

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Air Quality

The quality of air we breathe directly affects our health, environment, economy and quality of life. Air quality is a regional issue, and together regional and local governments are taking steps to improve our air quality. The City of Scottsdale coordinates with Maricopa Association of Governments to monitor and report on three air quality indicators: particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and ozone.

Fleet Operations

In an effort to improve air quality, since 2004, 75% of the city's eligible vehicles (excluding Emergency Response vehicles) operate on alternative and clean fuels, such as electric and biodiesel. The city also has a fast fill CNG facility and continues to expand its fleet of CNG powered waste collection vehicles.

Stormwater Remediation

Scottsdale's Stormwater Quality Program educates citizens on how to properly dispose of chemicals. Proper management prevents contaminated stormwater from bypassing the City's wastewater treatment plants and entering our washes, rivers, and lakes.

Access to Locally Grown Food

Scottsdale's Farmers Markets bring farm-fresh, local produce to residents. Currently three busy markets serve the community and provide locally grown food, arts and crafts to residents and visitors. The city also promotes community gardening and encourages the incorporation of small grocers near residential areas.

ENERGY

Roadway Lighting

In 2010 the city began replacing streetlight fixtures and signals with energy-efficient LED light fixtures. Approximately 25% of the city's streetlight inventory is LED, and it is a standard now that when new streetlights are installed they are to be LED. The City of Scottsdale has also adopted a "net-zero" energy policy, as part of its streetlight program. This means that future energy demands for streetlighting do not exceed current energy consumption. For every new streetlight that is installed in Scottsdale, a proportionate number of streetlight fixtures must be converted to energy efficient lighting elsewhere in the City to ensure energy demand does not increase above current consumption levels. The city has been a leader in energy efficiency by participating in the Green Lights Initiative, and City Lights program.

Solar

Scottsdale produces energy through photovoltaic panels on multiple city facilities. The city has a total solar power generation capacity of 569 kW producing approximately 951,775 kWh of annual electricity. This is equivalent to powering 68 homes (avg. 14,000 kWh per home) and reducing 999,364 pounds of CO2 emissions from a power plant in a year or removing 87 cars from the street.

