranchland, Farmland, Food Systems Opportunities

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Growth and
Preservation of
farmland sites –
such as Buckelew
Farms



Range-land
inventories,
ecosystem health,
and acreage
enhancement

Collaborate with Public Health and Community Partners on
Food Systems Access – such as food systems, urban and
natural area farming, food access / food deserts, and nutrition
programs



Integrated Resource Planning and Pima County Participation

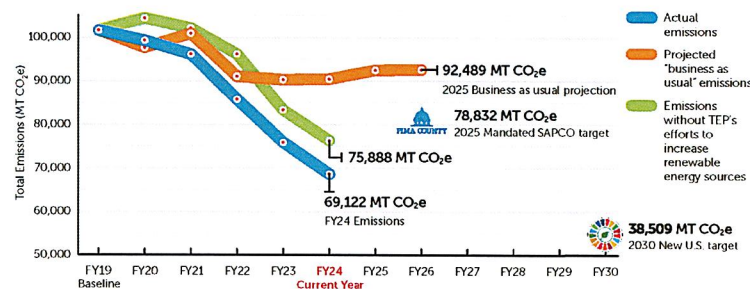
The energy efficiency commitment from the Utility directly impacts the County's ability to meet emissions and clean energy goals

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Integrated Resource Planning and Resource Planning Committee

- Integrated Resource Plans are required by the Arizona Corporation Commission
- Each Arizona Utility has a **Resource Planning Advisory Committee** that reviews proposed portfolios – energy demand, energy mix, and energy generation
- **IRP submittal extensions** were granted to several Arizona Utilities
- Obligation of the utilities to retain energy efficiency standards in current IRP removed by ACC in early 2026, TEP has retained the stipulations in the 2023 IRP

PIMA COUNTY OPERATIONS EMISSIONS⁴



⁴ This graph illustrates total emissions from carbon sources. The graphic represents actual emissions with and without renewable energy from the utility. This graphic represents actual measurements through the proposed reporting period.

CAPCO Baseline for Solar / Renewable Energy Generation

36 implemented solar projects across County Facilities and Leased Properties - generating 17,582,419 kWh

CAPCO Baseline for TEP Energy Credits— Go Solar Shares (TEP Community Solar)

38 County sites - generating 7,731,000 kWh



CAPCO Upcoming Reports



Bi-monthly Update Topics – October BOS Study Session

- Energy and Water Assessment Update
 - County Emissions Data for 2025
 - Progress on all Year One CAPCO Goals
-

Get Involved!

Pima County Employee Engagement in Climate!
Monthly Roundtables & Volunteer Opportunities In Alignment with
CAPCO Activities





PIMA COUNTY

**Questions and
Thank you!**

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