



ARIZONA FORWARD

2019

50 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

A look at how Arizona Forward has protected and shaped the state's environment



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50 YEARS *of impact*

Here's a look at the events that helped Arizona Forward
shape our state's environmental landscape



By MICHAEL GOSSIE

A lot happened in 1969.

Richard Nixon was sworn in as the 37th president of the United States.

Led Zeppelin's first album was released in the United States.

An estimated 500 million people worldwide watched Neil Armstrong become the first man to walk on the moon.

And out of a meeting of two organizations in Arizona would spring a group that would go on to mobilize business leaders and policymakers to leverage their collective power to best grow our communities, stimulate our economy, enhance our environment, ensure smart growth and development, improve air quality, develop responsible water management, create energy alternatives and foster meaningful education.

That group was Valley Forward. Today, now called Arizona Forward, the group is celebrating 50 years of impact on the Grand Canyon State.

Here are some of the milestones that helped make Arizona Forward an environmental force at age 50:

ARIZONA FORWARD 2019

1969

On Tuesday April 22, 1969, Valley Forward Association is born from a joint meeting of two organizations — Central Phoenix Progress Association and Valley Beautiful Citizens Council. Its first executive director is Frank Bosh. Later that year, the organization drafts legislation to create the Rio Salado Development District.



The Rio Salado project takes off and becomes a feature in the Valley Forward annual report.

Valley Forward supports the Valley-wide "Project Pool It" initiative to encourage car and van pooling.

Valley Forward joins City of Phoenix officials to dissuade Gov. Bruce Babbitt from constructing a state office building outside the mall area.

Valley Forward participates in creating a five-year action plan for building as many miles of freeway as possible. It is named the largest effort to expand Arizona highways. Later that year, Valley Forward develops a preamble consisting of specific areas of interest and in return creates the slogan:

"Think big – think small."

ValTrans

Valley Forward supports the unsuccessful ValTrans proposition for elevated high-speed rail.

1993

Valley Forward initiates the Great Salt River Clean-Up, Arizona's largest volunteer effort involving thousands of residents. Later that year, Valley Forward advocates for limiting emissions from mobile sources through implementation of vehicle emissions testing and publishes the first Urban Form Report Card.

Valley Forward continues the Rio Salado project with participation of the City of Phoenix Beyond the Banks initiative.

1969

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2000

Valley Forward supports the concept of the Central Phoenix Plan to sustain the "Central Corridor."

Valley Forward spearheads the Government Mall project to guide future development in Phoenix.

Valley Forward initiates the Environmental Excellence Awards program.

BARBARA CROWELL becomes Valley Forward's new executive director.

DIANE BROSSART becomes Valley Forward's executive director, a position she goes on to hold for 26 years.

Valley Forward supports the sales tax initiatives for freeways and transit.

Valley Forward continues its advocacy for open spaces, including Phoenix parks and preserves.



Valley Forward created the Rio Salado Steering Committee, which is spearheaded by James Elmore, chairman of the committee and the "Father of Rio Salado."

Dan Devers becomes Valley Forward's second executive director.



Valley Forward supports the Transit 2000 Regional Transportation Plan for Phoenix and begins advocacy for light rail transit in the Valley.





Valley Forward celebrates the Grand Opening of the Phoenix Rio Salado. Valley Forward's EarthFest Education Grant for K-12 teachers, which provides funding to support environmental projects in their classroom, is also announced.

Valley Forward provides input to the Maricopa Association of Governments TPC on a regional transportation plan for the Valley.

Valley Forward recruits 12 Valley mayors to sign a proclamation initiated by Valley Forward and the U.S. Green Building Council, Arizona Chapter in support of green schools. And in a major move, Professor Nan Ellin transitions the Canalscape project from ASU to Valley Forward.

Valley Forward publishes the second edition of "Making the Grade: The Valley's 2008 Environmental Report Card."



Valley Forward produces and distributes two primers focused on energy and parks. Valley Forward also advocates for the Land and Water Conservation Fund by sending support letters to President Barack Obama and Arizona's Congressional delegation.

2013

Valley Forward officially transitions to a statewide organization and begins operations as Arizona Forward. Nina Mason Pulliam provides a grant to help with the statewide expansion. Arizona Forward also supports the "green out" for the Waste Management Phoenix Open.



