Economic Impact of Implementing a Circular Economy in the City of Phoenix

Prepared by the L. William Seidman Research Institute on behalf of the Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives

TOTAL POTENTIAL IMPACT

- **$124 million**
  6-year additional contribution to Gross State Product
- **34,000 tons**
  recycled materials diverted
- **55 new jobs**
  at new or extended facilities
# Economic Impact of Implementing a Circular Economy in the City of Phoenix

## Recommendations based on material source:

### PLASTIC:
- Establish a PET processing facility in the City of Phoenix
- **input:** $10-12 million capital expenditure investment
- **potential outputs:**
  - $113.5 million annual additional contribution to GSP
  - 9,100 tons (PET) volume of recycled materials (87% increase)
  - 50 jobs annual employment at new facility

### GLASS:
- Extend current 50,000 ton cullet processing operation in City of Phoenix
- **input:** $1.5 million capital expenditure investment
- **potential outputs:**
  - $11.4 million annual additional contribution to GSP
  - 14,100 tons volume of recycled materials (48% increase)
  - 5 jobs annual employment at facility

### PAPER:
- Adopt a multi-state approach where newspaper is shipped out of state but OCC is processed in-state
- **input:** $60 million capital expenditure investment
- **potential outputs:**
  - $437.4 million 6-year additional contribution to GSP
  - 156,000 tons (OCC needed) Only 22.5K available in Phoenix municipal waste stream
  - 140 jobs annual employment at facility

### METAL:
- Utilize existing scrap metal network in City of Phoenix
- **potential outputs:** Based on the utilization of the existing scrap metal network, no additional economic impact will be created.

## Why it matters:

“By cultivating public-private partnerships to turn trash into new products, Phoenix continues to drive the Circular Economy while stimulating local economic development. Through the application of Circular Economy principals to four materials in the city’s waste stream - plastic, glass, metals, and paper - we have the opportunity to create an economic impact of up to $123 million in gross state product and $61 million in real disposable labor income as indicated in the Economic Impact Study.”

Ginger Spencer
Director
City of Phoenix Public Works Department

“The Circular Economy is the next generation of manufacturing, and Phoenix is at the forefront with innovation. The sustainable products crafted and created by companies moving into this advanced industry sector will create job opportunities limited only by imagination.”

Christine Mackay
Director
Phoenix Community and Economic Development