

Roundtable Sessions: June 9, 2010

Examples of Environmental Leadership

Who's doing well? What's working? Before we can move forward with a vision for environmental leadership, we need to identify best practices and emulate models that are already working effectively in Arizona. We also need to link to one another and coordinate our efforts and resources for the greatest change. The following examples of successful environmental leadership were developed during the roundtable sessions at the WRRRC 2010 Annual Conference.

Have something to add? Contact Susanna Eden at seden@cals.arizona.edu.

Altar Valley Conservation Alliance is executing a management plan for Altar Valley in southern Arizona, which includes preserving family ranching and habitat.

Arizona Association for Environmental Education has a grassroots-style campaign to improve the environmental literacy of Arizona's future leaders. <http://www.arizonaee.org/>

Arizona Commission on the Arts provides grants for the arts. <http://www.azarts.gov/>

Arizona Cooperative Extension brings agricultural education to urbanites. <http://extension.arizona.edu/>

Arizona Corporation Commission fosters discussions between utilities and customers. <http://www.azcc.gov>.

Arizona Department of Water Resources has been creative since its beginning; it engages in large-scale data collection and makes data publicly available online; it does science that informs policymaking; and it collaborates with other agencies. <http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr>

Arizona NEMO offers water education to stakeholders. <http://nemo.snr.arizona.edu/nemo/>

Arizona Project WET offers K-12 curriculum, workshops and the Water Festival, and runs The School Water Audit Project which brings the community into schools. <http://cals.arizona.edu/arizonawet/>

Arizona State University has been seeking LEED Certification for many of its new buildings. http://uabf.asu.edu/recently_completed_construction

Biosphere 2 combines hard science with tourism. www.b2science.org

Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability is taking on a leadership role in water reuse and involves several leadership organizations, including the Arizona Corporation Commission, the Arizona

Department of Water Resources, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

<http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/waterManagement/BlueRibbonPanel.htm>

Brad Lancaster is leading by example with neighborhood water harvesting and education efforts.

<http://www.harvestingrainwater.com>

Center for Biological Diversity is moving forward on efforts to bring the arts and humanities into their efforts for conservation by seeking out community input. <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org>

Central Arizona Project has begun to fill a leadership gap with growing involvement and innovation, and has an effective public education component. www.cap-az.com

City of Phoenix is engaged in the Tres Rios Demonstration Wetlands project along the Salt and Gila Rivers with a vision for more full-scale restoration in the future.

<http://phoenix.gov/TRESRIOS/demo.html>

City of Tucson has a new rainwater harvesting ordinance for commercial developments, spearheaded by Council Member Rodney Glassman. www.tucsonaz.gov

City/County Water and Wastewater Study illustrates effective collaboration between city and county and stakeholder involvement. <http://www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com>

Denver's "Use Only What You Need" campaign has been highly successful and imaginative at reducing water use, including a "running toilet" that has appeared in costume at football games and other events.

<http://www.denverwater.org/Conservation/UseOnlyWhatYouNeed/CampaignOverview>

Fossil Creek is an example of a success story with riparian restoration on a wild and scenic river.

Friends of the Santa Cruz River is an all-volunteer group working to protect the Santa Cruz.

<http://www.friendsofsantacruzriver.org>

Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona is a great group of people working together to improve water quality and the environment in the Upper Gila watershed.

<http://gilawatershedpartnership.com/home>

Global Water is an example of leadership in the private sector. <http://www.gwresources.com>

Imagine Greater Tucson is a visioning process shaping Tucson's future. <http://imaginegreatertucson.org>

Language of Conservation Poetry Project is putting up poetry displays in zoos around the country and achieving remarkable results in increased awareness and commitment to conservation among visitors.

<http://poetshouse.org/librarieszoos.htm>

Malpai Borderlands Group is a grassroots, community-driven initiative to protect open space and public grazing lands in Arizona and New Mexico. <http://www.malpaiborderlandsgroup.org>

Painted Hills community banded together in city council meetings to protest the annexing of Painted Hills for development, a successful effort sparked by neighborhood organizations.

