

Tucson Conservation, Sustainability, and Climate Change Organizations

November 2023

These wonderful groups work in Tucson to protect our environment. Starting with organizations Rotary Club of Tucson Verde has helped with hands-on projects., here is a list of most of these great organizations. We encourage you to find one, two, or more to support with donations and/or your volunteer time.

Groups We Have Worked With:

Cooper Center for the Environment

Mission: Our mission is to increase ecological understanding and deepen feelings for nature. We do this by providing hands-on, research-based programs in science and earth education, by creating lifelong memories, and by inspiring learners of all ages to live more lightly and sustainably on the Earth.

Contact: COE-CooperCenter@arizona.edu

Website: <https://coopercenter.arizona.edu/>

Rotary Tanque Verde connection: We held our annual meeting at Camp Cooper and learned about all their programs.

Community Gardens of Tucson

Mission: Our mission is to build community gardens where Tucsonans grow food, work and learn together, and nurture well-being in our communities.

Contact: Jessica Paul, Community Outreach and Education Manager,
jessica@communitygardensoftucson.org

Website: www.communitygardensoftucson.org

Rotary Tanque Verde connection: Prepared garden beds for incoming class at the community garden located at Mary Meredith K-12 School Garden.

Felicia's Farm

Mission: Felicia's Farm grows naturally and donates 100% of our naturally grown vegetable and egg production to organizations serving people struggling with food insecurity.

Contact: feliciasfarm@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.feliciasfarm.org/>

Rotary Tanque Verde connection: We painted raised garden bed walls and constructed new chicken nesting boxes.

Iskashitaa Refugee Network

Mission: Iskashitaa Refugee Network creates opportunities to integrate UN refugees into the Southern Arizona community while educating the public and strengthening the local food system, reducing local food waste, and increasing food security.

Contact: information@iskashitaa.org

Website: <https://www.iskashitaa.org/>

Rotary Tanque Verde connection: We helped harvest surplus citrus from the Sunset Ridge neighborhood

Mission Garden

Mission: Mission Garden is a living agricultural museum of Sonoran Desert-adapted heritage fruit trees, traditional local heirloom crops and edible native plants. The Garden is managed by Friends of Tucson's Birthplace, whose mission is to preserve, honor, protect, restore, re-create, and promote the cultural heritages and historic landscapes of Tucson's Birthplace at the foot of Sentinel Peak.

Contact: info@missiongarden.org

Website: <https://www.missiongarden.org/>

Rotary Tanque Verde connection: Buffelgrass removal and trash clean up.

Native Seeds/SEARCH

Mission: Native Seeds/SEARCH (NS/S) is a nonprofit seed conservation organization based in Tucson, Arizona. Their mission is to conserve and promote the arid-adapted crop diversity of the Southwest in support of sustainable farming and food security. Native Seeds/SEARCH seeks to find, protect, and preserve the seeds of the people of the Greater Southwest so that these arid adapted crops may benefit all peoples and nourish a changing world.

Contact: info@nativeseeds.org

Website: <https://www.nativeseeds.org/>

Rotary Tanque Verde connection: We helped clean seeds in preparation for storage and prepared water harvesting features.

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks, and Recreation Trails Volunteers

Mission: To help build and maintain trails in Pima County's natural open space parks.

Contact: eeducation@pima.gov

Website: <https://www.pima.gov/1385/Volunteer-with-Natural-Resources-Parks-R>

Rotary Tanque Verde connection: We removed litter from Painted Hills Trails Park.

Sonoran Institute

Mission: The Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them. They work at the nexus of commerce, community, and conservation to help bring about a West where civil dialogue and collaboration are hallmarks of decision making, where people and wildlife live in harmony, and where clean water, air, and energy are assured.

Contact: Mike Zellner, Executive Director, mzellner@sonoraninstitute.org

Website: <https://sonoraninstitute.org/>

Rotary Tanque Verde connection: Santa Cruz River clean-up

Tucson Clean and Beautiful

Mission: A non-profit environmental advocacy and action organization that works to preserve and improve our environment, conserve natural resources, and enhance quality of life in the City of Tucson through educational and hands-on programs emphasizing personal action in recycling and waste reduction, land stewardship, urban forestry and beautification

Contact: tcb@tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org

Website: <https://tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org/>

Rotary Tanque Verde connection: One of the commitments we made as a club in our first months was to steward a public park via Tucson Clean & Beautiful Adopt-a-Park program. Our park is located at Miles Exploratory Learning Center on Highland just south of Broadway, selected for its proximity to two schools. It serves as the school's field, and is open to the public except during school hours.

