

PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

October 10, 2024

Phoenix City Hall
Online Using Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Cazarez, Orlando, Webex	Apple, Karen, Office of Sustainability
Chapman, Darren, Webex	Gerster, Katrina, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Hernandez, Baltazar, Webex	Uebelherr, Joshua, OEP
Knoop, Kathy, Webex	Vermeer, Danielle, OEP
Odegard-Begay, Andrea, Webex	Zima, Elizabeth, OEP
Porter, Sarah, Webex	
Sandweg, Bill, Webex	
Tetreault, Colin, Webex	
Lobo, Caroline – Chair, In-person	
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Allee Taylor, Penny	Cecilia Riviere, Arizona State University
Barr, Kelly	
Franquist, Timothy	
Gorsegner, Eric	
Groman, Kevin	
Torres, Ginger – Vice Chair	

1. Call to Order/Roll Call and Announcements:

The meeting of the Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission (EQSC) was called to order with a roll call at 3:07 p.m. There were 9 members present at roll call.

Environmental Programs Coordinator, Elizabeth Zima, announced Environmental Programs staff published the Climate Action Plan Progress Report. She noted staff could share the link, but Environmental Programs was not looking for feedback at this time.

2. Review and approval of September 12, 2024 Minutes

Commissioner Tetreault made a motion to approve the September 12, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion, and it carried 9-0.

3. Public Comment

No members of the public requested to speak.

4. Phoenix Electric Vehicle Update

Office of Sustainability Electric Vehicle (EV) Program Manager, Karen Apple, gave an EV program update including EV sales in Arizona, Phoenix EV goals, EV charging infrastructure in Maricopa County, Phoenix EV chargers, fleet electrification, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and more.

Commissioner Cazarez asked if the “Length of Time Driving Versus Parked” graph applied to the general public or was Phoenix specific.

Ms. Apple replied yes it was just the general public.

Commissioner Cazarez asked if the City was tracking the source of power for EVs that the City owns and if solar was used.

Ms. Apple responded the City had some solar panels and canopies at some City parking facilities, but she believed energy generated was typically used for building operations, and not charging infrastructure. She added the City was seeking grants for mobile solar that could be moved around the City.

Ms. Apple continued the presentation with a discussion of community outreach including the Resilient Cities Catalyst, inclusive outreach initiatives, and workshop outcomes.

Chair Lobo asked where the Solar for All funding came from.

Ms. Apple replied the funding was from the Department of Energy (DOE) but coming through the State.

Ms. Apple continued the presentation including a discussion of National Drive Electric Week, successful public and employee Ride and Drive events, and regional collaborations. She then discussed funding such as the DOE Charging and Infrastructure \$15 million grant application under review, over \$2 million Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) funding, and \$650,000 of General Obligation (GO) Bond funding.

Commissioner Knoop asked if the Direct Current (DC) fast charger being installed near Deer Valley Airport would be behind a fence, or accessible to the public 24/7.

Ms. Apple responded it would be publicly accessible.

Ms. Apple continued the presentation with a discussion of outreach and pilot projects, including an EV car share program.

Chair Lobo asked if the EV car share program would cost money.

Ms. Apple replied yes.

Chair Lobo asked who would be responsible for checking driver's licenses.

Ms. Apple responded the vendor would be.

Ms. Apple continued the presentation with an overview of EV key challenges and opportunities.

Chair Lobo asked for clarification on the "How Solar is Growing Mid-Day" graph.

Ms. Apple provided clarification on the graph.

Ms. Apple began a presentation on implementing EV charging at your workplace, she noted this was not her program but wanted to share the information. She emphasized the program offered free site assessments and explained the EVAL certification process. She noted the EVAL certification application is waived through October 2024. After November 1, 2024, a fee will be implemented to certify each location.

Chair Lobo asked if there was a fee for installing the charging equipment.

Ms. Apple responded the program did not include installation, just site evaluation and planning.

Ms. Apple asked if the Commission could share the Charge@Work information with their networks, sign the Charge@Work pledge, request a no cost site evaluation, and obtain EVAL certification for your workplace, and report back to City staff.

Commissioner Knoop added EV Go, a large builder of DC fast chargers, just received a \$1 billion loan to put in another 750,000 charging points in the United States. EV Go picked a few key markets, including Arizona.

Chair Lobo expressed concern about the affordability of EVs. She also asked about Commissioner interest in the Charge@Work program.

Commissioner Cazarez expressed interest in bringing this information back to the Audubon Center and noted there could be interest along the Rio Salado stretch.

Commissioner Chapman agreed with Commissioner Cazarez and expressed interest in other community design possibilities.

Ms. Apple discussed the possibility of expanding boundaries for micromobility such as e-scooters and e-bikes in the future.

5. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Chair Lobo noted Environmental Programs staff reached out to the Maricopa County Air Quality Department on the \$15 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration to

support its Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Improvement Project. She noted the County was not ready to discuss plans yet but would consider this for the future.

Ms. Apple added Maricopa County informed her there would be an opportunity to sub-award out some of the funding to municipalities.

Commissioner Cazarez shared about a particularly warm tree planting in Heritage Park in Mesa. He noted he was curious to learn more about City workplace safety for heat.

Ms. Zima asked if the Commission was interested in having a December meeting, as there were some upcoming staff shortages and potential holiday time-off conflicts.

Commissioner Cazarez, Commissioner Knoop, and Commissioner Sandweg expressed interest in cancelling the December meeting. Chair Lobo requested City staff survey the commissioners not present regarding whether to cancel the December meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Vermeer, Administrative Assistant II