ARIZONA FORWARD



THIS IS A BIG YEAR FOR THE ORGANIZATION:

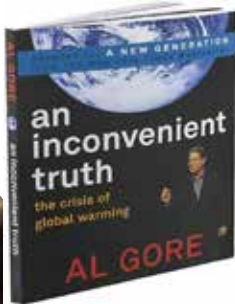
- Arizona Forward produces and publishes a Healthy Forest Primer.
- Arizona Forward participates in the Grand Canalscape project's \$10.3 million TIGER grant and the project earns support from Nancy Pelosi and Ruben Gallego. Arizona Forward also supports Scottsdale's canal transformation.
- Arizona Forward supports Stand Up 4 Transportation to enhance quality of life for Arizona.

This is another big year for the organization as Lori Singleton is named executive director and Arizona Forward initiates the Emerging Leaders program, hosts the first Statewide Sustainability Summit and hosts the Autonomous Vehicle Forum.

2001 2003 2004 2005 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Valley Forward creates Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor with WESTMARC. Later that year, Valley Forward holds a forum on electric utility deregulation.

Valley Forward partners with ASU to sponsor Al Gore's live presentation of "An Inconvenient Truth." Valley Forward also launches an interactive website and prints 100,000 passports to promote the Valley's Pedestrian Freeway.



Valley Forward releases a statewide primer on transportation issues to drive Arizona's economy. Valley Forward also co-presents State Parks Day at the Arizona Legislature and holds a news conference about funding challenges facing Arizona's parks.

Valley Forward commemorates 40 years of environmental advocacy in the region by planting 40 trees in Downtown Phoenix with Mayor Phil Gordon and other project partners.

Arizona Forward also publishes "Valuing Arizona's Water: The cost of service and the price you pay." In addition, Arizona Forward brings a delegation of business leaders to Washington D.C. to demonstrate support for the I-11 International Corridor.

Arizona Forward places a strong effort to preserve, restore and strategically manage Arizona's precious rivers.

Intel, ASU and HDR share their insight for sustainability with Arizona Forward members and Liberty Wildlife receives Arizona Forward's President's Award at the Environmental Excellence Awards.

2019

In addition to celebrating its 50th anniversary, Arizona Forward hosts a breakfast to educate members on the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan. To top it off, Arizona Forward hosts its first forum to hear mayoral and Districts 5 and 8 candidates' views on sustainability issues.



ARIZONA FORWARD

Erin Brockovich attends Valley Forward's 35th Annual Luncheon and the association publishes "Making the Grade: The Valley's 2004 Environmental Report Card."



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A FLUID OUTLOOK

Efforts from Arizona Forward, forward-thinkers create reasons to be optimistic about Arizona's water future

By ERIN THORBURN

Arizona Forward is committed to water.

As Arizona's oldest environmental advocacy group, Arizona Forward has a water committee made up of more than 60 people tied to various organizations — including cities and counties from across the state. Together, these individuals and organizations explore every facet of our desert's most precious commodity — water. From exploring how water plays a role in industry operations and recreational uses to seeking the most innovative and progressive sustainability and conservation methods, Arizona Forward honors and supports the champions of Arizona's future water planning.

Arizona Forward's 2019 Environmental Excellence Awards reflected that focus as the group honored several water-related projects, including the Governor's Award for Arizona's Future, which was presented to Arizona's Drought Contingency Plan Process (DCP) and committee co-chairs. After months of collaboration and compromise, the DCP plan details how impacted stakeholders, including

Arizona and other states, will adapt to reductions on Colorado River water to secure water supplies for Arizona residents.

YOU DOWN WITH DCP?

The DCP is not a singular solution, but it is one essential cog in Arizona's long-term plan to protect the future of our water.

"With the Drought Contingency Plan in place, we have some certainty about what to expect if Lake Mead's level continues to decline," says Ted Cooke, general manager of Central Arizona Project (CAP). "Since the DCP lasts through 2026, we have some time to put the next program in place with the other six Basin States."

Although some wonder if Arizona's water conservation and sustainability efforts will see our desert state through the next five decades, the DCP is one of many examples of what the state has successfully accomplished when it comes to water planning. A new higher tier level — Tier Zero — triggers reductions in water supplies to users. Lake Mead is expected to drop to Tier Zero in 2020 and 2021. Prior to the formal adoption of the DCP, Arizona had been conserving water in



WATER CREATES

ENERGY: The

Mormon Flat Dam forms Canyon Lake on the Salt River.

The dam contains two hydroelectric generating units.

(Photo courtesy of SRP)

Lake Mead at Tier Zero levels since 2016, according to Cooke.

“Now that DCP is in place, Arizona and other Lower Basin states stored an additional 600,000 acre-feet in Lake Mead — in 2019 alone — all because of the new rules regarding access to Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) under DCP,” Cooke adds.

To give it some perspective, an acre-foot is equivalent to 325,851 gallons of water.

