# Tucson's Energy Future Townhalls - Phase II

During **Phase I of the townhalls**, over 100 Tucsonans shared their priorities for the proposed Energy Cooperation Agreement (ECA) between the City and Tucson Electric Power (TEP). That input informed a **draft framework for the ECA**, which served as the basis for **Phase II** engagement.

As part of **Phase II**, the City of Tucson hosted four additional community townhalls—held in both English and Spanish—on April 30, May 1, May 7, and May 9. Events were offered both in-person and virtually to maximize accessibility.

A total of 139 community members participated in Phase II, representing a wide range of sectors and perspectives. The summary below reflects the collective input shared through live discussions, online polls (Mentimeter), emails, and written submissions.

## Ranking Guiding Principles

During Phase II of Tucson's Energy Future townhalls, participants were asked to rank a set of guiding principles identified during Phase I. These principles are intended to shape the Energy Cooperation Agreement (ECA) between the City of Tucson and Tucson Electric Power (TEP).

### ECA Framework Draft - Guiding Principles

1. **Equity-Centered Climate Action:** Prioritize historically underserved areas of the community through all programs and investments.
2. **Clean Energy Transition:** Commit to a 100% clean, renewable energy system by 2045, with accelerated interim targets and continuous public updates.
   a. **TRT goal:** carbon neutrality by 2045
3. **Affordability and Ratepayer Protection:** Collaborate with TEP to promote affordable energy solutions and ensure that low-income residents are supported against rising energy costs.
4. **Transparency and Accountability:** Ensure regular public reporting, accessible data, and citizen oversight.
5. **Workforce and Economic Development:** Support pathways to clean energy careers, prioritizing economically disadvantaged residents.
6. **Resilience and Infrastructure Upgrades:** Strengthen community resilience against extreme heat and emergencies.

**Ranking Methodology:** Because the rankings varied across townhalls, a **weighted scoring system** was used to identify community-wide priorities:

- **Step 1: Assign Weighted Scores:** Each rank was assigned a score (higher rank = higher points):
  1st rank= 6 points, 2nd rank= 5 points, 3rd rank= 4 points, 4th rank = 3 points, 5th rank= 2 points, 6th rank= 1 point.

- **Step 2: Tabulate Scores Across Townhalls:** Points were totaled for each guiding principle using rankings from all four townhalls.
- **Step 3: Rank by Cumulative Score:** Principles were then ranked from highest to lowest total score to reflect community priorities.

## Results: Final Rankings of Guiding Principles

| Guiding Principle | Total Score | Rankings |
|---|---|---|
| Clean Energy Transition | 21 | **#1**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#1**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#4**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#1**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |
| Resilience and Infrastructure Upgrades | 17 | **#3**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#2**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#2**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#4**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |
| Affordability and Ratepayer Protection | 16 | **#4**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#4**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#1**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#3**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |
| Equity-Centered Climate Action | 16 | **#2**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#5**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#3**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#2**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |
| Transparency and Accountability | 10 | **#5**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#3**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#5**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#5**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |
| Workforce and Economic Development | 4 | **#6**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#6**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#6**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#6**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |

### Interpretation

Community members across all events placed the highest priority on Clean **Energy Transition**, consistently ranking it as the most important guiding principle in three out of four townhalls. **Resilience**, **Affordability**, and **Equity** also emerged as closely grouped priorities, reflecting the community's desire for both structural upgrades and social protections. **Workforce Development**, while important, consistently ranked lowest, indicating it may be seen as a supporting strategy rather than a core driver.

### Ranking ECA Provisions

During Phase II of Tucson's Energy Future townhalls, participants were asked to rank a set of ECA provisions identified during Phase I. These provisions are intended to shape the Energy Cooperation Agreement (ECA) between the City of Tucson and Tucson Electric Power (TEP).

## ECA Framework Draft - Provisions

**1. Financial Contributions -** Annual utility shareholder contributions to a "**Climate Equity and Resilience Fund**" to advance Tucson Resilient Together (TRT) implementation and city climate goals, including:

- **Support and Expand Affordability and Low-Income Assistance Programs**
  - Create or expand utility bill assistance programs that directly reduce the financial burden on vulnerable residents.
  - Advocate for proportional increases in low-income assistance and support for any utility rate increases.
  - Establish donation options on utility bills to fund assistance programs for low-income households.

- **Support and Expand Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Programs**
  - Launch a citywide insulation and weatherization program focused on older homes, mobile homes, and multifamily housing.
  - Expand incentives and financing options such as on-bill financing, 0% interest loans, matching grants, and bill credits to support energy efficiency upgrades.
  - Fund and promote comprehensive energy and water audits for homeowners and renters.
  - Promote cost-effective cooling solutions, including white or ultra-white roof coatings and efficient HVAC systems like mini splits, particularly for low-income and rental households.

