



Commission on Climate, Energy and Sustainability
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Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 2-4pm
City Council Ward 6
3202 E 1st Street
Tucson, AZ 85716

Meeting Minutes

1) Call to order/Roll call

Meeting was called to order at 2:03pm by Chair Stormont

Name	Time	Affiliation
Present:		
Commissioners:		
Dan Stormont (in person)	2:00	Representative, City Manager
Katy Brown (in person)	2:00	Representative, City Manager
Adriana Bachmann (in person)	2:00	Representative, Ward 2
Garrett Weaver (in person)	2:00	Representative, City Manager
Natalie Shepp (remote, Teams)	2:00	Representative, Ward 6
Ojas Sanghi (remote, Teams)	2:00	Representative, Ward 3
Camila Martins-Bekat (remote, Teams)	2:20	Representative, City Manager
Joseph Rocky Rivera (remote, Teams)	2:00	Representative, Ward 5
Moises Gomez (in person)	2:00	Representative, Mayor
Staff Members and Guests:		
Michael Catanzaro (in person) yes	2:00	Energy Manager, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
Fatima Luna (remote, Teams) XX	2:15	Chief Resilience Officer
Lindsey Reese		City of Tucson
Lee Ziesche (in person)	2:00	presenter
Nick Arnold (remote, Teams)	2:00	audience
Rick Rappaport (remote, Teams)	2:00	audience
Lee Stanfield (remote, Teams)		audience
Shelly Gordon (remote, Teams)		audience
Raye Winch (in person)		Ward 6, Council Aide
Julie Dittmer (remote, Teams)		audience
Bruce Plenk (phone, remote, Teams))		audience
MJ Watz Browatzki (remote, Teams)		audience
Mandi Leatherland (remote, Teams)		audience

Absent None		
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The meeting began with Introductions of Commission members because new members have been appointed.

- Commissioner Gomez, Appointment by Mayor Romero, first meeting - with Local First Arizona, and local small business owner
- Commissioner Sanghi, Ward 2 - last day. Graduating from University of Arizona

2) Call to audience

Call to the audience held.

Comments were made by: Rick Rappaport, Bruce Plenk, Lee Stanfield, and MJ Watz Browatzki

Commission Chair Stormont stated the policy of the Commission that no commissioner would be asked to leave the room at the request of a speaker. Chair Stormont would allow voluntary recusal.

3) Public feedback on Energy Collaboration Agreement: Lee Ziesche, Tucson DSA and No Desert Data Center Coalition

Lee Ziesche - Offered her background - climate justice organizing, opposing fossil fuel extraction and infrastructure, advocates for affordable rates and investor owned utilities; organizes with the Tucson Democratic Socialists of America and the No Desert Data Center coalition; LZ emphasized her experience talking with individuals in the community about these topics and gathering signatures on petitions in support of public power.

Thanks to the City of Tucson for town halls and negotiating for ECA in a difficult situation.

Feedback:

- There is a lack of reporting about the dissatisfaction with TEP, affordability, and how unpopular TEP is based upon her contacts, against data centers, concerns on affordability
- The ECA sets ambitious goals with a long list for the \$2,000,000.
- LZ would like to see a breakdown, a projection, of what is actually possible to do with this money. It would be helpful to voters to have a better understanding of where money can be used. What would staff costs be under the ECA?
- Noted that one major priority for people is affordability. Her calculations show that if the full \$2,000,000 were to be put toward reduced bill payments, it would not go far enough to make a significant difference. \$20/month x 12months x 8333

people would take the full \$2,000,000.

- Could not find COT numbers, but in Pima County, 60,000 qualify for low income assistance. This does not include middle income who may also need assistance.
- Feels that the \$2,000,000 is insufficient and 'pennies' to TEP in comparison to the need and to the amount that Fortis is planning to spend in support of the projected data center and would gain as a rate of return from that investment.
- TEP customers pay the franchise fee which in total is much larger than the amount received in the ECA.
- TEP is opening new gas power plants and converting coal to gas. ECA does not show TEP full picture and should do more
- LZ would like an ECA that would help to facilitate a move to public power. Referenced Winter Park, FL. Feels that the current COT/TEP ECA disincentivises a move to public power.
- Would like confirmation that customers will not pay for the \$2,000,000
- Feels that the 25 year timeframe is too long.
- Projects that the Nov, 2026 vote on the Franchise will be controversial.
- Information about the ECA possibilities will be important to have available before November. Be sure to schedule sufficient times and opportunities for a wide variety of people: those who work, those of different languages

Chair Stormont commented: (not as Chair, but as individual) The messaging around the ECA is important. As a member of CCES charged with carrying out the ECA if the Franchise is approved, we need to know what it is going to look like.

