



TABLE OF CONTENTS

■	CEO Message	3
■	About Us	4
■	AZSA a Year in Review	5
■	Conservation	6
■	Clean Energy	7
■	Sustainable Food Systems	8
■	Urban Forestry	9
■	Urban Forestry Roundtable	10
■	Board of Directors & Staff	11
■	Financials	12



CEO MESSAGE

Dear AZSA Community,

I am thrilled to present our inaugural Impact Report, a testament to the remarkable achievements we have accomplished together on our journey toward a greener and more sustainable future. I am immensely proud of and grateful for our extraordinary work and ongoing transformative impact as CEO of AZSA.

IN THE COMING YEARS, WE WILL BUILD UPON OUR FOUNDATION OF SUSTAINABILITY, AMPLIFYING OUR EFFORTS AND EXPANDING OUR REACH.

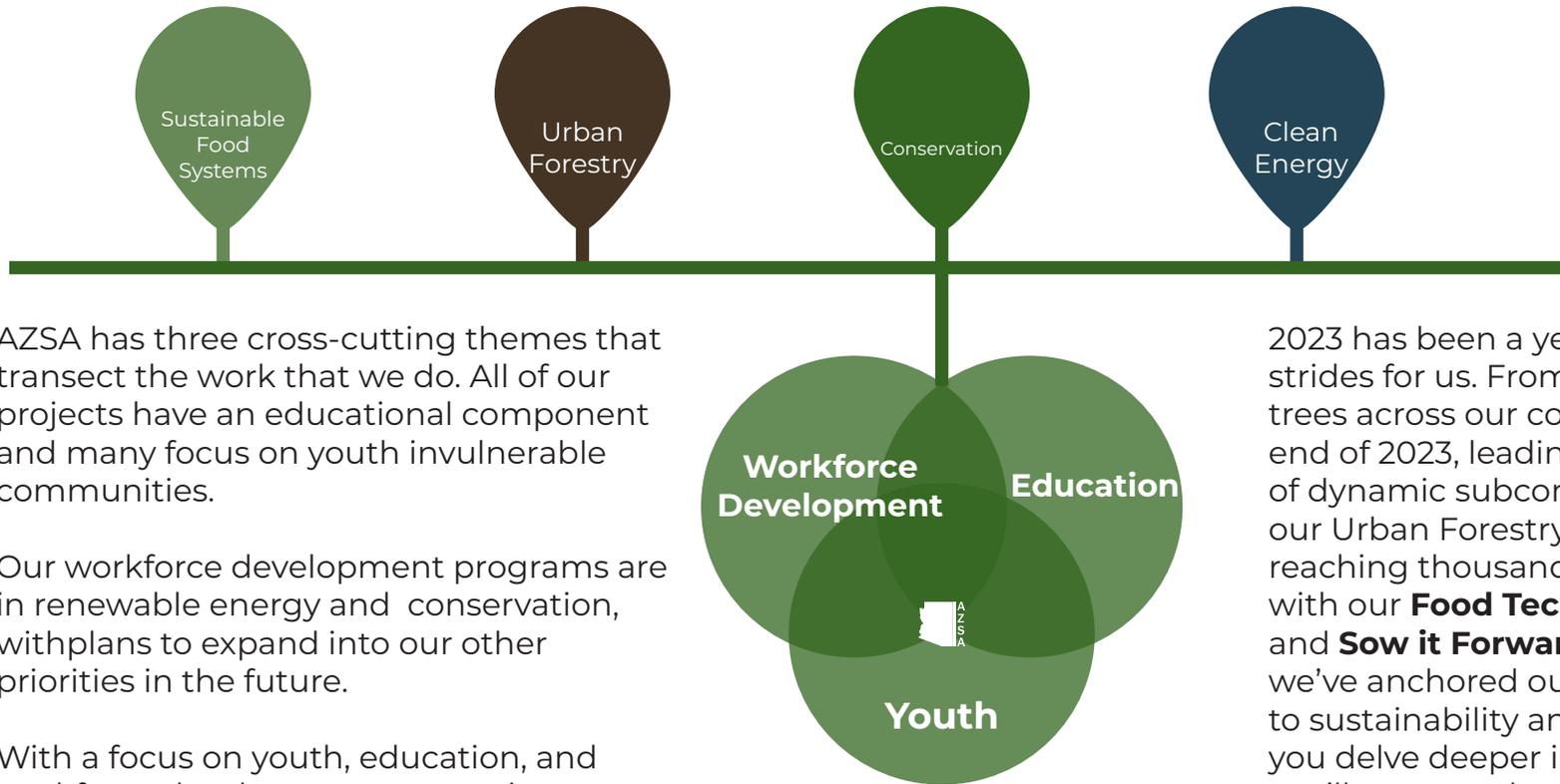
This report showcases the tangible results of our mission-driven efforts through some of the people and partners at the center of our work. From clean energy initiatives to conservation programs, our collective actions have created positive change throughout our community. We have witnessed the power of collaboration and the remarkable outcomes that arise when we come together with a shared vision.