Tucson Green Drinks

Mission: Green Drinks Tucson is a monthly happy hour for conservationists and community members to hang out and network. These gatherings are open to anyone who shares an interest in conservation and the environment.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/826202900793207>

Contact: mzellner@sonoraninstitute.org

Rotary Tanque Verde connection: Club members often attend.

Tucson Zero Waste

Mission: Tucson Zero Waste is a free zero waste collection drive for Tucson and the surrounding areas! As a community collaboration, our goal is to provide a resource for local households looking to reuse and recycle their commonly used goods safely and responsibly.

Contact: Cristina Polsgrove, cristina.polsgrove@tucsonaz.gov

Website: <https://tucsonzerowaste.com/>

Rotary Tanque Verde connection: Club members help at collection events.

Watershed Management Group

Mission: Watershed Management Group (WMG) develops community-based solutions to ensure the long-term prosperity of people and health of the environment. We provide people with the knowledge, skills, and resources for sustainable livelihoods.

Contact: info@watershedmg.org

Website: <https://watershedmg.org/>

Rotary Tanque Verde connection:

Other Tucson Conservation, Sustainability, and Climate Change Organizations

Arizona Land and Water Trust

Mission: Arizona Land and Water Trust protects Southern Arizona's vanishing western landscapes, its farms and ranches, wildlife habitat, and the waters that sustain them. In addition to our role as land steward, we also support programs that carry out our purpose, including appropriate legislation, public education, and outreach. We believe the preservation of Southern Arizona's landscapes and ecosystems to be vital to the well-being of all residents, present and future.

Contact: Michael McDonald, Executive Director, xxxxxxxx

Website: www.alwt.org

Arizona Sonora-Desert Museum

Mission: The museum inspires people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the Sonoran Desert.

Contact: info@desertmuseum.org

Website: www.desertmuseum.org

Arizona Youth Climate Coalition

Mission: The Arizona Youth Climate Coalition is a group of students from all across the state fighting for Climate Action in Arizona.

Contact: azycctucson@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/azyouthclimate/>

BICAS

Mission: Through advocacy and bicycle salvage, the mission of Bicycle Inter Community Art & Salvage (BICAS) is to participate in affordable bicycle transportation, education, and creative recycling with our greater Tucson Community. We believe in the bicycle as accessible transportation for all and do our best to make it so.

Contact: bicas@bicas.org

Website: <https://bicas.org/>

Center for Biological Diversity

Mission: we believe that the welfare of human beings is deeply linked to nature — to the existence in our world of a vast diversity of wild animals and plants. Because diversity has intrinsic value, and because its loss impoverishes society, we work to secure a future for all species, great and small, hovering on the brink of extinction. We do so through science, law and creative media, with a focus on protecting the lands, waters and climate that species need to survive. We want those who come after us to inherit a world where the wild is still alive.

Contact: Heather Rauch, Chief of Staff, hrauch@biologicaldiversity.org

Website: <https://biologicaldiversity.org/>

Citizens' Climate Lobby Greater Tucson Chapter

Mission: We exist to create the political will for climate solutions by enabling individual breakthroughs in the exercise of personal and political power. Our proposal is to establish national legislation to implement Carbon Fee and Dividend. A national, revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend system (CF&D) would place a predictable, steadily rising price on the carbon in fossil fuels, with all fees collected minus administrative costs returned to households as a monthly energy dividend. In 2023, CCL added three additional policy prescriptions that could extend the impact of carbon pricing. Those include healthy forests, building electrification and efficiency, and clean energy permitting reform.

Contact: Co-leads Jane Conlin (janeconlin5@gmail.com) and Ed Beshore (ecbeshore@gmail.com).

Website: <http://tucsonccl.com/>

Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

Mission: The Coalition's mission is to protect the biodiversity of the Sonoran Desert in southern Arizona through science-based advocacy, education, and collaboration. We work to create a community where: ecosystem health is protected; nature and healthy wild animal populations are valued; and residents, visitors, and future generations can all drink clean water, breathe clean air, and find wild places to roam.

Contact: Carolyn Campbell, Executive Director, Carolyn.Campbell@sonorandesert.org

Website: <https://www.sonorandesert.org/>

Compost Cats

Mission: Millions of tons of waste enter Tucson's landfills each year, and one-third is composed of organic materials that could be diverted and transformed via composting. Started in 2011, Compost Cats was the only organization in Southern Arizona accepting large volumes of food scraps, manure, brush, and other landscaping materials. From 2011 to 2018, Compost Cats diverted over 20 million pounds of organics from local landfills, making it an invaluable component to waste management and broader sustainability efforts at the University of Arizona and across the region.