Commissioner Brown: Commented that this Franchise agreement may say 25 years, but it can be abandoned by either party if there is a move toward municipal power or other need. So it is less binding, and could be understood to have the option of shorter time frame (5, 10, or other)

Commissioner Weaver: Noted that in previous comments (last month) LZ mentioned Hudson Valley power and a move toward municipal power.

Lee Ziesche: Replied: that Hudson Valley is a Fortis company also, and affirmed that it would be a useful group to reach out to.

Commissioner Brown: Would it be helpful for this Commission to check with LZ to see if sufficient public feedback and information times are available?

Commissioner Stormont noted that it is not the role of this commission to set times for these events, but, yes, we could make recommendations.

Commissioner Stormont requested a written copy of information from LZ for

distribution to the Commissioners.

4) Approval of minutes from previous commission meeting

Discussion Draft May 8, 2026 minutes: corrections submitted by Commissioner Weaver.

Commissioner Stormont moved, Commissioner Shepp 2nd to approve as updated.

Minutes approved by vote: 9-0

5) Report from the Chair

Update on topics before Mayor and Council:

- Chief Resilience Officer Luna presented the quarterly report on Tucson Resilient Together implementation at the April 21st M&C study session.
- CRO Luna and Energy Manager Catanzaro presented the Tucson Renewable Energy Enterprise (TREE) at the April 21st M&C study session. The City Manager was directed to initiate a pilot program.
- Mayor and Council unanimously voted to express formal opposition to the Copper World project and the state trust land sale associated with it in the April 21st study session. The resolution was passed unanimously in their regular session on May 5th.
- Fare-free transit continues to be a discussion topic for M&C. At present, there is a slim majority supporting continued fare-free transit.
- On May 5th, M&C voted unanimously to direct the City Attorney and Staff to negotiate with other Arizona water users in response to upcoming Colorado River water shortages.

Commission Weaver: Request to consider not having an ending meeting time on our posted agenda that would allow us to end early or to stay over if discussion warranted the time.

Chair Stormont: overruled the request with the reason that it would be too easy to overstay and have long discussions and this was not desired.

6) Discussion of Public Power Options (Mayor & Council tasking: March 3, 2026)

Commission Chair Stormont read:

- *It was moved by Vice Mayor Santa Cruz, duly seconded, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to direct staff to bring in the Commission on Climate, Energy and Sustainability to take lead on a public process that investigates the City's long-term options that align*

- with the Mayor and Council's climate goals, and the exploration of long term opportunities for a public power option.*
- *Furthermore, the City Manager shall provide regular reports to the Mayor and Council for updates on:*
 - *Resilience Hubs*
 - *The nexus of public power with Tucson Resilient Together*
 - *The City's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan*
 - *The Commission on Climate Energy and Sustainability*

Commissioner Rivera discussed a memorandum that he had submitted for our review (not yet shared) that was in response to a Ward 5 meeting. It concerns a framework for public power options.

Noted that there is a July deadline for federal funding under the IRA bill that would allow the City to apply for direct reimbursements of up to 50%. It was noted that this timeline would likely not be feasible for COT now.

Commissioner Rivera will provide notes from his report on public power options to Energy Manager Catanzaro for distribution to the Commission for discussion at the June CCES meeting.

Commissioner Weaver noted that he has additional suggestions to pursue while looking at public power and community choice options. He is willing to reach out to some specific groups for research. Commissioner Weaver will send any information gathered on this topic to Energy Manager Catanzaro for dissemination to Commissioners.

Chair Stormont stated that it is a good idea to bring more people in to the Commission meetings and get more information

7) Discussion of Energy Collaboration Agreement (Mayor & Council tasking: April 7, 2026)

Chair Stormont read the CCES tasking:

Article 11 of ECA: Transparency and Accountability. City and TEP shall regularly update the City's Commission on Climate, Energy and Sustainability (CCES) on major project planning, right of way use and construction practice coordination, and community education on TEP service options, plans, and utilization of efficiency and low-income assistance programs. CCES shall serve as an advisory body for the Mayor and Council on the implementation of this Agreement and City's use of the payments identified in Article 10 of this

Agreement.