A key piece of the DCP requires states and water suppliers to “bank” water in Lake Mead, where Arizona’s share of the Colorado River is stored. It’s working — so far. The lake is 22 feet higher than expected. Almost half of that was due to storage and contributions to system conservation. The rest came from heavy snowfall in the Rockies.

But Arizona’s proficiency in planning — even perhaps initially unintentional — reaches back significantly farther than the creation of the DCP.

“Our statewide demand for water is slightly lower than it was in the mid 1950s, although our population has more than doubled during that time period,” says Sethuraman Panchanathan, executive vice president of Arizona State University’s Knowledge Enterprise. “And currently, we

are using slightly less water than we did five decades ago. What this tells us is that there is hope moving forward.”

“We live within the water supplies we currently have and have also managed to store millions of acre-feet underground,” adds Cooke. “Our consumption today is about the same as it was 60 years ago, even though the population is nearly seven times larger and the economy is nearly 25 times as big.”

Moving forward, DCP stands as a historic and valuable precedent of collaboration between states. It will also serve as an integral component of Arizona’s future water supply. Cooke describes the initiative as another step in the long list of difficult water-related challenges that have been successfully addressed by Arizona. This includes the authorization of the CAP in 1968, the passage of the Groundwater Management Act in 1980 and the creation of the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR) in 1993, among others.

“Arizona has a long history of careful groundwater management in the state-designated Active Management Areas (AMAs) pursuant to the 1980 Groundwater Management Act, as amended,” says Sharon B. Megdal, director of the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center. “Over 80 percent of the state’s population lives in an AMA. Since the mid-1980s, we have carefully integrated Colorado River water into Central Arizona’s water portfolio.”

“Because we live in a desert, we must take these bold and creative steps,” Cooke says. “We have no choice. These challenges are getting harder, but because of our extensive efforts over the years, we continue to get better at it.”

BOUT OF DROUGHT

According to Dave Roberts, associate general manager of SRP’s water resources, Arizona has been in a prolonged dry period for nearly 25 years. Drought is not a foreign concept in an arid environment, but it’s helpful to understand the additional challenges it presents to our state in particular.

Since the bulk of Arizona’s population resides in Maricopa and Pima counties,

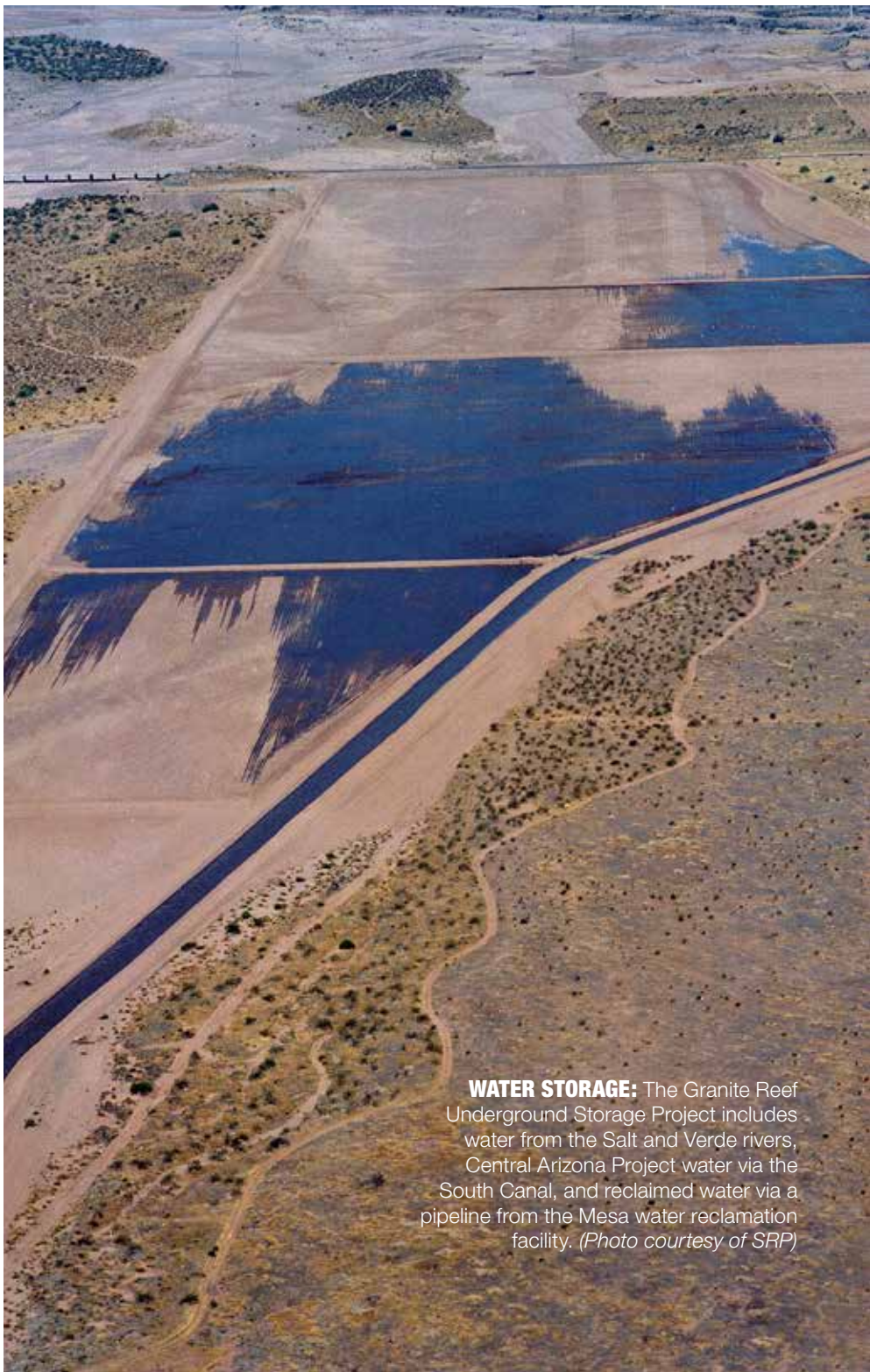
rainfall alone is not sufficient to sustain a densely inhabited desert climate. Thus, fossil/groundwater and renewable water sources are essential.