But this report is more than a celebration of our past achievements. It also serves as a roadmap for our future endeavors. As we reflect on our successes, we also recognize the immense potential that lies ahead. We are eager to embark on new initiatives, push innovation boundaries, and inspire even more significant impact.

In the coming years, we will build upon our foundation of sustainability, amplifying our efforts and expanding our reach. We will leverage strategic partnerships, embrace emerging technologies, and advocate for policy changes to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable future. Through educational programs and community engagement, we will empower individuals to become environmental stewards and active participants in shaping a better world.

ABOUT AZSA

Arizona Sustainability Alliance (AZSA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit action and advocacy alliance that aims to create and support cutting-edge, project-based sustainability solutions in Arizona through civic engagement, collaboration, and education. AZSA empowers Arizona citizens to work together toward more verdant, equitable, and sustainable communities.



AZSA has three cross-cutting themes that transect the work that we do. All of our projects have an educational component and many focus on youth invulnerable communities.

Our workforce development programs are in renewable energy and conservation, with plans to expand into our other priorities in the future.

With a focus on youth, education, and workforce development, our projects go beyond impacting individuals to impacting communities in the long term.

2023 has been a year of impactful strides for us. From planting over 450 trees across our communities by the end of 2023, leading the formation of dynamic subcommittees within our Urban Forestry Roundtable, to reaching thousands of students with our **Food Tech for the Future** and **Sow it Forward** initiatives, we've anchored our commitment to sustainability and education. As you delve deeper into this report, you'll uncover the full spectrum of our achievements and get a glimpse of our vision for the coming year. Let's continue to grow and innovate together!

2023 A Year in Review

450 Trees Planted by end of year totaling over 2,000 trees and pollinators since AZSA's inception.

Urban Forestry Education initiative reached 1685 students

Food Tech for the Future 500 students, 5 active schools, 3 active districts



We added two new sites to our Help-A-Farm, and Adopt-A-Park volunteer programs

Graduated the first two cohorts of our Youth Workforce Development Programs

Sow it Forward 520 students, 7 active schools, 4 active districts

CONSERVATION

AZSA is helping to develop the next generation of conservation leaders in Arizona, bringing together students interested in conservation with environmental professionals to create innovative connections through the one-year workforce development pilot program, the Arizona Youth Conservation Workforce Development Program.

Buckeye Union H.S. District high school students participated in a 140-hour conservation work program. During their internship, students learned about and implemented restoration projects along the Rio Reimagined corridor, contributing to riparian restoration efforts in the area directly coordinated with state and county land agencies.



This year, we also recognized the achievements of our inaugural class of the Arizona Clean Youth Conservation Workforce Development Program at Youngker High School in Buckeye. The students were dedicated to conservation and ecology, engaging in advanced environmental science education and collaborating with organizations such as the Sci-Tech Institute, Audubon Society, Coronado National Forest, and Tonto National Forest.

