

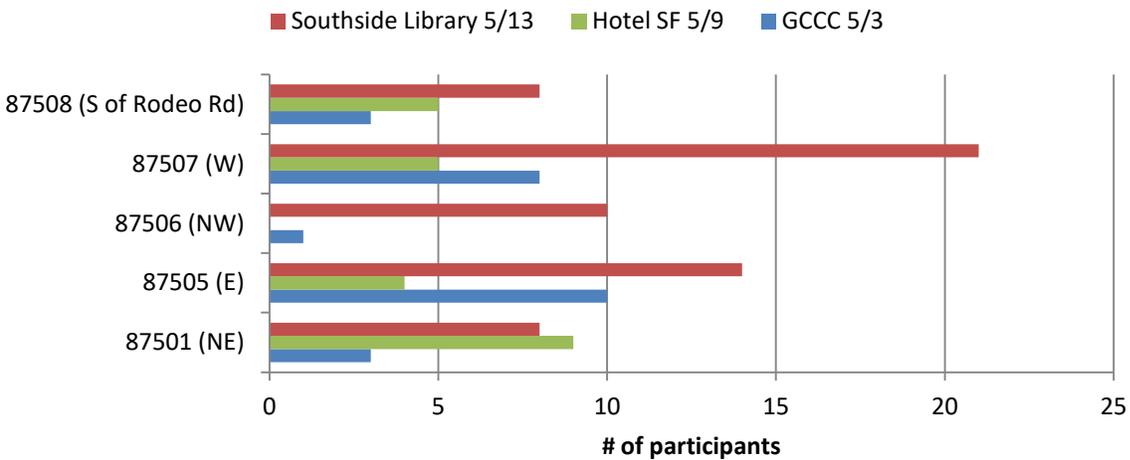
# SUSTAINABLE SANTA FE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

*Genoveva Chavez Community Center, May 3, 2017*

## 1. Attendance

There were about 30 members from the public, 2 City Councilors (Peter Ives and Mike Harris), the mayor, and 6 members of the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission.