“Before CAP was here in the early 1970s and brought fully online in the 1990s, we had an overdraft of water,” Cooke says. “It’s

quite a bit different now, but the challenge with groundwater is certainly not over yet.”

Despite the drought and associated challenges, Arizona’s water systems have been able to accommodate the needs of its occupants.

“Nowhere else in the country does a



WATER STORAGE: The Granite Reef Underground Storage Project includes water from the Salt and Verde rivers, Central Arizona Project water via the South Canal, and reclaimed water via a pipeline from the Mesa water reclamation facility. (Photo courtesy of SRP)

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~ Michael Osanloo, CEO of Portillo's
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major metropolitan area possess a water supply that is as resilient to such long, dry periods,” Roberts says. “Drought cycles of 20 to 30 years are normal for our arid region. Based on tree ring studies that look back nearly 1,000 years, we know that these extended drought periods also include ‘spike years,’ such as 2019, when SRP’s total reservoir system storage climbed from 56 percent to 80 percent in one winter.”

Past efforts in water conservation and management have positioned Arizona for a hopeful future when it comes to water, but experts collectively agree that remaining vigilant and forward-thinking must remain a priority.

“I think we all agree that we cannot rest on the laurels of our past accomplishments,” Megdal says. “Instead, we must chart our water-course forward. We face challenges going forward that are as diverse as our state’s communities and geographic features.”

“We need to plan ahead, be proactive, and seek entrepreneurial solutions,” adds Panchanathan. “If we continue as we are today without any changes, we won’t have

the quantity of water we need. And, we must ensure that in addition to having the quantity of water we need, that we also have the quality. Challenges come about when we think about the safe and quality water supply we need going forward.”

SMART WATER PLANNING

Potential Arizona water issues ahead are as complex as they are varied. With fluctuating climate variables, challenges in forest-water management, water-produced energy needs and quality concerns regarding reusable water, how do Arizona’s researchers and thought leaders plan to address these elements?

“Although we have significant challenges, we also have the capacity to find solutions,” Panchanathan says. “One of which is the compilation of a congressional committee designed with the priority of finding collaborative, innovative and collective ways to address short- and long-term water needs.”

Beyond congressional collaboration, Arizona exemplifies continuity in caring for the future of water in several areas. Again, this is a fact not lost on Arizona

Forward. One of this year’s Environmental Excellence Awards went to Gila River Indian Community Mar 5 Interpretative Trail, which gives visitors a chance to learn about the traditional uses of native plants to the area and about the importance of the Gila River to the Akimel O’otham.

“The Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project partnered with Hunter Contracting to construct a quarter-mile-long, concrete-lined ditch to deliver a portion of the Community’s Colorado River (CAP) water into the Gila River to be stored for a future day when there will be surface water shortages,” says Stephen Roe Lewis, governor of the Gila River Indian Community. “The first water was released into the Gila River on August 24, 2015. Since that time we have stored over 45,000 acre-feet in the river downstream of the MAR 5 Gila River Interpretive Trail.”

