

# GLOSSARY

**ACTIVE RECREATION** Structured individual or team activity that requires the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment.

**ADAPTIVE REUSE** The process of adapting old structures for new purposes.

**AEROALLERGEN-RELATED RESPIRATORY ILLNESS** Health impacts from smoke, particulate matter, and pollens.

**AMBIENT TEMPERATURE** Non-specific phrase used to describe the outside temperature.

## **BEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

**TECHNOLOGIES** Technologies and research and development activities that can reduce energy consumption and energy waste in commercial and residential buildings through the use of improved appliances; windows, walls, and roofs; space heating and cooling; lighting; and whole building design strategies.

**BLIGHTED AREA** An area where a majority of buildings are in a deteriorated condition.

**BLUE BARREL PROGRAM** A City of Tucson residential and small business program for curbside recycling.

**BROKEN WINDOW SYNDROME** A term coined by James Wilson and George Kelling (Atlantic Monthly, 1982) to refer to the slow decline of a neighborhood if a lack of care or crime becomes the norm. “If a broken window is not fixed, then the damage or vandalism becomes the social norm in the neighborhood. Individuals look for other signals to determine what the social norms allow them to do and what the risk is of getting caught violating those norms.”

**BROWNFIELDS** Abandoned, idled, or under used industrial and commercial facilities/sites where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination in urban, suburban, or rural areas.

**CARBON-BASED ENERGY** Fossil fuels that have their origin in ancient carbon fixation and contain carbon that has been “out” of the carbon cycle for a very long time.

**CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION PLAN** A document that details methods to reduce greenhouse gas

concentrations in the atmosphere by avoiding further emissions from “sources” or by enhancing “sinks,” such as forests, that absorb and store carbon from CO<sub>2</sub>.

## **COMMERCIAL RAINWATER HARVESTING**

Capturing and storing rainfall by commercial entities to irrigate landscape plants or provide other non-potable sources of water.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES** Archaeological, traditional, and built environment resources, including but not necessarily limited to buildings, structures, objects, districts, and sites.

**DARK SKIES ORDINANCE** Outdoor lighting standards that reduce glare, light trespass, and skyglow to keep the night skies dark for astronomical pursuits.

**ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY** Possessing the knowledge and understanding of a wide range of environmental concepts, problems, and issues.

**GREEN BUILDING PROGRAM** Incorporation of environmental considerations and resource efficiency into every step of the home building and land development process to minimize environmental impact.

**GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE** The interconnected network of open spaces and natural areas that naturally manages stormwater, reduces flooding risk, and improves water quality.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include, but are not limited to, water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>).

## **HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP)**

A planning document, required as part of an application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that assesses the anticipated effects of proposed impacts on plant or animal species and shows how those impacts will be minimized, or mitigated, and how the HCP is to be funded.