Palo Verde Generating Station had the foresight to use effluent before it was seen as a valuable resource—the right water, right source, and right purpose.

https://www.aps.com/general_info/AboutAPS_18.html

Prescott Creeks Group is working to keep riparian systems in Prescott healthy.

<http://www.prescottcreeks.org>

Salt River Project has functioned as a semi-autonomous water manager for the Phoenix area.

www.srpnet.com

Shaun McKinnon at the Arizona Republic is a good example of clear communication about complex issues to the public. <http://www.azcentral.com/members/Blog/ShawnMcKinnon>

Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program provides opportunities for youth in cities to experience and appreciate the natural world. <http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/>

Sky Island Alliance is effectively combining science, community outreach and education.

<http://www.skyislandalliance.org>

Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan is an example of making policy based on science, and involving multiple stakeholders in the process. <http://www.pima.gov/cmo/sdcp>

Sonoran Institute communicates to the community about science and western issues.

<http://www.sonoraninstitute.org>

Southern Arizona Green Chamber of Commerce <http://www.sagcc.org>

Southwest Climate Change Network conveys information relevant to the southwest, communicates to the public, works with diverse stakeholders, and poses questions to readers and from readers.

<http://www.southwestclimatechange.org>

Sun City West homeowners held a successful e-recycling event advertised through email.

Sweetwater Wetlands solicited student involvement during its planning stages.

<http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/sweetwater.htm>

TBreak (Tucson Region Environmental Leaders Breakfast Group) is a community-driven, inclusive networking opportunity to bring diverse groups together. <http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/conservation/tbreak.html>

Tierra y Libertad is grassroots group that builds retention systems and community gardens in Latino neighborhoods.

Town of Clarksdale Sustainability Park involves renewable energy demonstrations, research and education. <http://clarkdalesustainabilitypark.org>

Tucson Audubon Society is engaging in education programs by connecting people to nature, especially through recreational birding. <http://www.tucsonaudubon.org>

Tucson Clean and Beautiful is engaging in community education to encourage recycling and stewardship. <http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/tcb>

Tucson Pima Arts Council provides grants and support for arts. <http://www.tucsonpimaartscouncil.org>

Tucson Water effectively used a “Beat the Peak” campaign with a mascot, “Pete the Beak,” since 1976. They are also reaching out to the community with the WaterSmart program, offering workshops to homeowners about low-water landscaping. <http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/>

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is working effectively with states to manage water, for example, the Central Arizona Salinity Study. <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/programs/cass/cass.html>

U.S. Geological Survey is an excellent resource for reliable data. <http://www.usgs.gov>

U.S. Green Building Council is creating standards for efficiency. <http://www.usgbc.org>

Upper San Pedro Partnership is an example of strong leadership starting at a local level. They are effectively collaborating with **The U.S. Geological Survey**, agreeing that the USGS will be an unbiased resource for the San Pedro. They have used USGS models for watershed/groundwater to create consensus around preserving the resource. They have also engaged community participation with wet/dry mapping, a consensus-driven project, and used their modeling efforts to create stakeholder buy-in. They are effective at brokering compromises and communicating with scientists. <http://www.usppartnership.com>

VOICES is a forum for youth in the Tucson community to write and speak out. <http://www.voicesinc.org>

Water CASA engages in effective public education. <http://www.watercasa.org>

Water Resources Research Center has taken on a leadership role in the community through conferences, seminars and educational materials. It is a component of a larger effort, since there are water resources research institutions in every state. It involves multiple stakeholders and works to make changes in policy. <http://ag.arizona.edu/azwater>

Watershed Management Group WMG offers a tangible, finished product and connects neighbors to one another. <http://www.watershedmg.org>

Willow Bend Environmental Education Center in Flagstaff nurtures a sense of place in kids with hands-on experiences with nature. <http://www.willowbendcenter.org>

Yuma Crossing Heritage Area is revitalizing wetlands. <http://www.yumaheritage.com>