



Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Conference Room
City Council Ward 6
3202 E. 1st Street
Tucson, Arizona, 85716

Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:31 by Chair Stormont

Present:

Dan Stormont (in person)	Representative, City Manager
Katy Brown (in person)	Representative, City Manager
Adriana Bachmann (in person)	Representative, Ward 2
Vanessa Gallego (remote, Teams)	Representative, Ward 1
Manon Getsi (remote, Teams)	Representative, Ward 5
Ojas Sanghi (remote, Teams)	Representative, Ward 3
Garrett Weaver (remote, Teams)	Representative, City Manager
Camila Martins-Bekat (remote, Teams)	Representative, City Manager

Staff Members & Guests:

Michael Catanzaro	Energy Manager, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
Fatima Luna	Chief Resilience Officer
Ryan Gruver	

Absent:

Jim Sell	Representative, Ward 6
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2) Approval of Minutes (August 13)

Comm. Bachmann motioned to approve
Comm. Brown seconded.
No objections.
Minutes approved.

3) Report from the Chair

Chair Stormont reported that the last Mayor and Council meeting was focused on unhoused issues. Next meeting was shifted, and is happening today. Current agenda is looking at transportation. Reported on research on Los Reales.

By Fusion is starting operation in 2026. Plastic is in storage at the facility.

Reported on Hefty lawsuit. Kris Mayes sued Hefty over deceptive advertising. Looking for damages due to lost revenue from recycling. Does not impact ByFusion.

Pima County passed two ordinances related to the data center:

D 31.3 Limit NDAs to no longer than 2 years.

Also, passed an enhanced due diligence process. Ensures all reviews are completed.

Beal will be continuing with the data center development. Made Energy Service Agreement with TEP to procure power for Data Center Project. On 17 Sept. Beal confirmed that it will be moving forward with the land purchase.

Comm. Gallego suggested having a member with the Environmental commission visit.

7) Climate Resilience Report

CRO Luna reported that Tucson Clean and Beautiful will be setting up the tree growing center at the Los Reales sustainability campus. This has been approved by Mayor and Council.

Reported on heat awareness campaign. Reported on cooling center visits, reported on public outreach.

Reported on redefined list of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Plan Tucson and Tucson Resilient Together. Look at data that is accessible to the City of Tucson. Next step will be to look at KPIs in relation to City departments. Reported that help from the commission to look at a few of them would be the next step. Each subaction could have 3 KPIs. Would like to see working group to identify KPIs that would be showcased to the community. Would be looking at getting feedback on the data hub.

Comm. Bachmann suggested that the Engagement and Communications standing subcommittee can take on the project to review the Climate Action Hub as requested by Fatima Luna.

4) Data Center Discussion with Ryan Gruver

Ryan Gruver reported that he is a data center and edge director. Does member education and workforce development and a data center design consultant.

Reported on cooling for data centers.

- DX unit. Cheap, easy to acquire, closed loop, no water use, but inefficient.
- Flooded cooling. HVAC for office, evaporative cooling to computer room. Energy efficient, but high water use. Not very popular in the southwest because of the water use. Tucson is a two-bravo zone.
- As data centers come to town, would recommend air cooled data centers in the southwest region.

Reported that data centers use much energy. Not much redundancy is built into services. Tier 4 is the highest fault tolerance. Hyperscalers do not meet the Tier 4 requirement.

UPSes. Need to provide 10-seconds of backup for generators to turn on. Hypers are building fast. Looking at 500 GW usage in the next 2 years.

Energy options include:

- Path to nuclear, small modular reactors, first test units are coming online, but mass production is mid-2030s
- Natural gas with carbon capture, but gas lines are already taxed
- Solar and storage, wind is not an option

Solutions are to reserve space. By 2040s to 2050s the plan is to go sustainable.

There were conversations around procuring your own power. But now the conversation is centered around colocation.

Comm. Martins-Bekat asked about interaction with demand response.

Ryan Gruver said he has not seen too much discussion on demand response. Offered to ask around.

Comm. Brown asked about resiliency and about carbon capture.

Ryan Gruver discussed Tier 4 has Full A and Full B system and has complete redundancy and there are companies like Volta looking at carbon capture.

Discussed battery technology. Such as lithium ion, sodium ion.

Mesa has a data center noise ordinance. It says that at the data center walls, the noise has to be at the ambient noise level of the area outside the walls.

There was discussion on reducing latency. 51 miles is the magic number for latency for fiber. We'll be seeing smaller datacenters pop up near towns for AI inference.

Chair Stormont asked about modular reactors and cost.

Ryan Gruver reported that Karios is building a reactor in Kentucky and then will figure out how to prefab, which will bring down costs. Likely a rollout will not happen till 2035 to 2040. Regulator issue.

Nuclear Roadshow in November.

5) Subcommittee Reports

High Level data center report, meet on Oct 2. Decided how to divvy up the research. Look at how policies interact with city plans. Plan on meeting again on Oct 16.

Water committee met on Sept. 26. Looking into how conservation is integrated into city water policy. Looking at connection between energy and water use. Next meeting is October 10th.

There was a presentation by Comm. Sanghi and Comm. Weaver on energy use and carbon emissions. Comm. Martins-Bekas and Comm. Weaver agreed to connect with TEP resource planning, and wholesale marketing team.

6) Energy Manager Report

EM Catanzario Reported presenting results of GDS associates report. The meeting had over 60 attendees from local governments attend.

8) Call to Audience

Russell Lowes - Took notes from Ryan Gruver. Said that small modular reactors would be more expensive according to his analysts. His projection for large reactors is \$0.26 per kwh, until economies of scale go in, but only after hundreds of reactors. Nuclear energy has never had a learning curve, French nuclear costs went up, not down. Commented on closed loop systems use twice the energy of evaporative cooling.

9) Future Agenda items

Asked about bringing TEP planners to the table. Could shoot for December.

Recommend guest speakers.

Annual report.

Next month will see an election for Secretary or Co-chair.

10) Adjournment - Chair Sell adjourned the meeting at 3:31