Commissioner Brown would appreciate having a discussion of high level priorities and approaches for accomplishing the goals of the ECA. A systems thinking approach that would note areas that might offer the most impact for money spent.

Chief Resilience Officer Luna has created draft fliers (Spanish and English) highlighting the two main priorities which have been identified - affordability and reducing greenhouse gases.

The recommendations of CCES will need to be guided by the ECA and the constraints of the money provided. Learning what will have the biggest impact will be a goal.

Commissioner Shepp - mentioned Pima County action plans and Tucson Resilience Together - two different plans - each have priorities - She thinks that these plans will help with ECA priorities and what can have impact.

On emissions reduction and affordability - she suggested that Pima.gov/pimacan has the plan that can help.

Commission Chair Stormont tasked CCES Commissioners to review the Pima County Pima Can! website information at pima.gov/pimacan before the June 11 regular meeting.

Chief Resilience Officer Luna is working on an end of May deadline - She would like Commission feedback.

- Will work with the Outreach and Communication Subcommittee -
- The Outreach and Communication sub-committee will meet with Heat Resilience Officer Luna before the next CCES meeting (try for a date in May) to discuss ECA priorities
- Commissioner Martins-Bekat was appointed to be part of this sub-committee

8) Discussion of Distributed Capacity Procurement (DCP) report

Commissioner Sanghi: Thank you to Commissioners Weaver and Brown for feedback.

Commission Chair Stormont requested clarification of the task and request for this report.

Commissioner Sanghi would like the Commission to consider submitting it to Mayor & Council for their information.

Commissioner Brown: How do we get these reports in a repository of information that

is kept as a resource for Mayor & Council and CCES. We have submitted other reports that are not readily available.

Chair Stormont: Is it best to submit reports as a cohort so that they are not judged by the order in which they come, but more equitably. What does it appear if one comes first?

Commissioner Shepp: Noted that the report has important information relevant to all items we are tasked with. It mentions items which could be addressed quickly rather than slowly. She would like to see it voted on to move now.

Commissioner Sanghi: noted that some of the reports we have sent have appeared to have an impact. We can not be certain what M & C do with them. We do need a central repository for our reports, but we don't have control over how or when they are used. He suggests that as we get high quality information we send it on rather than wait to send it as a group. We are not a fast moving body, so we offer the messaging as we develop it.

Commissioner Martins-Bekat: Can the Commission have a meeting to discuss our tasking and strategize, prioritize the different options, maybe sequencing them?

Commissioner Brown would also like a systems thinking approach to help with strategies.

Commissioner Gomez: What is our responsibility? - If there is a good report, can we/should we hold on to it?

Motion was made by Commissioner Brown, and seconded by Commissioner Shepp to send the Distributed Capacity Procurement Report presented by Commissioner Sanghi to Mayor and Council for their information resources. The motion was passed unanimously - 9 to 0..

Commissioner Sanghi will send the report to Energy Manager Catanzaro for distribution to M & C.

9) Data Center Report progress update

Chair Stormont asked Commissioner Weaver about a reference used in the Energy portion of the report to a 2007 California data center. Is this comparison still valid?

Commissioner Weaver stated that he has documented in the report the validation.

Commissioner Brown has given the Chair a draft report from the Water sub-committee

Chair Stormont stated that the full report is still in draft form and not ready for consideration.

10) Climate Resilience report

This report was covered under Agenda item #7, Discussion of the ECA

11) Energy Manager report

Energy Manager Catanzaro discussed TREE, the project proposed by Council Member Cunningham. It includes three ways to look at how the COT could offer the community energy. The City attorney is reviewing it.

12) Subcommittee reports

None

13) Future agenda items and meeting dates/times

Starting in June, 2026, the CCES general meeting will move to the 2nd Thursday of the month from 4-6pm to accommodate members of the commission's work day hours.

The location will remain hybrid: in person at Ward 6 Council Offices and remote with TEAMS.

The June meeting is proposed to be a working meeting on the topics of public power and possibly the ECA

14) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm by Commission Chair Stormont