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MAYOR GALLEGO UNVEILS ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION HUB

New city site makes it easier for residents to access climate focused programs

(Phoenix, AZ, USA) – Mayor Kate Gallego announced a new website portal on Earth Day, designed to provide residents with timely updates and expedite access to programs focused on environmental, sustainability, and climate programs. From plans for developing electric vehicle infrastructure, to preserving urban farmland, the site highlights how the City of Phoenix is taking action to conserve resources, fight climate change, and improve the environmental quality of life for future generations.

"This fiscal year, we passed an aggressive, accelerated Climate Action Plan, launched the first-ever public Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, piloted Cool Pavement technology, planted the first Cool Corridor, invested in the Circular Economy, and introduced an Electric Vehicle Roadmap," said Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego. "Residents want to know more, access, and engage on programs which are often scattered across multiple departments. This new hub of information makes it easier to navigate and find the myriad of programs in progress."

Leadership on climate will help the city address extreme drought and water conservation while also growing green jobs and green investments for the health of the local economy. Recent actions include:

Electric Vehicle Road Map and Input Opportunity

Mayor Gallego created an ad hoc committee dedicated to advancing the adoption of electric vehicles in Phoenix. Earlier this month, the committee shared with Mayor Gallego and City Councilmembers the first draft of an <u>Electric Vehicle Road Map</u>. The plan is now being taken to neighborhoods across Phoenix to gather public review and comment. Residents may also provide input by taking a short survey.

Sustainability Officers at Local Schools

This week, the City's Office of Sustainability expanded its <u>Student Council Sustainability Officer</u> (<u>SCSO</u>) <u>Initiative</u>. The program invites local high schools to add a Sustainability Officer (SO) position to their existing student councils so they can help promote campus practices that



reduce environmental impacts.

Farmland Preservation Program

Earlier this year, a South Phoenix farm was permanently protected from development thanks to the City of Phoenix's <u>Farmland Preservation Program</u>. The city invested \$1,000,000 into the program as part of the Phoenix Resilient Food System Program. Maya's Farm now has a conservation easement which ensures it will never be paved over or developed.

Planting Trees for Cool Corridors

Last weekend, began a new era of urban tree canopy growth with the planting of the city's first Cool Corridor. Phoenix is helping to cool neighborhoods and increase social equity with scientific data. Mayor Gallego, the City's Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, along with the nation's oldest conservation non-profit, American Forests, joined nearly 100 volunteers in planting drought-resistant, Phoenix-native trees.

Mayor Gallego serves as one of two North American representatives on the C40 steering committee, a global network of leading cities committed to aggressive climate action. She also is Vice Chair of Climate Mayors, a domestic network of mayors focused on maximizing impact of President Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Additionally, she is Public Sector Co-Chair of 50L Home, an initiative to inspire water efficiency and zero-carbon living.

The city wants to achieve net-zero emissions in municipal operations by 2030, and net-zero emissions community-wide by 2050. This Earth Day, and throughout the year, learn more about city services, programs, and events which align with this goal by visiting the environment and sustainability portal in the Phoenix Newsroom at https://bit.ly/PHXEarthDay.

Phoenix, Arizona is the fifth largest city in the United States. With a population of 1.7 million, it is also the fastest growing city in the nation. For more information about Phoenix and services available through the city, please visit phoenix.gov.