



## Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC) ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN PIMA COUNTY 2010 - DRAFT

### Watershed Planning

1. Promote an improved understanding and awareness of significant issues affecting **watershed sustainability of** water quality, water supply and aquifer protection in Pima County.
2. Promote a comprehensive planning approach for management of the region's watersheds and land use.
3. Consider and evaluate ~~problems with~~ water quality regulations, **with regard to technical and financial obstacles**, potential unintended consequences, apparent lack of regulatory basis or consideration of the arid west concerns, and promote increased consideration of cost effectiveness and risk analysis in regulatory decision making.
4. Monitor and encourage ~~enforcement~~ **information sharing** about **local and statewide organizations**, existing policies, laws, regulations, codes and ordinances **that affect water management in the PAG region**.
5. Encourage maintenance of existing infrastructure and development of new **and green** infrastructure for drinking water, **recharge**, stormwater, wastewater, water harvesting and reclaimed water.
6. Raise awareness of stormwater issues such as public safety, flood protection, and erosion control.
7. Support state-wide and **Tucson Active Management Area** water management goals by fostering regional planning efforts that help to ensure adequate water supplies by shifting from reliance on groundwater to renewable resources.
8. Support recharging surface water and treated effluent while complying with local, state, and federal water quality standards as part of a water **quality** management benefit for the region.
9. Promote conservation, use of reclaimed water, drought planning, and riparian restoration/enhancement.
10. **Encourage proper disposal of pharmaceuticals by raising public awareness, supporting coordinated regional efforts, and promoting take-back programs.**
11. **Support a holistic approach to watershed planning including evaluating the water/energy nexus, water resource availability for riparian areas, and invasive species threats to riparian habitats.**

## **Air Quality Planning**

1. **Promote measures** to maintain Clean Air Act attainment status, especially for ozone and particulate matter.
2. Support activities that reduce air pollution levels by decreasing vehicle miles of travel.
3. Integrate land use planning and transportation planning with air quality planning.
4. Determine whether additional proactive air pollution control measures should be implemented in the region, and if so, which ones.
5. Identify and gather data needed to better understand ozone formation, regional haze, fugitive dust emissions, particulate matter and hazardous air pollutants.
6. Encourage voluntary air quality initiatives to protect the health of the community, with emphasis on children's health.
7. Monitor and encourage enforcement of existing policies, laws, regulations, codes and ordinances.

## **Climate Change**

- 1 Explore and report on climate adaptation measures, programs and policies being adopted as studied by other local and regional governments.
- 2 **Support efforts to estimate greenhouse gas emissions throughout the region.**
- 3 **Support coordinated approach to regional climate change mitigation and adaptation planning.**

## **Sustainability**

1. Improve the awareness and understanding of sustainability and promote efforts to identify opportunities to pursue sustainable strategies.
2. ~~Update the PAG Indicator Report and~~ Identify additional indicators **for inclusion in future PAG Indicator Report updates.**
3. Ensure that the region can continue to grow in a sustainable fashion, in terms of habitat conservation, land use planning, **low impact development**, energy use ~~conservation~~, and clean fuel planning.
4. **Promote effective long-term planning efforts to ensure that the region has sufficient landfill space and** promote efforts to control and remediate wildcat dumping.
5. Evaluate the adverse environmental impacts of wildcat subdivisions.
6. Promote efforts to expand the awareness and effectiveness of recycling programs.
7. Explore and report on interconnections among currently isolated issues of water, energy, and waste and the opportunities they present for achieving multiple objectives at the policy and project levels.

8. **Evaluate regional vulnerabilities to food, energy and materials supply disruptions resulting from energy emergencies.**

### **Open Space and Wildlife**

1. Encourage preservation and restoration of open space and riparian and aquatic environments in the face of conflicting economic, legal, social and political values.
2. Encourage respect for and preservation of native wildlife populations, which help to maintain healthy ecosystems, are an important subject of scientific investigation, and sustain the important wildlife watching industry.
3. Encourage conservation and restoration of open space wildlife corridors to help support healthy wildlife populations.
4. Support and encourage public education about the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.
5. Facilitate inter-governmental communication regarding efforts to control invasive plant and animal species.
6. **ADD buffelgrass – working group – coordinating regional control efforts?**
7. Ensure awareness of the status of Habitat Conservation Plans.

### **Clean Fuels and Fleets (under the Clean Cities Program)**

1. Support the development of multiple and diverse public-access clean-fuel stations in the region to dispense biodiesel, natural gas and ethanol.
2. Encourage public and private fleets to increase the number of clean fuel and hybrid electric vehicles in the region to meet U. S. Department of Energy mandates and goals.
3. Increase support for and participation in the Clean Cities Coalition and making the Coalition's Steering Committee an integral part of regional environmental planning.
4. Build public awareness through education of the opportunities, advantages, and uses of clean fuels and clean fuel vehicles (including hybrid electric vehicles).
5. Identify and support initiatives to reduce diesel emissions such as idle reduction, truck stop electrification and use of retrofit technologies.
6. Foster the creation of incentives, both voluntarily and legislatively, to increase private and public investment in clean fuel infrastructure and fleets.

### **Energy**

1. Promote alternative sources of energy through education and encourage implementation of the Strategic Energy Plan's recommendations.
2. Explore and report on the technical and financial obstacles that impede implementation of the National Energy Policy Act.

3. Consider options for generation of electricity at local sites, e.g., distributed energy systems, biogas, municipal ~~solid waste gasification~~ **landfill gas recovery**.
4. Promote energy efficiency strategies as the least-cost response to energy security challenges.

*PAG staff will use this list as a general guide when developing meeting agendas for EPAC and its subcommittees in 2010.*