# OF STUDENTS	# OF PROJECTS	# OF INDUSTRY MENTORS	# OF LEARNING HOURS
5	6	15	700+

CLEAN ENERGY

In 2023, AZSA recognized the achievements of our inaugural class of the Arizona Clean Energy Workforce Development Program at Metro Tech High School in Phoenix. The graduates dedicated two years to advanced college courses, summer internships, and collaborations with esteemed organizations such as Legacy EV, AES Defined, and G2 Energy Solutions.

One of the students, Angel Benavides, enjoyed learning how to save energy and reduce costs during the program. Additionally, he gained an internship at Legacy EV due to his work in the program. He was offered the position at the end of the program presentation. Angel will continue his studies at Arizona State University, pursuing a degree in electrical engineering.



“Doing the simplest things to help out on the utilities is more helpful than you know. Even just reducing your energy or switching rate plans can help you save a lot in your energy bill and save energy from the grid in the long run.”

- Angel Benavides



SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Sow It Forward helps teachers bring gardening and food education into their classrooms. Utilizing indoor, aeroponic tower gardens, classrooms can grow up to 20 plants per tower. These towers use a third of the water of traditional gardens. Crops also grow three times faster compared to formal gardens. **Over 2,500 students have benefited from Sow It Forward**, which provided them with education and access to healthy food. This program taught students how to grow healthy foods efficiently while conserving water.

For example, at Emerson Elementary, students make a difference in their community using their newfound knowledge of sustainable agriculture, healthy eating, and environmental stewardship.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF OUR SOW IT FORWARD AND FOOD TECH FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAMS, AZSA HAS HELPED OVER 5500 STUDENTS, LEARN THE POWER OF FOOD EDUCATION



	Sow It Forward		Food Tech For The Future	
	Since 2020	In 2023	Since 2020	In 2023
# of Students	2500	520	3000	500
# of Schools	26	7	20	5
# of Districts	10	4	8	3

URBAN FORESTRY

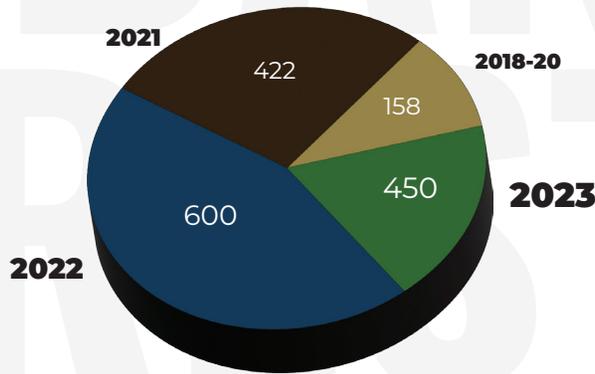
To mitigate urban heat effects and provide air pollution reduction, AZSA has partnered with various civic and private groups to advance our tree planting program. **AZSA is proud to be a part of the City of Mesa's goal to plant one million trees by 2050.**

2023 saw some major highlights and milestones. Students involved with the Arizona Youth Conservation Workforce Development Program helped lead the tree planting at Festival Fields Park in Avondale on Earth Day. These students led three classrooms that planted over 40 trees and 120 pollinators while clearing the whole public area of debris. We launched a new initiative in partnership with Blue Horizon HOA to **train residents and educate them** on the inventory and tree species **within their community.** We are looking forward to what the next year brings in store as we continue to increase our impact and our collaborative efforts!



AZSA WAS ABLE TO PLANT OVER 450 TREES IN 2023 THIS ACCOUNTS FOR OVER 36% OF THE TOTAL TREES AZSA HAS PLANTED SINCE ITS INCEPTION, WITH 2024 ALREADY GEARING UP TO SURPASS THIS YEAR!