Contact: Trevor Ledbetter, Director for the Office of Sustainability, tledbetter@arizona.edu

Website: <https://sustainability.arizona.edu/projects/compost-cats>

Defenders of Wildlife

Mission: Defenders of Wildlife is a national, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities.

Contact: Craig Miller, Senior Representative Arizona, cmiller@defenders.org

Website:

<https://defenders.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2020-11-conserving-arizonas-wildlife-and-wild-places.pdf>

Flowers & Bullets

Mission: We reclaim our cultural roots and amplify them through sustainability, art, and rebellion to heal and empower our neighborhood. Flowers are the art and bullets are the struggle. We are organizers creating outlets for under-served youth and communities, which highlight the life we live and the places that we come from. By sharing skills, promoting place-based connections in the barrio, and listening to each other's stories we promote sustainable ways of living. These ways of life address some of the traumas in our community, caused by disproportionate minority incarceration, drug addiction, physical and mental violence, food insecurity, health issues, and economic disparity.

Sustainable living practices are a way to combat the economic, health, and food struggles within our communities. Since the industrial revolution, the illusion of convenience has moved us beyond knowing where our food comes from and the process it takes to grow it. In this day and age, we find ourselves more disconnected from our cultures and traditional foods. These practices of growing and gathering food, water harvesting, and others, are ways for us to become self-dependent, utilize the resources and skills around us, and regain cultural traditions. It is also critical that overlooked communities of color aren't left behind in the fast evolving "Green" movement.

Contact: flowers.bullets@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.flowersandbullets.com/>

Friends of Ironwood Forest National Monument

Mission: This group works for the permanent protection of the biological, geological, archaeological, and historical resources and values for which the Ironwood Forest National Monument was established. The Friends provide critical volunteer labor for projects on the Monument, working with the Bureau for Land Management and many other partners, and to increase community awareness through education, public outreach, and advocacy.

Contact: Tom Hannagan, President, tom@thannagan.com

Website: <https://ironwoodforest.org/>

Friends of Sabino Canyon

Mission: We provide resources that conserve, protect, and enhance the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area. The success of Friends of Sabino Canyon is measured by our ability to attract and grow financial resources from our donor base and the timely deployment of those resources toward US Forest Service priority capital projects and programs.

Contact: Jim Darling, President, friends@sabinocanyon.org

Website: <https://sabinocanyon.org/>

Friends of Saguaro National Park

Mission: Friends of Saguaro National Park is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit fundraising partner of the National Park Service, created to help preserve, protect, and enhance the fragile environment and unique cultural heritage of the Sonoran Desert at Saguaro National Park. Our mission is to help protect wildlife and habitat . . . promote environmental education . . . improve recreational trails . . . enhance visitor experiences . . . and build environmental stewardship for the Park.

Contact: fosnp@friendsofsaguaro.org

Website: <https://www.friendsofsaguaro.org/>

International Dark Sky Association

Mission: The International Dark-Sky Association works to protect the night skies for present and future generations.

Contact: (520) 293-3198

Website: <https://www.darksky.org/>

Ironwood Tree Experience

Mission: To create healthy and resilient communities, Ironwood Tree Experience makes it possible for young people to engage with the natural world and be stewards of the environment.

Contact: (520) 829-7001

Website: <https://ironwoodtreeexperience.org/>

Living Street Alliance

Mission: We advocate for a thriving Tucson by creating great streets for all of us. We envision streets as living public spaces that connect people to places and to each other.

Contact: info@livingstreetsalliance.org

Website: <https://www.livingstreetsalliance.org/>

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Mission: Physicians for Social Responsibility are a group of health professionals and concerned citizens who advocate for better and more informed environmental health decision-making. Their Environment and Health Program addresses toxics and global warming.

Contact: Dr. Barbara Warren, BWare01@gmail.com

Website: <https://arizona.psr.org/>

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas

Mission: Fighting to protect the Santa Rita Mountains from the devastating impacts of mining.

Contact: info@scenicsantaritas.org

Website: <https://www.scenicsantaritas.org/>

Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter

Mission: The Grand Canyon Chapter seeks to engage its members and the public in protecting our communities; public lands, including national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges; rivers and streams; and wildlife -- as well as the people and communities who depend on them. We work to protect Arizona's wild places, wildlife, and waters. We also work to promote clean renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to global climate change -- as well as supporting transit, bike, and pedestrian resources in communities (to reduce air pollution and energy use).

