

We only use cookies that are necessary for this site to function to provide you with the best experience. The controller of this site may choose to place supplementary cookies to support additional functionality such as support analytics, and has an obligation to disclose these cookies. Learn more in our [Cookie Statement](#).

Pima CAN!

Pima County, Arizona sent this bulletin at 03/11/2024 02:33 PM MST

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



March 11, 2024



Pima County is building a climate collaboration

Welcome to the first edition of the Pima CAN! newsletter.

We are at an exciting time to grow our regional coalition and take action on climate pollution in Pima County. We cannot do this without you.

Pima County and our coalition partners look to bring in a significant amount of federal funding to improve our air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance

workforce opportunities in a green economy, and address environmental injustices in disadvantaged communities.

Pima County, City of Tucson, City of South Tucson, Town of Oro Valley, and the Tohono O'odham Nation joined together in a local partnership to ensure representation of our community at large.

This unique opportunity came when the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) received a four-year (2023-2027) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). This funding was made available to state, tribal and local governments through the Inflation Reduction Act.

CPRG Planning Grant recipients are required to submit three deliverables over the four-year planning period:

1. A Priority Climate Action Plan, delivered March 1, 2024
2. A Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, due July 19, 2025
3. A Status Report, due July 31, 2027

We'll send out this newsletter periodically to keep you up to date on all our Pima CAN! activities.

Here's what you said...

PDEQ asked for proposals for community-based organizations and local governments to assist with outreach to low-income and disadvantaged communities.

[Five organizations](#) were selected: the City of Tucson, Direct Center for Independence, Ironwood Tree Experience, Iskashitaa Refugee Network, and the YWCA.



PDEQ developed two surveys and engaged these five organizations to obtain input from diverse populations, including those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and air pollution.

A survey for Pima County residents was conducted Nov. 16 through Dec. 31, 2023. We received more than 2,000 responses. A survey for business and industry was conducted Dec. 12 through Dec. 31, 2023, and 15 responses were received.

Here are the survey results:

- [Resident](#) survey
- [Analysis of the open-ended questions](#) of resident survey
- [Business](#) survey

How the entire region is coming together

Numerous meetings were held with a variety of organizations and local governments. The goals included:

- Engaging community stakeholders
- Identifying climate reduction strategies and implementation opportunities
- Estimating emissions inventory projections associated with proposed projects
- Identifying and leveraging existing funding opportunities that align with CPRG goals
- Discussing strategies for workforce development opportunities
- Sharing and integrating resources

The entities involved in this effort include:

- Pima County departments including Environmental Quality, Grants Management and Innovation, Community and Workforce Development, Wastewater Reclamation, Flood Control, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Health, Facilities Management, Transportation, Development Services, and Fleet Services
- City of Tucson
- City of South Tucson
- Town of Oro Valley
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- State collaborators
- Pima Association of Governments
- EPA

The County hosted a working session with County departments, jurisdictional partners, and nonprofits on Feb. 7, 2024, to exchange ideas and confirm projects to include in our Priority Climate Action Plan.

What is the Priority Climate Action Plan?

This planning work culminated in PDEQ developing the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). The purpose of this plan is to:

- Identify the sources and sectors of greenhouse gas emissions within the Tucson metropolitan statistical area
- Determine the priority measures that can be implemented in the near term
- Address environmental injustices
- Empower community-driven solutions in overburdened communities
- Deliver cleaner air for the residents of Pima County



This new regional climate plan is called Pima CAN! Climate Action Now! for Pima County. This PCAP was submitted to the EPA on March 1, 2024.



What are the next steps?

The EPA is offering \$4.6 billion in competitive implementation grants across the country through the Inflation Reduction Act. Pima County is expected to request more than \$150 million from this five-year grant, which would also fund initiatives from partner jurisdictions.

“It’s going to take all of us working together to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime federal grant opportunity,” said Pima County Administrator Jan Leshner. “It’s a big undertaking, but that’s what makes this moment so exciting.”

Collaborative work continues to:

- Craft and submit to the EPA a coalition CPRG Implementation Grant application (due April 1, 2024). If awarded, the grant will help fund the ability for the region to achieve the goals outlined in the plan.
- Work with our coalition partners to develop the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, due to EPA in the summer of 2025.
- Work with our community partners to educate the public on additional funding opportunities from the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Work with our coalition partners to create opportunities to empower youth to become an integral part of these efforts, building upon existing youth development and apprenticeship programs.

What can you do now?

Save energy and keep more money in your pocket! You can be part of this movement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Pima County by learning about the incentives offered through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Use the resources below to learn more about rebates and tax credits ... and get some tips to conserve energy at home.



[Clean Energy laws & tax rebates - IRA Inflation Reduction Act 2023 Science Moms](#)

[Investing in America - CleanEnergy.gov](#)

[Save Electricity and Fuel | Department of Energy](#)

[Energy Saver | Department of Energy](#)

[ENERGY STAR | The simple choice for energy efficiency.](#)

[Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency® - DSIRE \(dsireusa.org\)](#)

[Efficient Home – Tucson Electric Power \(tep.com\).](#)

[Sustainable Energy - Trico Electric Coop](#)

Climate Plan in the news



KOLD highlighted our climate action initiatives last month, talking with PDEQ Environmental Planning Manager Natalie Shepp (pictured) and Kristen Sawyer, youth development manager for Ironwood Tree Experience.

“There is a lot of hope in this,” Shepp said. “There’s a lot of things that can be done.”

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Want to learn more?

To discover the details of our Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, visit www.pima.gov/ClimatePlan. If you have any questions, contact us at ClimatePlan@pima.gov.

[The Pima County Department of Environmental Quality](#) monitors air and water quality and hazardous and solid waste programs that minimize waste and prevent pollution. PDEQ also provides public outreach, education, and citizens' assistance; processes environmental permits; and responds to public complaints and inquiries with investigations and enforcement.

Stay Connected with [Pima County](#)



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:
[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Help](#)

Subscribe to updates from Pima County, Arizona

Email Address e.g. name@example.com

Share Bulletin



Powered by



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Statement](#) | [Help](#)