CITY OF TUCSON

Commission on Climate, Energy and Sustainability
Thursday, September 10, 2026, 4-6pm
Hybrid meeting, in person and Microsoft Teams
City Council Ward 6
3202 E 1st Street
Tucson, AZ 85716

Meeting Minutes

1) Call to order/Roll call

Quorum achieved and meeting called to order by Vice Chair Bachmann at 4:04 pm.

Members present

Dan Stormont (online)	Representative, City Manager, Chairperson
Katy Brown (in person)	Environmental Org Rep, City Manager
Camila Martins-Bekat (online)	Utility Representative, City Manager
Garrett Weaver (in person)	Representative, City Manager
Cassandra Becerra (online)	Representative, Ward 1
Joseph Rocky Rivera (online)	Representative, Ward 5
Natalie Shepp (in person)	Representative, Ward 6
Adriana Bachmann (in person)	Representative, Ward 2, Vice-Chairperson
Moises Gomez (online)	Representative, Mayor

Members absent

There is no commissioner for Ward 3
There is no commissioner for Ward 4

Staff Present

Michael Catanzaro (in person)	Energy Manager, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
Fatima Luna (on line)	Chief Resilience Officer

Other

Michael Bueno (online)	Environmental Defense Fund, Senior Manager for Clean Air and Energy

2) Call to the audience

Scott Hancock - made a statement to the Commission

3) Discussion about utility oversight in regional market decisions with Michael Bueno of the Environmental Defense Fund

Slide presentation by Michael Bueno, Senior Manager for Clean Air and Energy of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). An overview of regional wholesale electricity markets in the West, and the decisions being made by Arizona utilities: the regional context, customer impact, accountability gap, and Tucson's role.

Two markets were primarily mentioned: Markets+ out of Tennessee, and EDAM out of California, run by an independent Board.

TEP has chosen to join the Markets+ system.
These groups provide Increased access to markets, access to renewables, and should therefore offer a lower cost of doing business and savings for customers.

Slides show a map of state utility choices for either market. Arizona large utilities such as TEP, APS and SRP have chosen Markets+ . California, Utah, New Mexico have chosen EDAM. This creates an energy island, with seams needing to be crossed to access outside energy markets

EDF has commissioned a study to analyze benefits to utilities from joining each market group.

AZ utilities have not updated their analysis and reasoning since changes to EDAM leadership that make the management independent and not run by the State of California.

EDF has requested that the ACC request updated info from AZ utilities regarding their decisions.

Mr Bueno suggested that the City of Tucson has some actions that they could take: a) request public briefing; b) establish recurring reporting from TEP on market costs, benefits, reliability outcomes and implementation risks, and c) seek State regulatory review by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) (docket E-00000A-21-0271)

Commissioner Weaver asked about the impact on emissions.
M Bueno explained that as the markets continue to establish themselves, they anticipate increased access to solar, wind and clean hydrogen (from NW) which would lower greenhouse emissions.

Chair Stormont - requested copy of the report mentioned about access to clean energy. He also asked if City of Tucson Ward 6 could should sign on to the EDF letter that was included in the preview materials to the CCES.

Response - The letter mentioned has been sent. It would be possible for COT to develop their own letter to send to the ACC on this topic. M Bueno felt that EDF information would be available for comparison.

Commissioner Martins-Bekat talked about the TEP analysis that was done to make the Markets+ decision. She pointed out items in the EDF assumptions that show benefits that do not reflect some of the actual TEP decisions about facility retirement. She noted that TEP is diligent in their analysis.

Commissioner Brown asked about the described Arizona energy island location, the seams that would exist, and wondered if the assumptions are up to date with recent data center changes.

Response: The study commissioned by EDF used 2023 IRP information from the Arizona utilities. So, there may be an update when new IRPs are released.

Commissioner Martins-Bekat mentioned that TEP has already incurred upfront costs to joining Markets+ so that there would need to be significant changes to decide to change markets.

