



# Goals, Target Areas, and Project Ideas

These are just suggestions - feel free to improvise.



## Sustainable Neighborhoods Program



## Goal:

Promote energy conservation and the use of renewable energy sources throughout the neighborhood.

## Target Areas:

- Residential Energy Conservation
- Renewable Energy Sources
- Green Building

## Initiative & Project Ideas

**Home Energy Audit:** Partner with the city to register households with existing [home energy retrofit programs](#).

**LED Lighting Upgrades:** Partner with willing neighbors and business to upgrade lighting fixtures with high efficiency LED's with outdoor lighting that is "dark sky" compliant.

**Join Solar Co-op:** Engage with the city to explore options for buying into the [solar cooperative](#).

**Energy 101 Workshop:** Invite a knowledgeable representative from the local power company to learn about the power grid; how it works, and how your neighborhood fits into it.

**Weatherization Workshop:** Invite a knowledgeable representative from local hardware stores to preview different products to insulate your home against extreme hot and cold weather.

**ENERGY STAR Campaign:** Have neighbors take the ENERGY STAR pledge to change energy behaviors, install energy-efficient appliances, and track energy usage.

**Urban Heat Island Effect Reduction:** Explore options to reduce drivers of the Urban Heat Island on properties in your neighborhood as a way to reduce energy consumption.

**Solar Mapping:** Partner with a local or regional renewable outfitter to map the solar potential of all willing households in your neighborhood and share the results with the neighborhood.

**Organize a Refrigerator and Freezer Roundup:** Get your neighbors to recycle old and inefficient refrigerators and freezers.

**Neighborhood Energy Blitz:** Organize energy contractors to provide audits, energy-saving improvements and education for neighborhood all in one day.

**Energy Incentives Catalog:** Assemble a list of discounts, rebates, low-income programs, and other financial incentives for installing solar panels or energy-efficient improvements.





## Goal:

Reduce emissions generated in the neighborhood and improve both outdoor and indoor air quality.

## Target Areas:

- Outdoor Emissions
- Indoor Air Quality
- Trees and Vegetation
- Carbon Footprint Reduction

## Initiative & Project Ideas

**Carpooling Network:** Create a neighborhood carpooling network for grocery shopping or dropping kids off at school, camp, or pool.

**Native Species Planting Projects:** Conduct a survey of potential planting locations and partner with local plant nurseries to purchase plants at a lower rate.

### **Monthly Household or Neighborhood Biker**

**Competition:** Host a friendly and fun biking Competition as a household or neighborhood to see who can bike the most instead of taking the car each month or every few months.

**Take the Bus Once a Week Pledge:** Make a pledge with your neighbors to take the bus once a week to run errands instead of driving. Help get used to the bus system in town.

**Electric Yard Equipment:** Promote the use of electric lawn equipment. Research and communicate different purchasing options with the community.

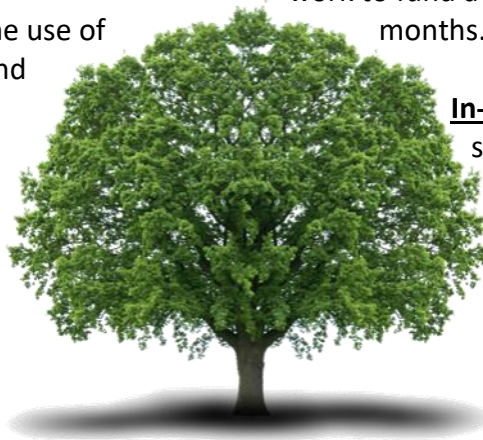
**Low or No Emissions Vehicle Showcase:** All neighbors with plugin hybrids and electric vehicles bring their cars together for a showcase and to answer questions from other neighbors about what it's like owning a low emission vehicle.

**Vehicle Maintenance Education:** Bring in an expert to learn how to improve the efficiency of your car and reduce emissions.

**Radon Testing:** Bring in an expert or conduct your own research and presentation using trusted sources to learn about Radon's impact to human health and conduct radon in-home testing.

**Bike to Work Day:** Make a pledge to bike to work at least twice a week during the Spring and Fall. Donate a few dollars to a pot of money every time you bike to work to fund a neighborhood party after every few months.

**In-home Air Quality:** Learn about sources of indoor air pollution and how to test for and prevent GHG emission leaks from refrigeration and other cooling equipment.





## Goal:

Conserve water resources and improve water quality.

## Target Areas

- Indoor and Outdoor Water Conservation
- Storm water Management
- Stream/Gulch Protection

## Initiative & Project Ideas

**Adopt-a-Wash:** Commit to regular clean up days for the washes in the neighborhood. These waterways tie into the Oak Creek, so consider elevating the project by partnering with the Oak Creek Watershed Council.

**Green Infrastructure Workshop:** Partner with the Friends of the Verde River and host a workshop on the importance of landscaping and designing to capture rainwater in neighborhood vs allowing it to runoff down driveways and into roadways.

**Landscape Design for Water:** Develop guidelines on how to landscape around homes to maximize water absorption in each yard, such as rain gardens, French drains, and mulching.

**Mulch Pick Up Day:** Coordinate with the City of Sedona to pick up mulch from the city's surplus and help spread around yards and gardens throughout the neighborhood.

