



# Arizona Thrives

Clean air. Clean energy. Thriving together.

## **THE VISION** Ensure thriving communities, a healthy environment and robust economy for the benefit of all Arizonans.

As Arizona navigates its path forward to rebuild the economy, we can work together to ensure a more resilient and healthy future that benefits all, from urban to rural areas across the state. Arizona is well positioned to do so, and we must act now.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how quickly the economy in Arizona and globally can be disrupted and how vulnerable some parts of society and the economy are to those disruptions. We need an effective and pragmatic approach to a complex challenge to achieve clean air and energy, and ensure Arizona's future.

## **A COMMON GOAL** Work together to achieve more.

The Arizona Thrives Alliance brings Arizonans together to voluntarily align around a shared vision, set of guiding principles and common goals. By doing so, Arizona Thrives serves as a space for dialogue and learning to chart a path to cleaner air and energy statewide and economy-wide.

The Arizona Thrives Alliance is calling on companies, state and local governments, organizations and individuals to:

- voluntarily align plans and strategies with the five guiding principles
- collaborate in developing effective and efficient pathways
- act in support of the clean air and clean energy goals

The Arizona Thrives Alliance exists to communicate the importance of these goals and serves as a catalyst for action, collaboration and partnerships with other organizations, government and institutions needed to achieve them, including:

- support development of priority pathways,
- encourage aligning policy and practices,
- elevate engagement and education of alliance goals,
- identify needs for innovation in technology and products, and
- create a dashboard and progress indicators.

## **THE REASON TO ACT** Clean air, clean energy.

Five Arizona counties have among the worst air quality in the nation, which impairs human health and could cost us an estimated \$95-295 million annually in lost economic opportunity. Our cities are among the hottest in the nation and projected to become much hotter as the climate warms. As occurred in 2020, the number of days over 110 degrees is projected to double by 2060. The Colorado River is stretched well beyond its capacity to deliver water for growing demand. A warming climate will reduce water supply even further. The forests that sustain our water supply are at risk of catastrophic fire.

## **TACKLING THE CHALLENGE** The time is now.

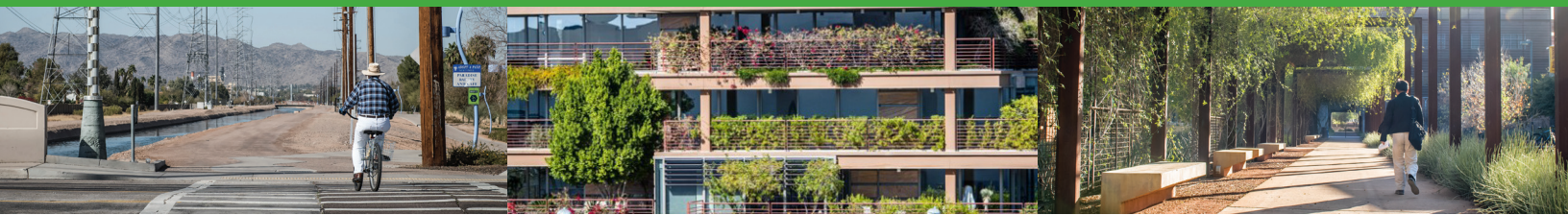
There are many forces at work that will support an affordable, reliable and equitable transition to an economy powered by clean energy. Lower costs for solar power and battery storage along with new technology to more efficiently manage energy use will lead the way. Increased affordability of electric and hydrogen powered vehicles will impact how we move. Companies investing in more efficient and sustainable buildings and business practices will influence where we live and work.

Arizona entered the pandemic in a strong economic position.

One of the fastest growing states in the country, Arizona has been developing an increasingly diverse and dynamic economy. In recent years, the state has been ranked #1 in job growth by Forbes and #1 in entrepreneurial activity by Fast Company.

Arizona has rapidly grown new jobs in technology and innovation, advanced manufacturing, bioscience, health and more. However, the pandemic has revealed vulnerable segments and geographies in our state.

As Arizona rebuilds, we need to rethink how we strengthen our economy to avert disruptions and adverse impacts to our communities and environment in a way that benefits all. The longer we wait, the more costly and difficult it will be to reverse the adverse impacts.



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## WHY ARIZONA THRIVES We can rebuild better.

There have been many independent efforts to advance air and energy initiatives that promote healthy communities and a better future for all Arizonans. However, we will not achieve our goals if we continue to work in silos. No one entity is responsible, nor can anyone do this alone. Arizona Thrives brings together many sectors and communities, in a way that recognizes that while there are differences, together we can develop more effective, efficient solutions that maximize benefit and limit adverse impacts to our communities. There is much we still need to learn to turn this enormous challenge into an opportunity. We need an integrated approach.

## THE PATH FORWARD

We launched Arizona Thrives in 2018 by bringing together diverse interests to identify and solve problems and support advancement of clean air, clean energy and a strong economy. In phase one, we built the framework. Now, we are creating a path forward for Arizonans to work together to achieve the goals. The initial focus has been on addressing how we power the economy, how we move and where we live and work; as well as nature-based solutions like restoring forests, creating more carbon rich soils and conserving wetlands.

Please join, learn more and ensure Arizona Thrives, together.

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**“We have an opportunity to move past polarization and chart a path that works for Arizona. Now is the time to move forward.”**

- Pat Graham, The Nature Conservancy

## OUR CORE TASKFORCE

Arizona Chapter, Associated General Contractors

Arizona Commerce Authority

Arizona Community Foundation

Arizona Forward

Arizona PIRG Education Fund

Arizona Public Service

ASU Global Futures Laboratory

City of Flagstaff

City of Phoenix

Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association

Intel Corporation

Local First Arizona

Lyft

Maricopa Association of Governments

Residential Utility Consumer Office (RUCO)

Salt River Project (SRP)

Southern Arizona Leadership Council

Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET)

The Nature Conservancy

Tucson Electric Power

Valley Partnership