SCOTTSDALE AT A GLANCE

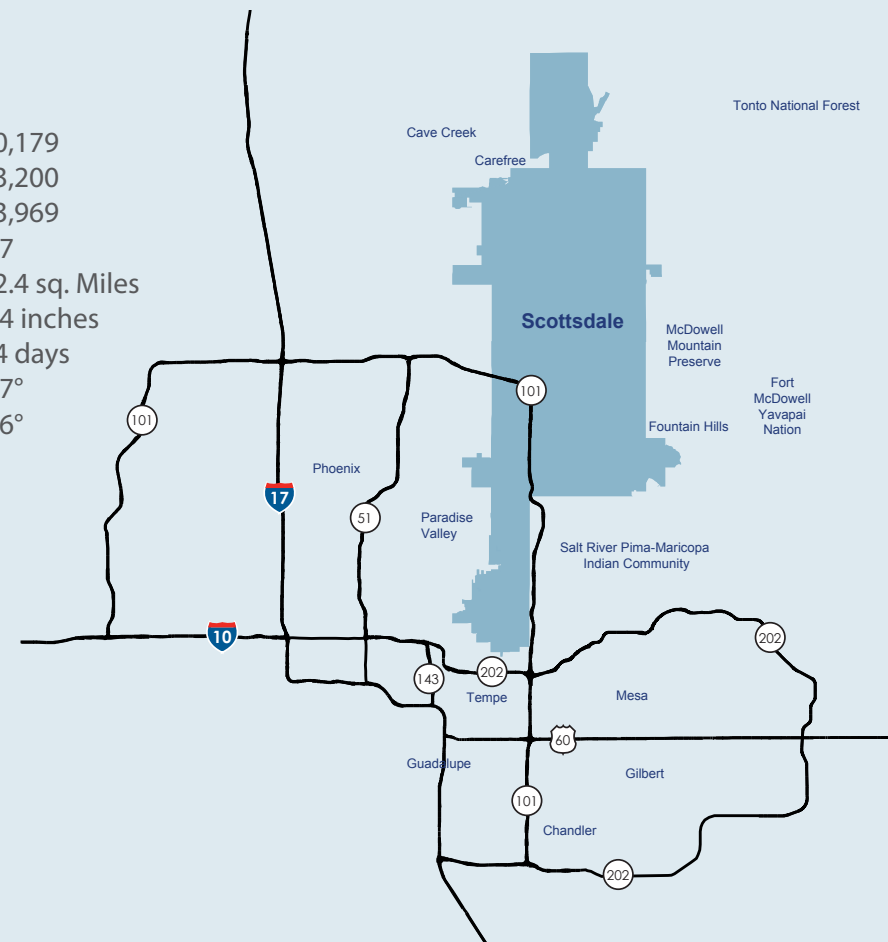
Community Characteristics

2010 Population:	230,179
2015 Population:	243,200
Median Household Income:	\$83,969
Median Age:	40.7
Planning Area:	182.4 sq. Miles
Annual Average Rainfall:	7.74 inches
Annual Sunshine Days:	314 days
Average Minimum Temp:	55.7°
Average Maximum Temp:	84.6°

Source: Sites USA 2010

Office of Environmental Initiatives

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City of Scottsdale, Arizona A Culture of Sustainability

Scottsdale has long been recognized as an environmental leader and continually seeks ways to be more environmentally conscious. Sustainability in Scottsdale refers to the long-term social, economic, and environmental health of the community. This document focuses on Scottsdale's environmental efforts.

Photo: Chris Brown



Photo: Jerry Gollubier

“Scottsdale is committed to the effective management of its environmental, economic, and social resources to ensure that they serve future needs.”

The City of Scottsdale’s General Plan was designed around six guiding principles developed by citizens, to implement the City’s vision. One of those principles is to Seek Sustainability. This document describes the culture of environmental sustainability valued by our citizens and carried out by our City’s operational services.

OPEN SPACE AND PRESERVATION

Preserving open space is a priority for the citizens of Scottsdale. The city has an extensive natural and developed network of open space. One well known example is the Indian Bend Wash (IBW), where instead of building a concrete channel the city turned the entire IBW into a green belt running through the heart of the city. As a component of 940 acres of developed open space within the city, the IBW provides numerous opportunities for recreation.

Scottsdale’s McDowell Sonoran Preserve

In 1995 the citizen’s of Scottsdale voted to tax themselves to establish the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. To date the City has protected approximately 17,000 acres of pristine Sonoran desert, and is well on its way to the planned 36,400 acres. The planned preserve will be equivalent to one-third of Scottsdale’s total land area and offers recreational activities such as hiking, biking and horseback riding. At its completion the McDowell Sonoran Preserve will be one of the largest urban preserves in the United States.

The Scottsdale Sonoran Preserve is projected to be approximately 36,400 acres, larger in area than the City of San Francisco.

Environmentally Sensitive Lands

The Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance (ESLO) is an effort to preserve pristine upper Sonoran desert and mountain areas in Scottsdale. The ordinance, since its 1991 inception, requires private development to permanently preserve

a percentage of natural area open space ensuring that environmental features, including native vegetation, washes, boulders and mountain peaks are protected. Since its establishment, over 9,000 acres of native desert have been preserved.

As a precursor to ESLO, in 1981 the city adopted the Native Plant Ordinance in an effort to protect large cacti and trees indigenous to the area. This forward-thinking set of regulations were established to preserve the unique native character of the Sonoran Desert under a system of responsible development. Since the program began over 40,000 native plants have been attempted for salvage with a 90% success rate.