- **Support and Expand Solar Programs**
  - Support City's Solar Empowerment Program
  - Expand incentives and reduce review barriers for rooftop solar and energy storage.
  - Support community solar programs to increase access for renters and multifamily residents.
  - Promote community-led solar microgrids for local resilience.
  - Support solar PV and battery systems on municipal, school, and community facilities.
  - Partner with other state utilities to advocate for fixed-rate or affordability-focused rate structures for low-income customers.

- **Invest in Resilient Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness**
  - Creation of a network of Resilience Hubs powered by solar + battery backup.
  - Emergency backup water supply infrastructure.
  - Investments in cooling centers, shade structures, and tree canopy expansion.
  - Link resilience upgrades to weatherization and energy efficiency programs to maximize impact.
  - Enhance backup power capacity at essential facilities, including community centers and public housing, to reduce risk during blackouts.

**2. Clean Energy and Electrification Targets**

- Binding commitment to 100% clean, renewable energy by 2045.
- Commitment to no new fossil fuel generation and accelerated retirement of existing fossil assets.
- Partnership to support electrification of buildings, homes, municipal fleets, and public spaces.

**3. Data Transparency and Public Accountability**

- Require public sharing of:
  - Solar hosting capacity maps
  - Energy affordability metrics by neighborhood
  - Annual GHG emissions inventory
- Create a publicly accessible Climate and Energy Dashboard.
- Form a Citizen Energy Oversight Committee to monitor ECA implementation and utility compliance.

**4. Expand Community Education and Engagement**

- Develop inclusive, multilingual campaigns to raise awareness about energy conservation, clean energy, and climate resilience.
- Establish a central resource hub to simplify access to energy programs, incentives, and upgrade guidance.
- Collaborate with schools, colleges, and nonprofits to deliver targeted outreach and technical support.
- Promote energy literacy by helping residents understand usage data, utility bills, and efficiency opportunities.
- Empower local leadership through community ambassador programs, volunteer efforts, and regular public engagement forums.

**5. Workforce and Economic Development**

- Commitment to train residents in clean energy jobs over the agreement term.
- Preference for hiring from local communities on energy-related projects.
- Creation of paid internships, apprenticeships, and partnerships with local institutions.

**6. Policy and Regulatory Advocacy**

- Jointly advocate for enabling legislation for:
  - Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) authority

o   Improved net metering policies
o   Expanded local authority over clean energy innovation

**Ranking Methodology:** Because the rankings varied across townhalls, the same **weighted scoring system** used for the guiding principles was applied to identify the community-wide priorities for ECA provisions.

## Results: Final Rankings of ECA Provisions

| ECA Provision | Total Score | Rankings |
|---|---|---|
| Clean Energy and Electrification Targets | 21 | **#1**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#1**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#3**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#2**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |
| Financial Contributions to a Climate Equity and Resilience Fund | 20 | **#2**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#2**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#1**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#3**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |
| Community Education and Engagement | 14 | **#6**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#5**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#2**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#1**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |
| Workforce and Economic Development | 10 | **#3**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#6**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#5**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#4**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |
| Policy and Regulatory Advocacy | 10 | **#4**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#3**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#6**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#5**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |
| Data Transparency and Public Accountability | 9 | **#5**-April 30 (English online)<br>**#4**-May 1 (English in-person)<br>**#4**-May 7 (Spanish online)<br>**#6**-May 9 (Spanish in-person) |

## Interpretation

Community members across all townhalls placed the highest priority on **Clean Energy and Electrification Targets**, ranking it first in two events and within the top three in all four. This highlights a strong, citywide desire for firm commitments to a clean energy future and accelerated action toward 100% renewable energy.

**Financial Contributions to a Climate Equity and Resilience Fund** closely followed, ranking in the top three across all townhalls. This reflects widespread agreement that the utility should share responsibility for funding equitable climate action and resilience initiatives, especially for vulnerable communities.

**Community Education and Engagement** emerged as a particularly high priority in the Spanish-language townhalls, suggesting that outreach, language access, and culturally relevant education are seen as essential tools for inclusion and empowerment.

**Workforce Development** and **Policy and Regulatory Advocacy** were consistently ranked in the middle to lower tiers, indicating that while these strategies are important, they are viewed as **supportive rather than central** to immediate community concerns.

**Data Transparency and Public Accountability** ranked lowest overall, suggesting that while transparency is valued, participants may see it as a **means to an end**, secondary to more direct investments in infrastructure, affordability, and community outreach.