Arizona Forward also recognized the efforts of UA, ASU, Northern Arizona University, and the National Forest Foundation (NFF) for their ongoing initiatives in water sustainability.

“The University of Arizona has a long history of performing cutting-edge





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research related to water quality, water quantity and engaging with and educating communities throughout the state,” Megdal says. “UA faculty and staff have been highly engaged in researching the safety of food grown in Arizona, the quality of our water supplies and understanding hydrologic systems, as well as working to understand how the built environment can enable greater water use efficiency.”

SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION

ASU is helping to spearhead several water conservation and sustainability initiatives, many of which are innovative and technology-driven. This includes a proposed Water Resilience Center to bolster hydrology to the schools of humanities, engineering, economics and more, as well as resources like the Virtual Water Security Decision Support Tool to understand, model and predict water systems under future extremes, and a Drought-Proofing Manufacturing Hub to support water-aware business growth and value of water as raw material in product development.

“At ASU, we conducted a survey of corporate water users in Maricopa county,” Panchanathan says. “Seventy percent reported that water was critical to their business. However, they also stated that they did not understand the true cost of water usage beyond their water bill. This means we need to get these industries



Ted Cooke



Rebecca Davidson



Sharon B. Megdal



Sethuraman Panchanathan



Dave Roberts



Stephen Roe Lewis

together to discuss water practices.”

To address some of the challenges associated with forest areas such as the Lower Salt River, UA is helping to champion the Lower Salt River Riparian Restoration Project in an effort to protect water supplies by reducing the risk of fire, flood, sedimentation and erosion within the watersheds.

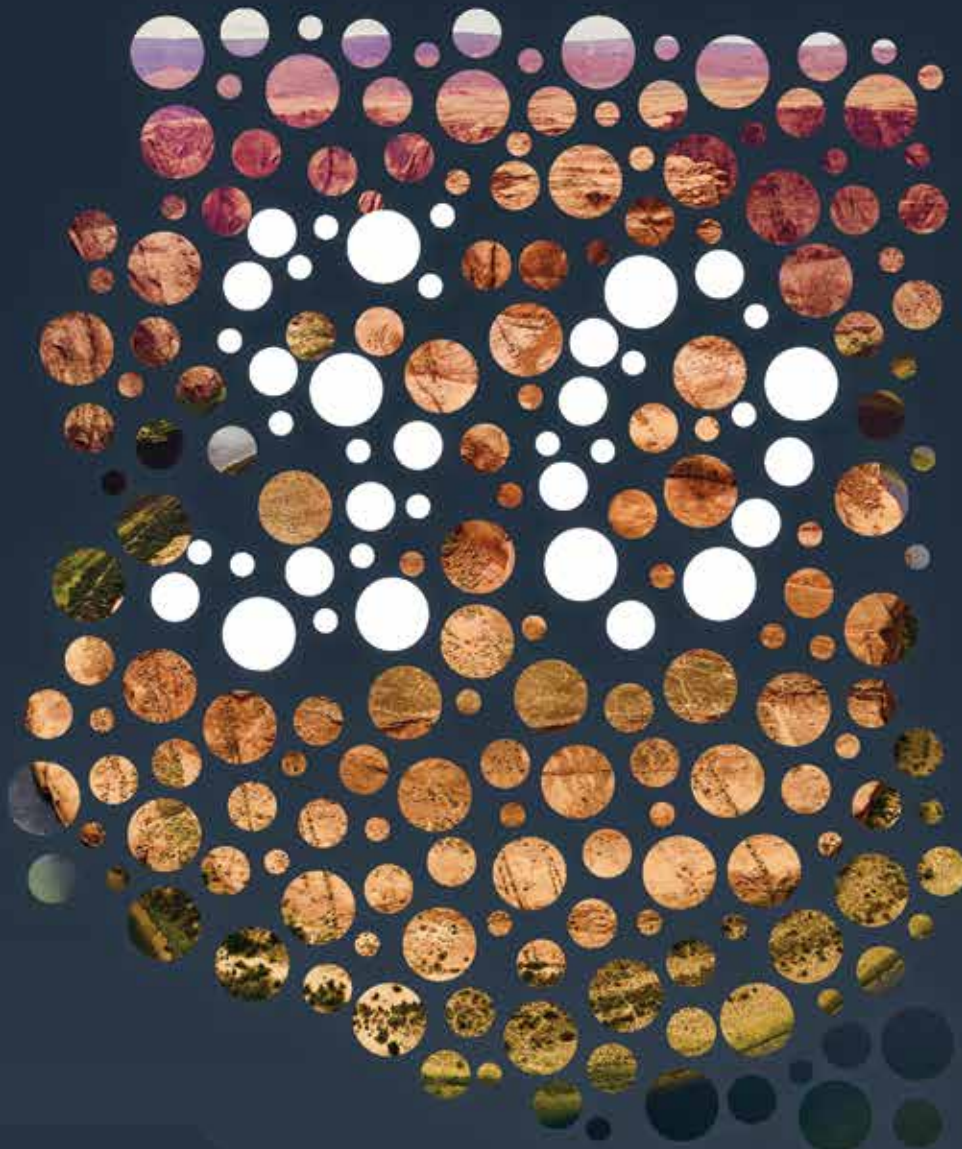
“The NFF has teamed up with the Tonto National Forest, Northern Arizona University, Intel, SRP’s Trees for Change program, Boeing, Arizona Audubon, Arizona Forward and Salt River Tubing to launch a broad program of work to begin restoration of the Lower Salt River,” says Rebecca Davidson, director of the Southern Rockies Field Program for the National Forest Foundation. “In doing so, we are leveraging a range of interests and opportunities — from measuring the volume of water replenished, the number of trees planted, increased diversity in birds and wildlife, and connecting communities and youth to the values of natural resources and being outdoors.”

