



## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ELEMENT<sup>‡</sup>

Scottsdale is a Sonoran Desert community, and citizens recognize that the unique and delicate desert environment is valuable for community health, character, economic vitality, and quality of life. We pride ourselves as a leader and are committed to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

The city's environment includes both the ecological systems, which sustain Sonoran vegetation and wildlife, and natural and man-made elements that provide clean air and water; protect the community from hazards; and create a naturally beautiful and enjoyable setting.

Without careful planning and stewardship, our healthy natural systems may be negatively impacted by regional population growth, urban development, and everyday life. This element provides goals and policies for protecting and enhancing Scottsdale's natural and human habitats for future generations.

## Goals and Policies

### GOAL EP 1

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**Protect and enhance Scottsdale’s human and Sonoran Desert habitats.**

#### *Policies*

- EP 1.1** Retain Scottsdale’s Sonoran Desert aesthetic values and heritage. *[Cross-reference Character & Design; Arts, Culture & Creative Community; and Conservation Elements]*
- EP 1.2 †** Preserve the unique, rare, and significant features of Scottsdale’s natural environment, and educate landowners and developers on their preservation options. *[Cross-reference Character & Design; Open Space; and Conservation Elements]*
- EP 1.3** Require developments to retain and integrate the Sonoran Desert ecosystem, where appropriate. *[Cross-reference Character & Design and Conservation Elements]*
- EP 1.4 †** Preserve local plants, wildlife, and natural resources to maintain the biodiversity and long-term sustainability of the area’s ecology. *[Cross-reference Character & Design and Conservation Elements]*
- EP 1.5** Integrate environmental quality protection into all phases of local planning, policy, and development. *[Cross-reference Character & Design and Conservation Elements]*



**GOAL EP 2 (NEW)**

**Demonstrate and expand the city’s leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainability.**

*Policies*

**EP 2.1** (NEW) Educate and inform the community of the significance and fragility of the Sonoran Desert environment and the City’s environmental protection efforts. *[Cross-reference Open Space and Conservation Elements]*



**EP 2.2** (NEW) Support and encourage citizens, groups, and community partnerships to maintain and enhance environmental features and landscapes. *[Cross-reference Open Space and Community Involvement Elements]*

**EP 2.3** (NEW) Foster community stewardship and a sense of personal responsibility for the natural environment. *[Cross-reference Open Space; Healthy Community; and Community Involvement Elements]*



**EP 2.4** (NEW) Regularly update and enhance Scottsdale’s Green Building Program to maintain leadership in green and low-impact development. *[Cross-reference Conservation and Energy Elements]*

**GOAL EP 3 †**

**Promote local and regional efforts to improve air quality.**

*Policies*

**EP 3.1** Reduce automobile emissions through traffic management; mobility system improvements; promotion of alternative modes, such as ridesharing and bicycling; and use of electric and alternative fuel vehicles. *[Cross-reference Energy; Circulation; and Bicycling Elements]*



**EP 3.2** Actively participate in regional coordination, partnerships, and funding decisions for air quality improvement and reduced automobile emissions.

**EP 3.3** Encourage migration to, and expand the use of, electric and clean fuel alternatives to achieve or exceed regional clean air goals. *[Cross-reference Energy Element]*

**EP 3.4** **(NEW)** Seek to reduce activities that contribute to air pollution and significant air pollution events.

**EP 3.5** **(NEW)** Reduce the community’s contribution to regional dust and particulate air pollution created by man-made sources, such as construction, maintenance equipment, vacant lots, unpaved parking areas, and vehicles.

**EP 3.6** Incentivize the use of electric and clean alternative fuels by requiring preferred parking for electric, low-emitting, and fuel-efficient vehicles and incorporating electrical recharge and clean-fuel refilling stations throughout the community. *[Cross-reference Energy Element]*

## GOAL EP 4

**Maximize resource recovery, reuse, and recycling, and promote use of recycled, recyclable, and renewable materials.**

### *Policies*

- EP 4.1** Maintain and expand citywide recycling programs, particularly for tourist areas, businesses, multi-family housing, institutional facilities, special events, and public spaces. *[Cross-reference Public Services & Facilities Element]*
- EP 4.2** Encourage public and private establishments to minimize waste generation, and establish effective programs for waste reduction, reuse, and recycling of resources. *[Cross-reference Public Services & Facilities Element]*
- EP 4.3** **(NEW)** Whenever possible and appropriate, use paperless media and limit the use of hard copy materials for City programs and projects. *[Cross-reference Community Involvement Element]*
- EP 4.4** **(NEW)** Encourage the recycling and/or reuse of building materials to reduce construction waste.
- EP 4.5** **(NEW)** Support regional waste reduction efforts, policies, and regulations.
- EP 4.6** **(NEW)** Identify opportunities to use solid waste and recycled materials as marketable commodities.
- EP 4.7** **(NEW)** Strive to reduce single-use, non-recyclable, and non-compostable packaging and bags.
- EP 4.8** Promote composting programs that reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to the landfill. *[Cross-reference Public Services & Facilities Element]*



## GOAL EP 5

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**Encourage environmentally sound, green buildings and low-impact site plans that support sustainable desert living.**

### *Policies*

- EP 5.1** Protect and enhance the natural desert elements of all development sites. *[Cross-reference Character & Design; Open Space; and Conservation Elements]*
- EP 5.2** When appropriate, use low-impact development strategies and stormwater management techniques, such as green drainage infrastructure. *[Cross-reference Conservation Element]*
- EP 5.3** **(NEW)** Promote durable and sustainable buildings using green building principles. *[Cross-reference Character & Design; Housing; Conservation; and Energy Elements]*
- EP 5.4** **(NEW)** Promote passive solar site and building design strategies that recognize and respond to the Sonoran Desert climate. *[Cross-reference Character & Design and Energy Elements]*

## GOAL EP 6 †

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**Meet or surpass all applicable water quality standards.**

### *Policies*

- EP 6.1** Continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for community members through water and wastewater treatment processes. *[Cross-reference Water Resources Element]*
- EP 6.2** Ensure Scottsdale drinking water continues to meet or surpass all Federal Environmental Protection Agency standards by updating or adding necessary treatment technologies to existing facilities. *[Cross-reference Water Resources Element]*
- EP 6.3** Maintain the Industrial Pretreatment Program to ensure businesses and industries meet City, State, and Federal regulations to protect publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment systems. *[Cross-reference Water Resources Element]*
- EP 6.4** Partner with public agencies and private citizens to research advancements in water quality regulations, water conservation efforts, and possible solutions for other water quality issues. *[Cross-reference Water Resources and Conservation Elements]*

**GOAL EP 7 (NEW)**

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**Identify and reduce heat islands.***Policies*

- EP 7.1** (NEW) Identify areas most impacted by the heat island effect, and create a reduction strategies program for these areas.
- EP 7.2** (NEW) Incorporate “cool materials” (e.g. landscaping, green roofs, reflective pavement) and development strategies that help reduce the heat island effect.  
*[Cross-reference Character & Design Elements]*
- EP 7.3** (NEW) Develop and support programs, such as shade and tree plans, that increase and maintain vegetation and shading in areas of high pedestrian activity. *[Cross-reference Character & Design and Open Space Elements]*
- EP 7.4** (NEW) Educate the community on heat island reduction measures.
- EP 7.5** (NEW) Promote the long-term management and maintenance of urban-area vegetation to reduce the heat island effect.

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