

Updates from Phoenix Mayor Kate Gal... / 2024 in Review: Building a More Res...



2024 in Review: Building a More Resilient Phoenix

Smart Brevity® count: 4 mins ... 1052 words

As 2024 comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished together this

year. Phoenix continues to grow and evolve, and this year, we made significant strides in addressing some of our most pressing challenges.

From housing to sustainability, we've been hard at work creating solutions that will benefit Phoenix for years to come.

[Copy link](#)

Responding to Extreme Heat



This summer, Phoenix faced some of its hottest temperatures on record. We took decisive steps to provide relief and support for our community's most vulnerable:

- For the first time, the City of Phoenix offered [overnight and extended-hour respite centers](#), which saw over 36,000 visits and provided a safe and cool space for individuals during triple-digit temperatures.
- The City distributed 1.2 million water bottles and 10,000 heat relief kits through partnerships with local organizations and volunteers.
- We also introduced [retired shipping containers](#) as cooling stations, offering a creative solution for heat relief.
- The City installed [three chilled drinking water stations](#) in the downtown Phoenix area, which have delivered the equivalent of more than

100,000 bottles of drinking water to residents commuting in our urban core.

These efforts provided immediate relief during a challenging summer, and we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our residents in our plans for the future.

[Copy link](#)

Securing Our Water Future



As we face an unprecedented drought on the Colorado River, ensuring we have enough water for the future is more important than ever. In 2024, we took several important steps to conserve water and protect this precious resource.

Why it matters: With water resources in the Southwest under pressure, Phoenix is investing in programs and infrastructure to conserve water, recycle resources, and protect our city's future.

The details:

- **Mayor's Save Water Pledge:** Launched in 2024, the Pledge encourages residents to take practical steps to conserve water, such as fixing leaks and using water-efficient appliances. Over 500 residents committed to supporting this important effort. You can take the [Save Water Pledge](#) today!
- **New financial incentives** to save water:

- **Water-efficient upgrades:** Residents can receive up to \$75 for installing EPA WaterSense-labeled toilets or smart irrigation controllers. These upgrades can save up to **10,000 gallons** of water annually indoors and significantly reduce outdoor water use.

- **Grass removal incentives:** The City launched a \$2 per square foot rebate for removing grass and transitioning to sustainable desert landscaping, which can **cut outdoor water use by up to 85%**. Educational workshops and resources are also available to guide residents in transforming their yards.

- **Cave Creek Water Reclamation Plant:** This reclamation facility is on track to reopen in 2026 with advanced water purification technology. Once operational, it will produce up to **6.7 million gallons** of drinkable water daily, serving 25,000 households annually.

Climate Action Plan Milestones




We recently released our first [Climate Action Plan Progress Report](#), marking an important milestone

in our efforts to combat climate change and build a sustainable, resilient future for Phoenix. The report outlines our progress since the City Council adopted the Climate Action Plan in 2021.

Key takeaways:

- **Emissions:** We've seen a **20.5% decrease** in per capita greenhouse gas emissions since 2012. Reductions in both government and community emissions contributed to this positive trend.
- **Transportation:** We're expanding the light rail system and growing our alternative mobility programs to provide more sustainable transit options.
- **Energy:** We've increased renewable energy installations across the city, including new solar arrays at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. We are also in the [process of electrifying](#) our public transit fleet.

- **Waste  Resources:** Phoenix is diverting a third of its waste from landfills. I'm especially excited about the City's newest partnership with ASU, Goodwill, and Hustle PHX: a first-of-its-kind "[microfactory](#)" that is turning waste into new products while creating job opportunities for entrepreneurs in Phoenix.
- **Green Stormwater Infrastructure:** Phoenix began requiring green stormwater features—like permeable surfaces and landscaping—in certain new developments. These features help reduce flooding, conserve water using stormwater-sustainable plants, and cool down our neighborhoods.
- **Heat Mitigation:** Our efforts to combat the urban heat island effect include expanding built and natural shade and using [cool pavement](#) on our streets.

Why it matters: Phoenix is on the frontlines of climate change, and this progress report shows that we're on track to meet our ambitious sustainability

goals. We're focused on ensuring all neighborhoods benefit from these initiatives.

We're preparing to update our full Climate Action Plan in 2025.

- This process will include many opportunities to get involved in the community-wide effort to make our city stronger and more sustainable. [Stay tuned for more details.](#)

 Copy link

Expanding Shade Across Phoenix



In November, the Council and I passed the [Shade Phoenix Plan](#), a comprehensive update to the City's 2010 shade plan. This new strategy focuses on increasing shade coverage throughout Phoenix in areas that need it most, with metrics and funding to back it up.

Key details:

- **Goal:** Add 27,000 trees and 550 new shade structures over the next five years.

- **Target areas:** More than 50% of the

Office of the Phoenix Mayor



neighborhoods most vulnerable to extreme heat.

- **Funding:** The plan is backed by a combination of federal and local sources, including Phoenix’s General Obligation Bond approved by you, the voters. Thank you!



A shade structure covering a playground at South Pointe Elementary School.

What we've done:

- We've planted **5,400 trees across the city this year**, helping to make our neighborhoods more comfortable.
- We've also built nearly **50 shade structures at schools**, providing students with cooler, safer outdoor spaces to play and learn.

Why it matters: As we grapple with rising temperatures, this plan will help reduce the urban heat island effect, provide relief in public spaces, and improve the quality of life for Phoenix residents.

What's next:

- We're on track to **double the number of trees** we plant annually.
- Hundreds of new shade structures will be added to public spaces, including parks and bus stops.

- We'll continue focusing on equity, ensuring that vulnerable neighborhoods benefit most.

 Copy link

Looking back on 2024, we've made meaningful progress in creating a more sustainable Phoenix. Together, we are building a better future for us all.

I want to extend my deepest thanks to many of our awesome community members who have stepped up! Whether you took the Water Pledge, volunteered to do heat relief outreach, or helped plant trees, your efforts are making a difference.

Happy Holidays!

— *Mayor Kate Gallego*

 Copy link