Along with the spirit of collaboration, Arizona has what all experts agree is an exceptional infrastructure in the state to support smart water planning for the next 50-plus years. The key to continued success is leveraging existing relationships, celebrating bipartisan congressional support and continuing to work smarter and harder. **AB**

WATER HITS HOME

“Each year, we host a summit on human dignity,” says Bob Ryan, principal at Brophy College Preparatory, a Jesuit school. “We focus on a different topic each year and this year water is our emphasis ... Recently, the Jesuits announced four apostolic preferences, which serve as priorities for all Jesuit works for the next 10 years. One of these preferences is

the ‘Care of Our Common Home’ and this is one of the reasons we are focusing our summit on water.” In addition, Brophy’s Fine Art Department will participate in the 2020 Phoenix Mural Festival, which is focusing on the area of the canals between 7th Avenue and 7th Street. Local artists will be hired by property owners to create murals with a theme of sustainability and highlight the canals popularity as a resource for exercise and recreation.



50TH ARIZONA FORWARD

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GROWTH MODE

Arizona Forward's Emerging Sustainability Leaders program helps develop new generation of leaders

By ERIN THORBURN

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, Arizona Forward is already grooming the next generation of leaders who will help usher the organization through its next 50 years.

Launched in December of 2018, Arizona Forward's Emerging Sustainability Leaders program is cultivating local stewards in sustainability business leadership. The program is geared toward early to mid-career professionals who have been identified for their leadership potential. Participants in the pilot class were selected for their commitment to sustainability; capacity to integrate sustainability into their organization; interest in being a long-term influencer in Arizona's sustainability initiatives; and the capacity to take on a new challenge. The selection process resulted in a balance of participants from government, nonprofit and business organizations.

"As we celebrate the 50th anniversary year of Arizona Forward, our members saw an opportunity to grow leaders who could merge sustainability and business goals to steward our resources as we head into the next 50 years," says Lori Singleton, president and CEO of Arizona Forward. "Cultivating and equipping these next-generation leaders today will fill a niche in practice-based sustainability learning."

Eager recipients of the Emerging Sustainability Leaders program infuse their learned sustainability knowledge back into the organizations from which they were nominated — as well as within their local communities. Everyone wins and everyone embraces greater environmental understanding and, in many instances, compassion.

REFLECTING VALUES

"The Emerging Leaders program was designed to expose everyone to the full spectrum of Arizona's foremost environmental concerns — clean power, clean air, clean water," says Gina Durante, program manager for Salt River Project's School of Energy. "Each month, we focused on one of these sustainability topics. The beauty of the program is that globally relevant issues are presented from the perspective of Arizona's civic and business leaders, which also happen to be member organizations of Arizona Forward."

Durante was nominated by her manager, Gary Blanchard, who works in strategic energy management for SRP. Additional nominators include Michael Marquess, founder and CEO of Mother Road Brewing Co.; Laura Canaca, division coordinator



of information, education, recreation and legislation for Arizona Game and Fish; and Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, among others.

When asked why she felt Blanchard selected her for the Emerging Sustainability Leaders Program, Durante explained that it was likely due to her passion for sustainability, education and helping others.

"I educate on sustainability every day as one of the program managers for the SRP School of Energy program," Durante says. "The School of Energy is an interactive partnership between SRP and elementary schools that engages students, educators and communities in energy education and conservation."

Durante's passion for both learning and sharing insight into sustainability is shared by current program participants, as well as last year's program nominees.