**Are there any important issues, communities, or solutions that you feel are missing or underrepresented in the ECA Framework?**

Phase II Townhall participants shared the following recommendations:

**Policy, Legal Framework & Governance**

- Make the ECA **legally binding** and clearly tied to the franchise agreement.
- Include **accountability mechanisms**, performance metrics, and a preamble outlining shared values.
- Allow for **shorter franchise terms** and provisions for **termination if goals are not met**.
- Improve **transparency around franchise fee revenues** and how they're used.
- Consider **municipalization**, **public power models**, or forming a **special-purpose utility** to increase local control.
- Push for **regulatory flexibility** to bypass Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) limitations.
- **Publish ECA drafts for community feedback** before adoption and extend the engagement process.

**Clean Energy Transition & Distributed Generation**

- Commit to **100% renewable energy by 2045**, with interim milestones.
- Expand support for **distributed energy resources (DERs)** such as rooftop solar, batteries, and community microgrids.
- Allow **energy sharing between households** (e.g., solar-sharing networks).
- Mandate or incentivize **solar installations** on mobile homes, large rooftops, and shaded structures.

- Support **Virtual Power Plants (VPPs)** and integrate them into utility planning.
- Advocate for **net metering reform** and assess the **social cost of fossil fuel use**.

## Resilience & Emergency Preparedness

- Develop a **citywide resilience network** using existing infrastructure like schools, churches, and cooling centers.
- Retrofit **critical infrastructure** (wells, cooling centers) with solar + storage and microgrid capability.
- Install **public charging stations** and ensure water access during blackouts.
- Plan for **worst-case scenarios**, including heatwaves + power outages, and treat climate resilience as a **public safety priority**.

## Affordability & Financial Access

- Increase **financial incentives** for residential solar, weatherization, and storage.
- Expand **utility assistance** eligibility (especially for undocumented residents and those without leases).
- Offer **financing mechanisms** that reduce upfront costs for low- and middle-income households.
- Ensure the **cost of the clean energy transition is equitably distributed**, with wealthier households contributing more.

## Equity for Renters & Mobile Home Residents

- Advocate for **individual meters/accounts** for mobile home residents.
- Support the regulation of **mobile park transformers** and energy infrastructure to prevent heat-related outages.
- Provide **targeted programs** for renters and multi-unit dwellers, including incentives for landlords.
- Recognize mobile home and rental communities as priority groups in the ECA framework.

## Community Education, Outreach & Representation

- Launch **climate education campaigns** tailored for Spanish-speaking and underserved communities.
- Fund and train **community leaders and promotores** to do localized outreach.
- Provide **plain-language summaries** of all agreements and public documents.
- Create **public-facing dashboards** to track progress on emissions and equity goals.
- Open a **public resource center** for community guidance on energy programs and benefits.

**Partnerships & Capacity Building**

- Collaborate with **nonprofits, schools, and academic institutions** (e.g., PCC, JTED) for training, research, and data support.
- Involve **students and volunteers** in outreach, program evaluation, and pilot projects.
- Offer **paid internships and apprenticeships** in clean energy fields.

**Transparency, Oversight & Public Confidence**

- Ensure **clear reporting and citizen oversight** of ECA implementation.
- Address public skepticism by showcasing successful examples (e.g., Tucson Water).
- Monitor **TEP's lobbying efforts** to ensure alignment with city climate goals.
- Promote **public ownership or cooperative models** as long-term solutions.

## Interpretation

While many of the Phase II community recommendations reinforce priorities identified during Phase I, participants also highlighted key gaps or underrepresented areas within the current ECA framework, including:

**Legal Flexibility & Governance**

- Flexibility in franchise duration and termination provisions
- Exploration of municipalization or public ownership models
- Commitment to publishing draft versions of the ECA for public review and feedback

**Equity Details**

- Ensuring that assistance programs are accessible to low-income and vulnerable populations.
- Regulation and oversight of infrastructure within mobile home parks to ensure equitable service

**Clean Energy Innovation**

- Enabling solar-sharing programs and support for Virtual Power Plants (VPPs)
- Consideration of the social cost of carbon in energy planning and utility decision-making

**Resilience Gaps**

- Explicit planning for compound climate emergencies, such as simultaneous heatwaves and blackouts
- Installation of public emergency charging infrastructure, especially in vulnerable areas

**Public Trust & Communication**

- Development of plain-language summaries of both the ECA and Franchise Agreement
- Public communication of successful city-run utility programs to build confidence
- Transparency around lobbying efforts and shareholder influence in energy governance

These additions reflect the community's call for a more inclusive, transparent, and forward-looking energy framework that centers equity, resilience, and public accountability at every level.