**Zip codes of participants for community conversations**

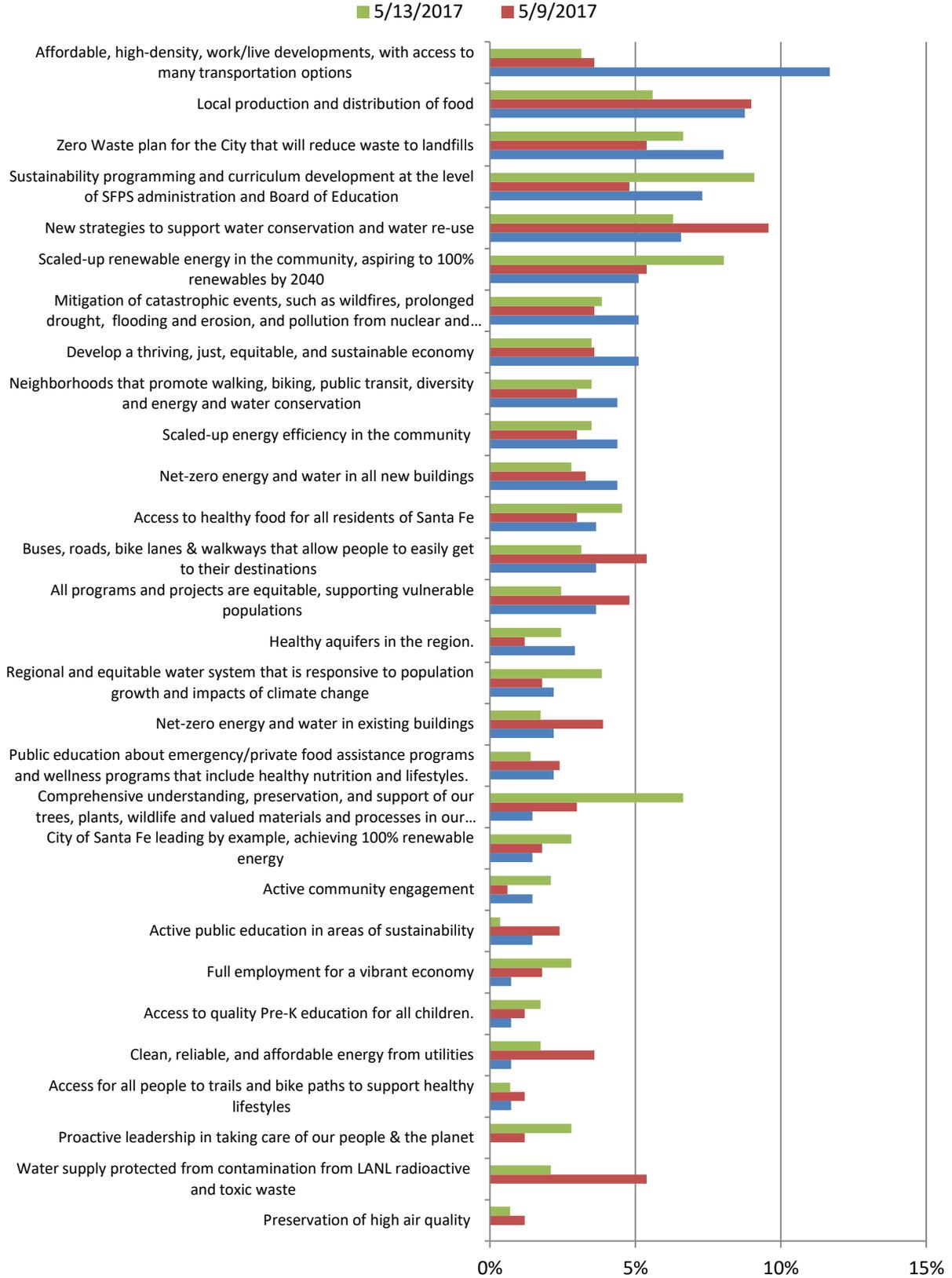


## 2. Prioritizing goals

Each community member was given 5 dots to place next to the goals on the working group posters that he/she thought were most important. The sums of the total dots on each poster are presented in the figure below.

It is important to note that due to the constraints of the exercise (e.g., only 5 dots, limited time, narrow slice of the community), the clustering of dots shouldn't be interpreted as reflective of the priorities of the community as a whole.

## Percentage of dots by individual goal



### **3. Community suggestions for additional goals/actions on posters**

Each poster had a space where the community members could add additional goals or actions on post-it notes that he/she thought were important, but missing. Below are the comments that were placed on each poster:

#### ***Social Equity***

- Have good jobs with insurance that make Santa Fe available/workable for seniors and young people
- There is a great deal of cultural capital that can be used to energize the sustainable SF goals
- Recruit a major progressive company to Santa Fe

#### ***Food Security***

- Avoid duplication of services and gaps in services in relation to food access

#### ***Education***

- Without education there is no chance for behavioral changes
- Confer with SF community educators network regarding hands on learning
- Work with Susan Duncan on extended learning (beyond the scheduled school day)
- We have to come up with an affordable option for low income families for early childhood education if we want successful students
- Coordinated advertising (information in public places) ongoing low-key but something that speaks to everyone
- Work with local artists to explore issues around sustainability – sustainable living festival

#### ***Waste***

- Recycling program for food and yard waste so it doesn't go to landfill
- Glass is very difficult to recycle in my neighborhood, would be great to have at least one option

#### ***Building and infrastructure***

- There is nothing about growth management/urban form
- With buildings emitting such a large amount of CO<sub>2</sub>, retrofitting should be a priority
- Eco-Districts shouldn't be limited to low-income neighborhoods
- Should have an annual innovation showcase in select neighborhoods

