Mission and Vision

The mission and purpose of Project Cities is to assist cities with the advancement of sustainability initiatives by connecting students and faculty to sustainability projects prioritized by community stakeholders.

Through a win-win-win framework, community partners benefit from the partnership through research-backed solutions and exposure to cutting-edge research, while faculty and students have the opportunity to engage in a project-based learning environment that allows them to apply course learnings to real-world challenges.

Vision

Students engage in innovative and practical solutions with local communities, advancing both communities’ sustainability goals and students’ career paths.

Project Cities connects higher education with local communities, creating a powerful combination of knowledge and know-how.

Program Impacts

2017-2022 Impact at a glance

- 4 communities
- 36 project portfolios
- 38 faculty
- 28 colleges and schools
- 1,000 students
- 75 class projects

Real-world impacts

The Fall 2017 Off-leash Dog Park project with the City of Apache Junction reinvigorated the City’s dog park project. Key student recommendations informed the dog park site selection, amenities, and funding strategies. The Dutchman Dog Park opened in Spring 2022.

The Spring 2022 Fine Glass Recycling project with the City of Peoria led to a new cost-sharing agreement with the Phoenix Municipal Recycling Facility to purchase new equipment for processing fine glass into a viable commodity.

Recent Projects

City of Peoria
Spring 2022 & Fall 2022
- Microtransit Feasibility Assessment
- Fleet Electrification Plan
- Extreme Heat Communication
- Green Waste Scaling
- Senior Resource Guide
- Water Policy Strategy
- Tiered Water Rates Study
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Historic Plan Review

Town of Clarkdale
Spring 2022 & Fall 2022
- Community Arts Incubator: Opportunities & Strategies
- Community Survey
- Employee Handbook Review

Community Partners

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