Community Connectivity

Scottsdale citizens enjoy an interconnected open space system that maintains visual and functional linkages throughout the City and region. Examples of these linkages include scenic corridors, trails, and shared use pathways. The City maintains 67 miles of paved shared use paths, 271 miles of unpaved trails, and 114 miles of bike routes connecting open spaces throughout the community.

GREEN BUILDING

Private

In 1998, Scottsdale established Arizona’s first and the nation’s fifth, Green Building Program. In addition, the city adopted the International Green Construction Code in 2011, as a voluntary commercial green building program. The city issues green building permits, performs green building inspections, and issues green certificates of occupancy. Properties with green C of O’s often have higher resale values and spend less time on

Scottsdale has been honored as a “Tree City USA” for almost 30 consecutive years by investing in community forestry and tree care.

Scottsdale is a “Bicycle Friendly Community.” Awarded the silver level by the League of American Bicyclists



Photo: Bill Timmerman

the market. In addition the City requires all new and renovated residential and commercial buildings to be 15% more energy efficient than the 2006 International Energy Construction Code

Municipal

In 2005, Scottsdale was the first city in the United States to adopt a LEED Gold standard for new city buildings and remodels. By the end of 2011 the City should have a total of nine LEED Certified facilities.

Scottsdale was recognized with the first LEED Platinum certified fire station in the world.



Education

The lecture series is a resource provided to the community to encourage efficient, healthy, and environmentally responsible building practices. Our lectures series include: solar, green building and water conservation.

WATER RESOURCES

Historically, Scottsdale was 100 percent dependent upon groundwater for its water needs. In the mid 1980s, we adopted a water resources acquisition fee and began putting together multi-faceted water resources portfolio intended to provide the community

with a long-term sustainable water supply. This portfolio includes surface water supplies, groundwater resources, and reclaimed water.

Recharge and Conservation

Today, Scottsdale meets more than 80% of its customers’ water demands primarily with surface water. In 2010, only 19% of the city’s water was supplied by wells and the city reached safe-yield in its service area. The city first achieved safe-yield (the effective balance between groundwater withdrawn for municipal use and groundwater replenished through natural and artificial recharge) in 2007, and has maintained that status ever since. This will ensure a reliable water supply for future generations.

Today the City treats and delivers over 26 billion gallons of drinking water each year. In addition, Scottsdale uses 2.3 billion gallons of reclaimed water to irrigate 24 local golf courses. The remaining reclaimed water produced is combined with CAP water and used to recharge the groundwater aquifer.

Water Quality

The city of Scottsdale Water Resources Department is committed to providing the highest quality drinking water and the best service to its customers. We perform hundreds of different tests on a regular basis to ensure the water our customer’s are drinking meets or exceeds the standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Water Resources staff works closely with the EPA, state and county officials to make certain all drinking water standards are met every time you open a tap at your home or business.

LANDFILL DIVERSION AND RECYCLING

Scottsdale pioneered mechanical waste collection with the introduction of “Godzilla” in 1969. Today, hundreds of cities across the country use automated residential collection systems, as well as cities in Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Sweden, Finland and Canada. “Godzilla” inventor Marc Stragier was elected unanimously to the Environmental Industries Association Hall of Fame in 2000.

Scottsdale began offering curbside residential recycling in 1996 and since then has expanded its program to include electronics, green waste, composting and even appliances. The City’s unique geography necessitated the construction of a solid waste transfer station in the northern part of the City. The transfer station saves the collection vehicles from traveling 420,000 miles each year and results in over \$400,000 in annual estimated fuel savings.

Landfill Diversion

Today Scottsdale’s citizens participating in the City’s recycling programs successfully diverted over 20% or over 31,000 tons of municipal waste from the landfill, making Scottsdale a leader in landfill diversion. The city offers a variety of free waste collection events, such as electronics recycling and household hazardous waste collection days. These two programs alone divert over 130 tons of waste each year. Scottsdale offers compost bins, a move-in box program, commercial recycling and provides education programs to the community.