#### ***Transportation***

- Policies supporting working from home
- Some great best practices available at pps.org
- Missing the airport shuttle to ABQ that just got discontinued
- Non-toxic, cost-effective, low maintenance base-course for roads – lithified technologies
- Build Santa Fe's 1<sup>st</sup> high density mixed-use neighborhood center

- The insurance are so expensive that it is very expensive for a family to have 2 or more cars
- Have a planning process based on our values, Create innovation showcases in an expanded St. Mikes corridor to include EJ Martinez & ?? neighborhoods with greater density for young families, so walkable mixed use is viable, Community ownership mechanisms, Onsite integrated systems for affordability/lowered cost of living

#### **4. Community feedback from table discussions**

After reviewing the posters, community members were asked to join a discussion table in order to share and discuss their ideas. The facilitators at the tables led the discussions with the following questions:

- What issues are most important to you?
- What ideas/issues are missing (from our poster description)?
- What is your highest priority for action?
- How do you see yourself participating in the solution?

#### ***Transportation and Housing***

##### ***Public Transit***

- Bus system takes too long to get to destination (e.g., 2 hrs to get to SFCC)
- Some neighborhoods have longer walks to get to bus stop, which makes the total transit time even longer
- Need more hubs, so that to get to your destination you don't have to travel to only one or two hubs
- Some buses are crowded (e.g., on Cerrillos), while others are almost empty. Should have smaller buses on less crowded routes.
- Should have private micro-buses/vans that will be faster and more frequent going to many more destinations/neighborhoods
- Some bus stops have poor lighting, lack of garbage cans/benches, and no shade covers

##### ***Neighborhoods***

- There is not 1 walkable neighborhood in Santa Fe!
- In some Tierra Contenta it takes over 30 minutes to walk to get groceries, and then it is a gas station that sells unhealthy food.
- Would like to have denser/mixed use neighborhoods that offer more goods/services so I don't have to drive everywhere
- Could transform existing neighborhoods into greater mixed-use by eliminating regulations on small businesses so that people could open up their homes to sell food and goods
- There are so many stop signs in town that are not needed – the City should implement more roundabouts like other cities, to reduce stop/start and waiting times.
- No centers/corridors outside of downtown
- Should implement mixed-use examples at key locations that are ready for transformation like 1) St. Mikes, 2) Rufina (near Meow Wolf) and 3) Cordova/St. Francis

- How do we move away from a strip-mall infrastructure to a city design (more dense housing, work/live neighborhoods, etc.) where the average person can get most of their needs met within easy walking distance of home?

#### *Other*

- No enough engaging activities for youth – drugs are a big problem

#### ***Energy and the Built Environment***

- Getting solar energy fully integrated into Santa Fe, reducing emissions from coal plants. Energy and environmental issues go hand in hand and Santa Fe is in a good position to take a leadership role in this effort.
- City government should be taking a stronger role in ensuring the use of solar power for all its buildings – implementing all energy sources the law allows to achieve 100% renewable energy use. These demonstration sites could provide job development and economic development. In conjunction with this effort, the City can offer rebates to homeowners to encourage the use of solar energy on homes.
- The city can encourage creative financing for large scale development – savings over a 15-year period could help address the debt service.
- To address the issue of landlord/tenant homes, the city can work directly with property owners to enact demonstration sites that can show how electric use by tenants is reduced while offering some type of rebate for property owners to encourage their participation in a solar demonstration project, particularly with low-income residents.
- Other energy sources should be explored including the use of “recycled food grease” to power cars. Establish curb-side composting to fuel a bio-digester for energy production.
- Encourage development of companies that can manufacture electric charging stations here.
- Partner with the State, PNM and local government to encourage the state to:
  - Develop a tax on carbon dioxide emissions
  - Tax on Gasoline (which can be local also)
  - Subsidies for renewable energy
  - Develop storage capacity for renewable energy (such as pumped hydro storage)
  - Lobby for grid changes to allow 100% level of renewables
- Use arroyos to grow algae. This could be incorporated into the storm water management plan that the city has started to work on. This type of thinking is creative and encourages entrepreneurs.
- Increase (decrease?) energy use in buildings – a lower-cost approach to reducing emissions.
- **Ideas for implementation:**
  - Merge grassroots policies to affect statewide policy.
  - Upcoming elections (Governor for example) have the potential to change leadership focused on renewable energy – pay attention to Sierra Club endorsements.