DEEP-ROOTED INTEREST

"I've been interested in circular economy for a while, but I only recently learned it had a name," says Trevor Root, emerging sustainability leader and civil engineer for HDR. A circular economy is an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources.

"I grew up on a small farm and my dad worked at a steel scrap yard, so we repurposed nearly everything we could while I was growing up," Root says. "It's only recently that I've learned how critical it is for our economy and environment that everyone practices these types of circular economy principles as part of our daily lives. I'm currently promoting circular economy education and office composting as the champion of HDR's Phoenix office Green Team."

During the eight-month program, selected Emerging Sustainability Leaders program participants meet once a week and travel to various locations in the state. During their time together a lesson plan is developed, with the ultimate goal of preparing future generations to lead the way in sustainability.

Graduates and current nominees gain exposure to a wide spectrum of real-time sustainability topics from experienced industry leaders.

"It's one thing to learn something, but to actually see it in practice really sticks to you," says Andrew Iacona, project manager for Northern Arizona University. "While all of the tours were very impressive and noteworthy, I particularly enjoyed the tour of the Ocotillo Intel facility and am sure that this experience will be etched in my mind for years to come."



Gina Durante



Kate Gallego



Andrew Iacona



Trevor Root



Lori Singleton

Iacona explains that whether it is a tour or weekly educational sessions, the continuity of learning yields valuable results.

LESSONS LEARNED

“There was an underlying theme to each of the lessons that blended together — an approach to ensuring that sustainability was on the agenda at each of the organizations we heard from,” he says. “My key takeaway is that this was done by packaging and delivering the material in a way where you clearly know how sustainability fits in your organization by knowing your organization’s needs and knowing your people.”

Advocates and educators in environmental sustainability agree that connectivity is essential. Not only in educational messaging, but in linking like-minded thought leaders.

“By connecting emerging leaders who have an interest in integrating sustainability practices in their respective fields with expertise, training, and a strong network,” says Gallego. “Arizona Forward helps to encourage cross-sector collaboration to lead our state into a more sustainable future.”

Gallego explains that while many organizations offer one-time events that provide forums for sustainability-focused discussions and training, Arizona Forward provides continued investment in each year’s nominees and networks that will last a lifetime.

“Today’s emerging leaders have the drive and desire to make their communities more sustainable,” Gallego says. “Arizona Forward helps to provide them with the tools, information, and relationships they need to succeed.” **AB**

A large photograph of Oliver Adams, a man with dark hair wearing a brown blazer, smiling and holding a glass of beer in front of a dark, industrial-looking background with a bright light source behind him.

EMERGING SUSTAINABILITY LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Emerging leader Oliver Adams, director of people and culture for Mother Road Brewing Company, helped launch the “Conserve and Protect Kölsch” campaign. Nominated for the Emerging Sustainability Leaders program by Michael Marquess, founder and CEO of Mother Road Brewing Co.; and by Laura Canaca, division coordinator of information, education, recreation and legislation for Arizona Game and Fish; Adams helped initiate a sustainability effort to benefit the Arizona Gaming and Fish Department.

Through 2020, when a case of Kölsch beer is purchased featuring a limited-time specialty label, \$1 is parceled to the wildlife conservation and preservation fund of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

“I was nominated to the Emerging Leaders program because I’ve expressed my career goal to make a meaningful impact in sustainability,” says Adams. “In joining the Emerging Sustainability Leaders Program, I hope to build relationships with other leaders who are passionate about sustainability, gain a better understanding of the sustainability challenges that Arizona faces and learn how I can contribute to the solutions for those challenges.”

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Environmental Excellence Awards

Arizona Forward showcases the state's progressive efforts toward sustainability and improving our environment

By MICHAEL GOSSIE

It's not often that an organization can celebrate 50 years of impact. But Arizona Forward did just that with this year's prestigious Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Awards presented by SRP.

"The gala was a special evening and we were proud to honor some very important projects," said Lori Singleton, president and CEO of Arizona Forward. "There were many project nominations related to water this year, which shows how focused the Arizona community is on this vital resource."

The President's Award, the top honor of all project submissions, was given to Mar 5 Gila River Indian Community Interpretive Trail. A collaboration between the Gila River Indian Community, Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project, Neil & Young Associates and Hunter Contracting Co., worked on the Managed Aquifer Recharge Site 5 (MAR 5) and Interpretive Trail giving Gila River Indian Community

members a sustainable way to provide water for farming, materials for artisans to carry on their crafts, and educational classes to teach future generations after decades of being dried up land.