- HABITAT LOSS OR DEGRADATION** A ecosystem that has been dramatically changed by human activities and no longer supports healthy wildlife or plant populations.
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION ZONE** City of Tucson zoning overlays created by a 1972 ordinance for certain designated National Register of Historic Places districts that require compliance with specific development standards and design guidelines for exterior alterations to existing historic and non-historic buildings and for new construction, including work that does not require a building permit.
- INDIGENOUS** Originating and living or occurring naturally in an area or environment.
- INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT** A comprehensive waste prevention, recycling, composting, and disposal program.
- INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE ENERGY STANDARDS** Integrated resource planning, including all new renewable options, such as solar energy, co-generation, hybrid systems, bio energy, ambient temperature use by heat pumps, and the use of conventional finite and renewable energy sources.
- LEED** Acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council and used to rate the design, construction and operation of high performance buildings.
- LIFE SKILLS TRAINING** Hands-on education designed to facilitate the practice and reinforcement of psychosocial skills in a culturally and developmentally appropriate way. Such skills contribute to the promotion of personal and social development, the prevention of health and social problems, and the protection of human rights.
- NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS** Status reports about climate change science and impacts comparing observations made across the country to predictions from climate system models.
- NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION** A privately funded, nonprofit organization that works to save historic places throughout the United States.
- NATURAL HAZARD AREAS** All atmospheric, hydrologic, geologic (especially seismic and volcanic), and wildfire phenomena that, because of their location, severity, and frequency, have the potential to affect humans, their structures, or their activities adversely.
- NET ZERO BUILDING** A structure that generates 100 percent of its power from renewable sources on-site at all times; is completely grid-independent and does not use any fossil-fuel-generated energy from a power plant. This type of net-zero energy building is also carbon neutral because no carbon dioxide emissions are released into the atmosphere.
- NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION** A form of pollution that results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, seepage, or hydrologic modification.
- PASSIVE RAINWATER HARVESTING** Rain barrels, cisterns, or tanks that store water from rooftops and other impervious surfaces for later use.
- PASSIVE RECREATION** Recreational activities that do not require prepared facilities, such as sports fields or pavilions. Passive recreational activities place minimal stress on a site's resources.
- PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENT** A neighborhood, town, or city with features that encourage and influence walking through design, construction, and maintenance of the built environment.
- PHOTOVOLTAIC** The direct conversion of light into electricity at the atomic level.
- POTABLE WATER** Water that has been treated, cleaned, or filtered and meets established drinking water standards or is assumed to be reasonably free of harmful bacteria and contaminants and considered safe to drink.
- POWER GRID** An interconnected system for the distribution of electricity or electromagnetic signals over a wide area, especially a network of high-tension cables and power stations.
- PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE** The collection of roads, bridges, rail lines, and similar public works that are required for an industrial economy, or a portion of it, to function.
- RECLAIMED WATER** Recycled, treated effluent for beneficial uses. Regulations apply to wastewater treatment facilities supplying reclaimed water and to the sites where water is applied or used.
- RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES** Technologies that produce sustainable, clean energy from sources such as the sun, the wind, plants, and water.

**RESIDENTIAL GRAY WATER** Gray water systems divert some interior water from clothes washers, bathtubs, showers or bathroom sinks for use in outdoor irrigation.

**RESILIENT OR RESILIENCY** The capacity of a system, community, or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt by resisting or changing in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure. This is determined by the degree to which the social system is capable of organizing itself to increase its capacity for learning from past disasters for better future protection and to improve risk reduction measures.

**RESOURCE RECOVERY** The collecting and separating of certain waste materials for processing into new forms, which will ultimately be marketed as raw materials for new products.

**RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS** A transition area between the aquatic ecosystem and the adjacent terrestrial ecosystems identified by soil characteristics or distinctive vegetation communities that require free or unbound water.

**SENSE OF PLACE** Those things that add up to a feeling that a community or space is a special place, distinct from anywhere else.

**SOLAR READY** A structure that has been built with the necessary piping and equipment that would be needed to install a rooftop solar power system.

**SOUTHWEST CLIMATE ASSESSMENT STUDY** Report that provides a snapshot of the current state of climate change information and knowledge related to the U.S. Southwest region.

**SUBSIDENCE** The collapse of the earth when large amounts of groundwater have been withdrawn from certain types of rocks, such as fine-grained sediments.

**UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS** Populations, or communities, that lack adequate access to basic services, such as health care, public infrastructure, food, etc.

**UPSTREAM SOLUTIONS** Proactive solutions that address the source of the original problem, as opposed to the effects of it.

**URBAN HEAT ISLAND (UHI) EFFECT** The rise in temperature of any man-made area, resulting in a well-defined, distinct “warm island” among the “cool sea” represented by the lower temperature of the area’s nearby natural landscape.

**URBAN RENEWAL** The rehabilitation of city areas by renovating or replacing dilapidated buildings with new housing, public buildings, parks, roadways, industrial areas, etc., often in accordance with comprehensive plans.

**US GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL** A coalition of leaders from across the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live and work.

**WASTE DIVERSION & RECOVERY** The process by which materials are diverted from landfills through recycling or recovery operations thereby conserving and preserving resources and energy; reducing the production of greenhouse gases and the use of toxic chemicals; and conserving water, wildlife habitat, and air quality.

# APPENDICES

Mandated Elements Matrix  
Public Participation Program  
Mayor and City Council Resolution  
Public Ratification

To be inserted upon completion. For information about the appendices, please contact the Plan Tucson team.