Contact: Catalina Ross, Energy Program Coordinator, Catalina.ross@sierraclub.org

Website: <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona>

Sky Island Alliance

Mission: Its mission is to protect and restore the diversity of life and lands in the Sky Island region of the U.S. and Mexico. We're working to ensure the Sky Islands are a place where nature thrives, open space and clean water are available to all, and people are connected to the region and its innate ability to enrich our lives.

Contact: siainfo@skyislandalliance.org

Website: <https://skyislandalliance.org/>

Students for Sustainability

Mission: Students for Sustainability is program with the Associated Students of the University of Arizona that empowers students, builds leaders, and pursues institutionalized sustainability at the University of Arizona and within the surrounding community. Their Environmental Social Justice Committee's mission is to confront injustices at the intersection of environmentalism and social inequity.

Contact: sfsdirector@gmail.com

Website: <https://sfsdirector.wixsite.com/sfswebsite/contact-us>

Sustainable Tucson

Mission: Sustainable Tucson is a non-profit, grass-roots organization that builds regional resilience and sustainability through community engagement, awareness raising, and advocacy. We collaborate with others, to explore, envision, and share ways to create a sustainable community and develop grassroots tools for action to meet local needs sustainably.

Contact: Tres English, Board Member, tres@sustainabletucson.org

Website: <https://sustainabletucson.org/>

The Freecycle Network

Mission: We are a grassroots & entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving and getting stuff for free in their own Towns. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Membership is free. And now you can also set up your own, smaller personal Friends Circle for gifting and lending of items with just your friends!

Contact: info@freecycle.org

Website <https://www.freecycle.org/>

The Wilderness Society

Mission: Together we can protect public lands, now and forever. Each day thousands of acres of wild places are lost to mining, drilling, logging and other development. But we don't have to give it all away. Together, we can save our wildest lands for future generations.

Contact: Mike Quigley, Arizona State Director, mike_quigley@tws.org

Website: <https://www.wilderness.org/wild-places/arizona>

Tohono Chul Park

Mission: The Park's mission is to enrich people's lives by connecting them with the wonders of nature, art, and culture in the Sonoran Desert region and inspiring wise stewardship of the natural world.

Contact: info@tohonochul.org

Website: <https://tohonochul.org/>

Tucson 2030 District

Mission: The District is a local non-profit whose private-sector led, public-sector supported partnership brings property owners and managers together with local governments, businesses, and community partners to provide a business model for urban sustainability and reduction in climate change through collaboration, leveraged financing, and shared resources. By doing so, we are improving the health and welfare of Tucson and its citizens.

Contact: Karen Peterson, Chair,

Website: <https://2030districts.org/tucson/>

Tucson Audubon Society

Mission: Founded in 1949, Tucson Audubon is southeast Arizona's leading non-profit engaging people in the conservation of birds and their habitats. We involve people through recreational birding, extend their horizons through education activities, and engage them in conservation actions from planting trees and counting birds, to working with local, state, and national policy makers.

Contact: info@tucsonaudubon.org

Website: www.tucsonaudubon.org

Tucson Botanical Garden

Mission: The Tucson Botanical Gardens connects people with plants and nature through art, science, history, and culture.

Contact: (520) 326-9686

Website: <https://tucsonbotanical.org/>

Tucson Electric Vehicle Association

Mission: Tucson Electric Vehicle Association (TEVA) is a group of Southern Arizona electric vehicle owners and enthusiasts. It is a chapter of the Electric Auto Association (EAA) and advocates for environmentally clean, sustainable, petroleum-free electric transportation.

Contact: tucsonelectricvehicle@hotmail.com

Website: <https://www.tucsonelectricvehicle.org/>

Tucson Mountain Association

Mission: The association works to protect and preserve natural habitat, biological diversity, scenic quality, and the open spaces of the Tucson Mountains region

Contact: Denise Baldwin, President, Denise@TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

Website: <https://www.tucsonmountainsassoc.org/>

Tucson Solar Guild and Citizens for Solar

Mission: Tucson's Solar Guild and Citizens for Solar are two non-profit groups working together in Tucson, Arizona. The Solar Guild concentrates its efforts on solar power outreach and education projects the community, while Citizens for Solar organizes the Solar Potlucks and solar cooking demonstrations held in town at the Valley of the Moon, Catalina State Park and Mount Lemmon, just to name a few. Join us today and gain experience in the solar electric field or help us at one of our upcoming solar cooking events. At present we have over 650 me