The Governor's Award for Arizona's Future was presented by Anni Foster, general counsel for Gov. Doug Ducey's office. The Crescordia Award, the highest honor within each category, went to Arizona's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and the committee co-chairs. Tom Buschatzke, director with the Arizona Department of Water Resources and Ted Cooke, general manager with Central Arizona Project, worked together as DCP committee co-chairs and accepted the award.

Here are the recipients of the other Crescordia Awards:

• **Private Sector Sustainability Champion — Intel Corporation:** Intel has committed to restore 100 percent of the company's global water use through collaborative

projects that restore water to watersheds that benefit communities. The corporation has funded 10 projects in collaboration with nonprofits to support Arizona watersheds. Once completed, these projects will restore about 650 million gallons of water to the environment each year.

• **Public Sector Sustainability Champion — City of Scottsdale, Scottsdale Water:**

The Choose Tap! awareness campaign aims at increasing consumption of tap water as a safe, affordable alternative to bottled water. In three months of operation, the City's water trailer has distributed 11,575 gallons of water, equivalent to 74,054 one-time use water bottles.

• **Buildings and Structures, Civic — Salt River-Pima Maricopa Community Justice Center, Gould Evans:** The SRPMIC center is a tribal court and practitioners' building located on 4.3 acres of Indian Community land. Redefining traditional judicial



AWARD WINNER: The Salt River-Pima Maricopa Community Justice Center earned Arizona Forward's Environmental Excellence Award for Buildings and Structures, Civic. (Photo courtesy of Gould Evans)

environments, while considering the natural landscape, was an essential goal for the tribal members and design team alike.

• **Buildings and Structures, Historic Preservation — City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation, Band Building Steele Indian School Park:** On the National Register of Historic Places and just west of Memorial Hall, this project was a partnership with the City of Phoenix Parks Department the Native American Connections and the Phoenix Indian Center. The 6,000-square-foot space was transformed into a space for education and reflection. The new space is intended to help educate people unfamiliar with what the park used to be.

• **Buildings and Structures, Commercial & Institutional — the Bob & Renee Parsons Leadership Center for Girls and Women at Camp South Mountain, Marlene Imirzian & Associates Architects:** The project reflects the values of the Girl



AWARD WINNER: The Bob & Renee Parsons Leadership Center for Girls and Women at Camp South Mountain earned Arizona Forward's Environmental Excellence Award for Buildings and Structures, Commercial & Institutional. (Photo courtesy of Weitz)

Scouts, a supportive place for girls to develop skills and foster community, and an example of sustainable desert development.

• **Site Development and Landscape, Landscapes and Preserves — MAR 5 and Gila River Interpretive Trail, Hunter Contracting Co.:** The trail gives Gila River Indian Community members a sustainable way to provide water for farming, materials for artisans to carry on their crafts, and classes to teach future generations not only about their heritage but also how to carry on the farming and artisan traditions.

• **Site Development and Landscape, Landscapes and Preserves — Lower Salt River restoration project, National Forest Foundation:** The purpose of this project is to restore an 11-mile stretch of the Lower Salt River by removing exotic plant species, planting over 500,000 native plants, and developing educational and volunteer opportunities.

• **Healthy Communities, Public Policy/Plans — sustainable action plan for county operations, Pima County Government:** The plan's purpose is to address the climate challenges of today. The Plan is an expansive and multi-faceted initiative, covering nine different sustainability focus areas.

• **Art in Public Places — 7th Avenue Streetscape, Canary, a Gould Evans Studio:** The 7th Avenue Streetscape is a rotating public art exhibition comprised of six large existing panels that regularly feature

local Phoenix artwork. The narratives focus on sustainability to increase public awareness for reuse, recycling and social consciousness.

• **Technology Innovation — Arizona Water Watch, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality:** The program applies innovative ideas through multilevel volunteer opportunities ranging from sending information and photos through a mobile app to collecting weekly water samples. It has consolidated answers from over 15,000 questions and 1,800 photos submitted through the mobile app and produced outstanding results.

• **Environmental Education & Communication — 2019 Ten Across Water Summit, University City Exchange at Arizona State University:** The Interstate-10 corridor provides the most compelling window on the future of the country, one which presents the challenges of the 21st century in the highest relief. Ten Across engages this region as a living laboratory for resilience and innovation.

• **Waste Reduction — City of Mesa Household Hazardous Materials Facility:** The facility collects items such as cleaners, automotive fluids, pool chemicals, tires, and appliances to keep materials from contaminating the environment, landfills, wastewater treatment plants, and solid waste vehicles. Approximately 30 percent of all materials collected for disposal are in good enough condition to be reused and are placed into the "Swap Shop," where Mesa residents can shop for free. **AB**



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