

Climate Resilient Maricopa Regional Infrastructure Exchange

Context There is readiness for regional collaboration on climate change.

An array of partners are expressing a shared interest in mobilizing regional coordination on climate change. Taking a phased approach, work and momentum towards a 10-year vision and agenda.

Opportunity Advance climate resilient infrastructure with federal funding.

Preparing for and mobilizing around federal infrastructure funding has been identified as a top priority among regional stakeholders.

- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) presents an opportunity to pursue and deploy resources to advance climate resilience. A first round of federal program applications will launch in Q1 2022, and on a rolling basis from there.
- Many competitive grant programs require and/or will preference regional scale planning and implementation. They are expected to be very competitive and entail intensive application processes.
- Local governments and their partners will need to work together to develop plans and projects. Local governments will also need to work with the state and federal governments to apply for grants and access funding.
- Cities, tribes, and MAG have begun to prepare for the influx of federal funding.

The Regional Infrastructure Exchange will bring specific focus to the climate equity opportunities within the IIJA and to facilitate regional collaboration - encouraging multi-city applications and supporting cities and the County in proposal development.

2022 Goals:

- Convene regional partners to review federal funding opportunities and requirements
- Identify opportunities for multi-city and public-private partnership proposals
- Develop guiding principles for grant applications
- Ensure participation of CBOs and local tribes
- Generate multi-city, multi-sector federal funding proposals

Structure Establish a cross-sector strategy team.

An informal cross sector, cross jurisdictional strategy team will meet monthly throughout 2022 to guide the direction and development of the emergent regional climate coordination initiative. Members will rotate chairing meetings and will include others from their organizations as able and needed.

Staffing: The City of Tempe's Office of Sustainability will provide initial staff support, with Brianne Fisher serving in a project management role.

Strategy Team Members:

Kelly Barr, Arizona Forward/SRP
 Kimber Lanning, Local First Arizona
 Philip McNeely, Maricopa County
 Anne Reichman, ASU

Karen Peters, City of Phoenix
 Braden Kay, City of Tempe
 Scott Bouchie, City of Mesa
 Emma Viera, Unlimited Potential
 Mazavi Perea, CHISPA AZ

2022 Focus Areas

Three focus areas have been identified for a first phase of work in 2022:

1. Regional Government Collaboration and Capacity Building

Facilitate learning and coordination between cities, non-profits, CBOs and the business community.

Next Step:

Develop a series of expert-led workshops, co-hosted amongst different partners, to identify federal funding opportunities, review program requirements, and discuss strategies for successful grant submissions.

Outcomes:

- Establish philanthropic and federal grants guidelines for the region to use as a resource for coordination on grant applications.
- Identify priority projects and opportunities.

2. Community Partnerships and Capacity Building

Facilitate dialogue and collaboration between cities and CBOs.

Next Step:

Establish formal partnership and working group with Community Based Organization (CBO) to define scope of needs and opportunities.

Outcomes:

- Partnership principles work; Establish shared principles that guide partnerships between cities and CBOs.
- Launch a mini-grant program, supported with a first round of funding from Vitalyst and jointly managed by CHISPA and Unlimited Potential, to fund community-led climate projects.

3. Business Community Engagement and Cross-Sector Integration

Engage the business community and develop the economic framework of climate action.

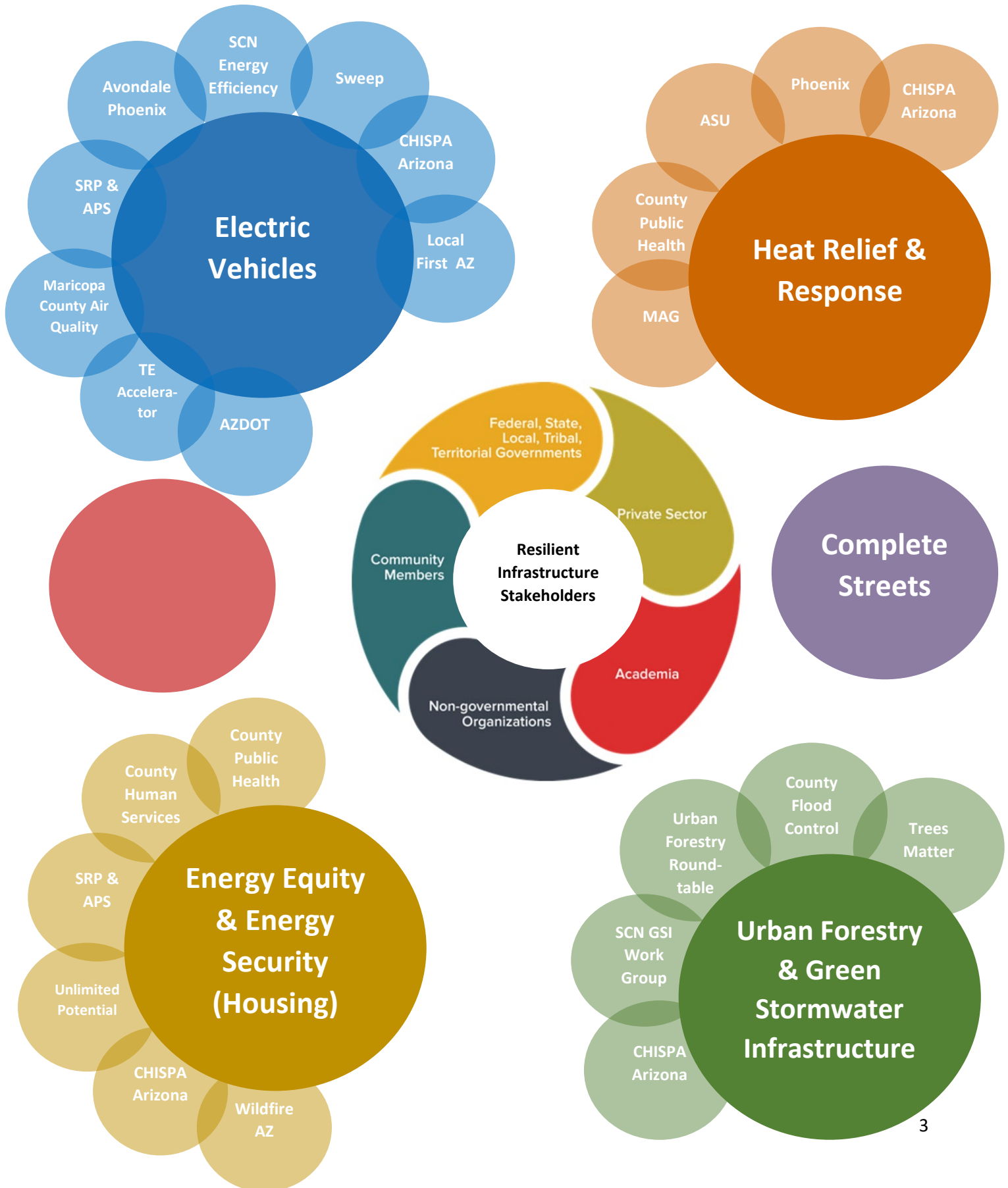
Next Step:

