

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.

AIRPORT ENVIRONS PLAN Adopted City plan to ensure compatibility of land uses in the vicinity of the airport; to achieve balance between the needs of the airport and growth trends; and to mitigate significant impacts of aircraft operations on the surrounding community.

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

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

Identifies infrastructure and facility projects including funding amounts and sources, to be undertaken by the City during a five-year planning horizon.

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.

CARBON FOOTPRINT Describes the total amount of greenhouse gases that are emitted as a result of the actions of an individual, a city, or any other unit. A carbon footprint is a function of all the energy used by an individual, business, event, or community for heating and cooling, appliances, vehicles, and embedded energy in everything purchased and consumed. See definition of Greenhouse Gas Emissions for further explanation.

CARBON NEUTRALITY Refers to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by balancing the amount of greenhouse gases released by a community with an equivalent amount that is either sequestered or offset. Also known as net-zero carbon footprint.

CARBON OFFSETS Created when renewable energy, energy efficiency, or sequestration projects result in reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. These reductions are quantified and a "credit" is generated that can then be purchased by other greenhouse gas emitters, such as cities, businesses, or individuals. One credit, which equates to a metric ton of greenhouse gas emissions, can be used to balance, or offset, a ton of greenhouse gases that are emitted by the purchaser.

CARRYING CAPACITY The number of individuals who can be supported in a given area within the limits of existing natural resources, and without degrading the natural, social, cultural and economic environment for present and future generations. Natural carrying capacity of an area can be increased through technology and the importation of resources from other areas. Carrying capacity can also be reduced as a result of degraded air or water quality, declining economic resources, or other changes.

- CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION** An alternative to a government or municipal bond in which an investor buys a share in the improvements or infrastructure the government entity intends to fund.
- CITY OF TUCSON GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS** Bonds that are backed by the “full faith and credit” of the City with no specific revenue stream identified as the source of funds. The issuance of general obligation bonds must be approved by voters.
- 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 CO₂.
- 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.
- DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES** Fees charged to new development as a means of paying for the facilities and infrastructure needed to serve new development. Impact fees are typically issued for water, roads, parks, police, fire, and other public facilities.
- ECONOMIC LEAKAGE** A situation in which capital, or income, leaves an economy rather than remains within it. Leakage occurs when income is taken out through the purchase of imports, as opposed to those goods or services being produced and purchased locally. In retail, leakage also refers to consumers who spend money outside of the local market.
- ENERGY POSITIVE** Refers to a building that produces more energy than it consumes, resulting in a net reduction in the systems greenhouse gases accomplished through the sale of that “excess” renewable energy as credits or offsets to other greenhouse gas emitters.
- 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** Strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, working landscapes, urban vegetation, and open space that conserve ecosystems, manage stormwater, reduce flood risks, improve water quality and provide recreational, aesthetic and health benefits to people.
- GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. These include, but are not limited to, water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), ozone (O₃), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆).
- 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** An ecosystem that has been dramatically changed by human activities and no longer supports healthy wildlife or plant populations.
- HIGHWAY USER REVENUE FUNDS (HURF)** A primary source of revenue available to states for highway improvements, new construction and related expenses assessed through fees and charges related to the registration and operation of motor vehicles, and various taxes including on gasoline and vehicle licenses.
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION** Field of practice or research which focuses on tangible heritage, or the legacy and culture inherited from past generations. Historic preservation treats historic buildings, districts, sites of important events, objects, other structures, and archaeological sites as heritage resources which may be eligible for formal designation as historic. Historic significance is defined at the local, state, and/or national level.
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION ZONES** 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.

HISTORIC STREETScape A streetscape at least 50 years old which retains the majority of its historic-age, character-defining features, and conveys the period of development.

HOUSEHOLD Consists of all people who occupy a housing unit (house, apartment, group of rooms, or single room intended for occupancy) including related family members and all unrelated people. A person living alone in a housing unit, or a group of unrelated people sharing a housing unit such as partners or roomers, is also counted as a household.

INDIGENOUS Originating and living or occurring naturally in an area or environment.

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT 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.

LDN Day-Night average sound level value expressed in decibels that represent the average noise level over a 24 hour period for an average day of the year.

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.

MODE SPLIT Also referred to as modal share or modal split, describes the percentage of travelers using a particular type of transportation, typically bus, biking, pedestrian, and car.

MODERN STREETCAR A fixed guideway electric rail system which runs on tracks along public urban streets and operates in mixed traffic. Modern streetcars typically use electric power, are lighter and shorter than conventional and rapid transit trains, accommodate bicycles on-board, and have frequent passenger stops.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING AREA A future municipal boundary that goes beyond current corporate limits, and includes existing urban development in unincorporated areas for strategic planning. It also includes underutilized land in unincorporated areas where future growth may occur. Establishing this boundary allows a jurisdiction to carry out extra-territorial planning, showing how the undeveloped area should develop, and how infrastructure and services should be extended.

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 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; and is carbon neutral.

NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLD A household consisting of a householder living alone or where the householder shares the home exclusively with non-relatives only.

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION A form of pollution that results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, seepage, or hydrologic modification.

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** Direct conversion of light into electricity at the atomic level.
- PIMA COUNTY BOND PROGRAM** General obligation bonds repaid through property taxes to fund capital projects in the region. The issuance of general obligation bonds must be approved by voters.
- 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.
- PRIMARY JOBS** These jobs export services and goods outside the region and import dollars to our community, therefore increasing the wealth of the community.
- PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE** The collection of roads, bridges, rail lines, and similar public works required for an industrial economy, or a portion of it, to function.
- RAINWATER HARVESTING** Rain barrels, cisterns, or tanks that store water from rooftops and other impervious surfaces for later use.
- RECLAIMED WATER** Recycled, treated effluent reused for beneficial uses. Regulations apply to wastewater treatment facilities supplying reclaimed water and to the sites where water is applied or used.
- REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FUNDING** Funding for the 20-year regional transportation plan is provided by a half-cent sales tax and other regional and local funding sources such as development impact fees.
- RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES** Technologies that produce sustainable, clean energy from sources such as the sun, wind, plants, and water.
- RESIDENTIAL GRAY WATER** Diversion of some interior water from residential uses such as 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** Collecting and separating of certain waste materials for processing into new forms which are ultimately sold as raw materials for new products.
- REVENUE BONDS** Enterprise departments in the City, such as Tucson Water and Environmental Services, use revenue bonds to pay for critical infrastructure projects. Bonds are issued and repaid with interest over a 20– to 30–year time frame.
- 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** Components in a community 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.
- STREETSCAPE** Visual elements of a street, including the road, adjoining buildings, street furniture, trees, and open spaces that combine to form the street's character.
- SUBSIDENCE** The collapse of the earth when large amounts of groundwater have been withdrawn from certain types of rocks, such as fine-grained sediments.
- SUSTAINABILITY** Refers to a condition in which human activities enhance economic development and social equity while remaining within the carrying capacity of the natural environment.

TITLE V PERMITS A type of operating permit for a facility that is deemed by the federal government under the Clean Air Act to be a source of air pollution. Most Title V permits are issued by state and local permitting authorities.

TUCSON REGIONAL ECONOMIC

OPPORTUNITIES (TREO) The regional economic development agency that is focused on bringing new firms with primary jobs to the Tucson region, helping to retain companies that are in the region, and helping those firms expand.

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.

U.S. 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.

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED The number of miles traveled within a geographic region, i.e., nationally, regionally, or city-wide, by vehicles for a period of one year.

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.