No action taken

4) **Approval of minutes from previous commission meeting**

Motion was made by Commissioner Weaver to approve the minutes of August 13, 2026. It was duly seconded by Commissioner Becerra. No corrections or suggestions. The motion was passed by a voice vote of 9 to 0

5) **Climate Resilience report**

Chief Resilience Officer Luna has been collecting comments on the Energy Cooperation Agreement implementation plan from Mayor, Council, CCES and others and has been considering and incorporating what she receives. She would like comments to be sent to her directly, sooner rather than later.

Update on the Bloomberg Philanthropy Youth Climate Action Fund grant. Tucson was one of 300 cities across the world.
Applications are open, Deadline is October 15. Youth ages 15-24 can apply for mini grants of up to $5000. The Arizona Community Foundation has matched the funds, so there is now $100,000 available.
Check the Youth Climate Action fund website with videos, materials to help youth make the proposal.

People may request a presentation - office hours were not as successful, so there are resources online, and they take requests.

No action taken

6) **Energy Manager report**

Energy Manager Catenzaro discussed the availability of the municipalization options paper. It is being approved to disseminate to us.

Commissioner Weaver asked about how costs and permits work if the FA does not pass - within COT or outside COT
Commissioner Martins-Bekat noted that in emergency outages, TEP will not need permits - they can work rapidly. Routine items would need permits

No action taken

7) **Report from the Chair**

Large water users ordinance to be considered at the end of September.
Planning and Development Services will be starting to develop a comprehensive land use plan for the Southland area in Wards 4 and 5 that makes up about 20% of the total land area of the City of Tucson. Most of the land is currently part of the State Land Trust.

Two tools that could be of interest to members of the Commission:

- The En-ROADS Climate Solutions Simulator by Climate Interactive and MIT Sloan (https://www.climateinteractive.org/en-roads/)
- University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee Center for Water Policy *AI-Data Centers: Legislative Model to Promote Transparency and Environmental Protections* (https://uwm.edu/centerforwaterpolicy/center-for-water-policy-releases-ai-data-centers-legislative-model-to-promote-transparency-and-environmental-protections/)

The coming meeting for City Manager appointees with the City Manager is not a public meeting - it is a meeting with his appointees.

No action taken

8) **Review and approval of cover letter transmitting the Project Blue Energy Options Summary and the Climate Mayors Data Center report**

The proposed cover letter was read aloud by Vice Chair Bachmann.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepp to approve the cover letter and send the letter with accompanying information to Mayor and Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weaver, and passed by voice vote, 9-0.

It was noted that formatting changes to the letter may be made before sending.

9) **Discussion about Public Power Options (Mayor & Council tasking: March 3, 2026)**

Commissioner Weaver mentioned his roadmap report and noted specifics of what Council members said about the process during their tasking session to CCES.

No action taken

10) **Discussion about Energy Collaboration Agreement (Mayor & Council tasking: April 7, 2026)**

Feedback on the ECA should be sent directly to Chief Resilience Officer Luna and not wait for consolidation by CCES. She would like the feedback sooner rather than later.

No action taken

11) Subcommittee reports

None

Chair Stormont asked if there was interest in the Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) subcommittee. Commissioner Brown was interested.

Commissioner Becerra asked where she could find a list of CCES subcommittees. Chair Stormont mentioned that there is a list in the CCES Annual Report.

It was noted that committees can be retired when they have served their purpose.

No action taken

12) Future agenda items and discussion about potential venue change/meeting day and time in the fall

It was noted that CCES may soon be gaining a new commissioner, and that it would be a good idea to table the meeting time/ venue/ modality discussion until the new member has joined.

It was noted that CCES has not had a retreat meeting for a couple of years. It was suggested that the CCES Executive committee pursue the planning and request for a facilitator for a CCES retreat.

Suggestion for future agenda: Commissioner Weaver requested a review of the EDF presentation materials to see if there are suggestions we can share with Mayor and Council.

No action taken

13) Adjournment

Adjournment called at 5:26 pm by Vice-Chair Bachmann.