Engage Arizona Forward and Local First through the Strategy Team and develop a plan to engage other business organizations.

Outcomes:

- Business community roundtable(s)
- Identify private-public grant partnership opportunities
- Identify and leverage business support for priority projects and grant applications
- Explore economic impact analysis

Regional Infrastructure Categories



2022 Activities and Schedule

The below timeline provides a starting point for the first six months of work (January-June).

Focus Area Activity: Regional Governance Community Partnership Business Community

JAN	Hold pre-meetings with Strategy Team members	
FEB	Convene the Strategy Team for a kick-off meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shape the workshop series ● Plan Workshop 1, including co-hosts ● Discuss in between work/organizing content work groups ● Language and framing ● Outreach and engagement approach 	
	Launch CBO-led work to develop partnership principles and guidelines	Share purpose and priorities; Identify workshop outline; develop scope for guiding principles
	Workshop 1: Project Priority Overview <i>Tue., March 1</i> <i>8am-11am</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Federal grant overview ● Project/priority sharing 	Share purpose and priorities; federal funding program review; identify opportunities and discuss joint agenda
	Planning session with CBO partners to establish scope of work and design mini grant program	
	Business Community Kickoff Meeting Valley Partnership, GPEC, ASU Enterprise Partners are invited to hear about regional project priorities and share their reception and interest in collaborations and partnerships	Convene key business stakeholders; discuss economic framework of climate action and regional project priorities
	Workshop 2: Grant Checklist <i>Tue., March 29</i> <i>8am-11am</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review federal application expectations ● Identify needed data ● Develop community engagement plan ● Role of consultants and partners 	Participants will come prepared with list of priority projects; apply grant checklist and identify gaps and opportunities; develop grant application framework
MAY	Monthly Strategy Team meeting	

APRIL	Workshop 3: Successful Grant Partnerships <i>Tue., April 19</i> <i>8:00am-11:00am</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts share examples of successful partnerships • Federal and state representatives to answer specific questions about priority projects 	Gain insight on successful ways to partner; receive answers on specific project priorities
	Complete CBO partnership guidelines	Resource to share with grant applicants for federal funding opportunities
MAY	Monthly Strategy Team meeting	Assessment and planning session with stakeholders
	Workshop 4: CBO's & Equity Based Grants <i>Tue., May 17</i> <i>8:00am-11:00am</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBO share partnership guidelines and best practices • Identify potential partnership and collaboration for specific project priorities 	Improve grant proposals with equity-based framework and identify potential CBO partners
	Business Community Meeting and Roundtable Update business partners on project priority progression; CBO partnership guidelines. Identify specific private partners with projects	
JUNE	Monthly Strategy Team meeting	
	Workshop 5: Public-Private Partnerships <i>Tue., June 14</i> <i>8:00am-11:00am</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of successfully funded public-private grant applications; lessons learned; identify gaps and opportunities 	
	Business Community Project Showcase Business community invited to review regional project priorities and developed a grant framework. Opportunity to identify projects of interest.	
FALL	Workshop (Tempe has funding)	

Key Partners

Cities and towns

Tribes

Maricopa County

Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)

Arizona State University (ASU) - Knowledge Exchange for Resilience (KER) and Sustainable Cities Network

Arizona Forward
Chamber of Commerce
Unlimited Potential AZ
CHISPA AZ
Valley Partnership
Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC)
Local First Arizona
Urban Forestry Roundtable
Rio Reimagine