**Rain Garden Tours:** Host a rain garden tour to showcase the hard work neighbors have taken to reduce water runoff in their yards.



**Water Conservation Pledge:** Create a neighborhood wide pledge to reduce water usage. Examples are turning off the faucet when brushing teeth, switching irrigation to drip systems and running full loads of laundry, etc.

**Leaky Faucet Repair Squad:** Build a team of volunteers who can be designated to repair faucets in the neighborhood.

**Irrigation System Audits:** Assess water usages in irrigation systems and adopt water reduction practices. Examples: redesign irrigation to drip systems, only run systems when needed, automate systems to turn off during rainy days, etc.

**Protect Storm Drains:** Educate neighborhood by posting signage near storm drains stating the importance of not washing toxic materials into the storm drains.

**Attend Arizona Water Watch:** Register groups for the [Arizona Water Watch](#) and help Friends of the Verde River with water quality monitoring.

**Verde Valley BioBlitz:** Register with [Verde Valley BioBlitz](#) to gather data surrounding the riparian areas of the Verde River and Oak Creek.



## Goal:

Encourage stewardship and conservation of ecosystems and resources.

## Target Areas

- Sustainable Landscapes
- Wildlife & Habitat Enhancement
- Chemical Pollution
- Recycling & Waste Reduction

## Initiative & Project Ideas

**Native Plant Workshops:** Educate neighbors about the importance of planting native species in their yards and eliminating harmful pesticides and herbicides while gardening.



**Pollinator Friendly Yards:** Get neighbors to commit to planting native plants, shrubs, and tree species that support the native pollinators. Conduct a neighborhood workshop to learn about how pollinators support human and local wildlife food systems.

**Compost Network:** Partner with the city and join the compost program and/or develop a neighborhood [compost program](#).

**Compost Workshop:** Educate neighbors about various types of composting methods and the importance of diverting food and yard waste from the landfill.

**Firewise Workshop:** Partner with Fire Department and the city to host a Firewise workshop to help residents understand the correct way to trim trees to protect from fire risks.

**Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code Plan:** Develop and adopt a neighborhood WUI code plan for residents to refer to that ensures all residents are following correct firewise practices when trimming their yards.

**Create a Community Garden:** Work together with your neighbors to apply for grants or work with local nonprofits to help create a neighborhood community garden.

**Living with Wildlife:** Learn how to reduce landscaping methods that create conflicts with coyotes, javelina, deer, skunks, and bird species that spend most of their time on the ground.

**Hard to Recycle Event:** Encourage your neighbors to participate in the city run [Home Hazardous Waste Event](#). Disperse informational material on what neighbors can dispose of at the event.

**Invasive Species Removal Event:** Work with your neighbors to identify and remove invasive species like Tree of Heaven.

**Alternative Methods Workshop:** Put on an educational workshop to inform neighbors of alternative, safe methods to pest management.

**Reliable Recycling Program:** Explore options for your neighborhood to partner with Sedona Recycles to more responsibly and effectively recycle your waste.

**Low Waste Grocery Shopping Pledge:** Work with your neighbors to disperse reusable shopping bags and produce bags. Explore additional methods for reducing after purchase waste from excessive packaging.





## Goal:

Enhance the social vitality of the neighborhood by encouraging community interaction, partnerships, and outreach programs.

## Target Areas:

- Health & Wellness
- Community Outreach
- Youth Programs
- Neighborhood Heritage
- Local Economy & Green Purchasing

## Initiative & Project Ideas

**Supporting Local Economy:** Create a list of local businesses that will direct residents to supporting the local economy.

**Sustainable Sourcing:** Develop a list of sustainable products to source from when purchasing household items; publish a community document for public access.

**Food Drive:** Host neighborhood food drive(s) to donate to the local food banks. Consider working with the [Verde Valley Food Project](#) to assist with coordinating these drives.

**Farmers Market Carpool:** Bring your neighbors and reusable bags to Sedona's weekly farmers market to purchase locally grown food, support local farmers and businesses, and spend time getting to know more people in your community.

**Community Clubs:** Create different clubs to take walks, discuss books, go out to locally owned restaurants, or conduct local trash pickups in your area or at public parks.

**Healthy Living Workshop:** Host a workshop to learn how to make healthy eating and regular activity part of the community.



**Voter Registration Team:** Provide resources for neighbors to register to vote as well as "Mark On Your Calendar" dates for local, state, and federal elections.

**Extreme Temperatures Watch Club:** Identify willing volunteers capable of contacting people in town who would like to get a check-in when temperatures drop below 32° or go above 90° to make sure they are doing okay or if they need support.

**Indigenous Heritage Workshop:** Host a workshop partnering with local Native American tribes to learn about indigenous practices and history of the Verde Valley area.

**Past, Present & Future Workshop:** Research the past, present and future of your neighborhood by covering the topics of land, water, energy, air, and people to develop a timeline of your neighborhood. Come together for a final workshop and build a timeline to view the trends and what to expect in the future.

**Green Initiative Youth Team:** Help form a volunteer team of neighborhood youth to lead sustainability projects.

**Crowdsourcing and Grants Team:** As you build your projects, identify ways to help fund your projects with a team of volunteers focusing on gathering funds. Considering partnering with the [City of Sedona](#).