AZSA has planted over 1530 trees since the start of our tree planting program



PHOENIX METRO URBAN FORESTRY ROUNDTABLE

In the sprawling expanse of Metro Phoenix, the relentless sun has always been both a boon and a challenge. As temperatures soared and urban spaces grew, so did the pressing need to tackle the harsh realities of urban heat islands, diminished air quality, and socio-environmental inequities. Enter the Phoenix Metro Urban Forestry Roundtable: a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of collaboration.

The Roundtable, formed with a singular vision, clear in its mission: to collaboratively enhance Metro Phoenix's urban forestry practices. The goal? Mitigate urban heat, uplift air quality, and infuse environmental justice through strategic municipal and private investments in trees, especially in vulnerable neighborhoods where the tree canopy is conspicuously absent.



Lorena Saldana



Paul Falsone

2023 heralded remarkable strides for the Phoenix Metro Urban Forestry Roundtable. This year, the spotlight shone on our dedicated team members, Urban Forestry Program Coordinators, Paul Falsone and Lorena Saldana. Their commendable efforts culminated in the creation of the Maricopa County Reference Tree List - a testament to our commitment to informed, sustainable tree planting.

Roundtable Members are crucial in achieving our goal. The members stem from the following organizations, municipalities, and partners.

- (AQD)
- ACTC
- American Forest
- APS
- Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (AZDFFM)
- Arizona Landscape Contractors Association
- Arizona Sustainability Alliance
- Arizona Tree Community Council
- ASU
- AZDEQ
- AZDOT
- AZNA
- AZNA
- AZ Trees
- Bank of America
- BevCo Properties
- Chispa
- City Forest Credits
- City of Apache Junction
- City of Buckeye
- City of Chandler
- City of El Mirage
- City of Gilbert
- City of Glendale
- City of Goodyear
- City of Litchfield Park
- City of Mesa
- City of Peoria
- City of Phoenix
- City of Scottsdale
- City of Surprise
- City of Tempe
- Cooperative Extension
- Corazon Latino
- Custom Weed and Pest Control
- DBG
- DMB Community Life
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Garfield Homeowner
- Genesis Landscape Solutions
- Global Institute of Sustainability
- Institute for Sustainable Communities
- Ipaper
- Keep Phoenix Beautiful
- League of Conservation Voters
- Education Fund
- Maricopa Association of Governments
- Maricopa County
- Maricopa County
- Extension
- McDowell Sonoran Conservancy
- Michigan Technical University
- Moon Valley Nurseries
- Patchwork community
- Pima County
- Power Towers Energy at Forestry and Farms
- S-2 Consulting
- Skin Cancer Foundation
- SRP
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- The Design Lab AZ
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tree Theory
- Trees make a change
- Trees Matter
- True Form Landscape Architecture Studios
- USDA
- Valley Leadership
- Valley Metro
- Vitalyst
- West Coast Arborist
- Wildlife Habitat Council

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Stephanie Maloney

Vice President

Ashley Camhi

Treasurer

Tom Cooper

Secretary

Nicholas McDonald

Board Member

Cameron Tall

Board Member

Sara Cook

Board Member

Jim Tomes

Board Member

Varun Thakkar

8205 S PRIEST DR, #11962

Tempe, AZ, 85284

azsustain.org

AZSA STAFF

Chief Executive Officer

Orlando Cazarez

Program Director

William Donato

Education

Operations Manager

Vanessa Padilla

Program Manager

Dr. Donna Jagielski

Education

Program Manager

Ouname Mhotsha

Workforce Development
Adopt-A-Park

Marketing & Communications Manager

Estevan Bellino

Grant & Fundraising Events Coordinator

Shawn Duquette

Program Coordinator

Paul Falsone

Tree Planting
Phoenix Metro Urban Forestry Roundtable

Program Coordinator

Lorena Saldana

Tree Planting
Phoenix Metro Urban Forestry Roundtable

**A VERY SPECIAL
THANK YOU TO
OUR DOZENS OF
DEDICATED STAFF
VOLUNTEERS**