## ***Water Use***

- Groundwater issues are a moving target and blurry due to the interconnectedness of underground water sources, the preponderance of human manipulation of groundwater resources, and water quality considerations related to dilution, depth, and pumping rates.
- Greater transparency on City water supplies on a given day in order to allow increased conservation on days when groundwater was being used. Also, concerns about the communal nature of groundwater vs. the independence of water use: people want to be able to use the wells they've drilled/the water they pay for BUT there's an impact to the larger community. Is it right for the larger community to dictate terms to individual water users given the communal nature of the resource OR is it the right of individuals to do whatever they want to with the water that they've secured?
- Resiliency and the range of meanings associated with the concept was also discussed. Opinions ranged about the definition of the term and the level of need required to address that as a criteria. There is a general consensus that this concept is important, and also that the precise identification of the level at which resiliency is needed may be a personal one. This notion ties into the greater good/individual right aspect of water use in the region.
- Values surrounding water need to be better understood in the context of other decisions people make that have an impact on water use. For example, in Eldorado there are laws that require cisterns to be buried and/or fenced off and rain barrels are required to meet certain aesthetic standards resulting in increased costs for rainwater catchment systems. This is being done despite the shared belief in the importance of water conservation because it is difficult to balance aesthetic and water conservation based concerns. This could be addressed through more education and public discussion of these values. This issue also overlaps with the greater good/individual right aspect of water use mentioned above. Climate Masters, a 10-week educational program developed by the New Mexico Environment Department and currently administered through the Santa Fe Watershed Association. This topic overlaps with the concept of a Water Charter, a document through which Santa Fe's citizens could express the values associated with water in order for those to be available to decision makers, as being promoted locally by David Groenfeldt.
- Creating showcase opportunities for homes with high water efficiency, particularly those showing the value of onsite rainwater catchment, should be promoted through hometours, online profiles, and new outlets. Within the attendees at the table, 3 had rain cisterns – and one of those cisterns was a huge 10,000 gallon one used to run the entire home. The City of Santa Fe is well known for its water efficiency and should take a leadership role in providing technical assistance and educational opportunities for other communities.

## ***Food/Education/Housing***

Members of this breakout group focused on Food, with the understanding that education plays a big role in food production, marketing and healthy consumer choices.

### *Role of poverty:*

- Most of those receiving food from feedsantafe.org are below the poverty level: 55% are on food stamps and need additional help; 60% make less than \$25,000 a year.
- Those with little money are forced to buy unhealthy food because it is cheap and because healthier, fresher food outlets may not be within reach to home or work.

### *Food education:*

- The levels of diabetes and obesity in the area are alarming; people need to be educated about the impact of processed, high fat and sugar foods.
- Nonprofits are reaching out to children in hopes that they will pass on information about healthy eating to their parents.
- Feedsantafe.org provides inside every bag of groceries recipes, tips on food handling and storage, and information on less well known produce items
- Education about the benefits of fresh produce and non-processed foods is critical to change shopping and eat habits.
- Farmers need training in how to increase their production yearround with greenhouses, how to expand their markets, and how to use new technologies.
- Need to change behavior in a major way.

### *Food Security:*

- There are fears that natural or manmade disasters can threaten a very fragile food supply.
- Climate change will inevitably impact farmers and ranchers; they need to know how to be resilient
- Steps in processed food production: the number of steps that are involved in producing processed foods is more than anyone would believe. The farmer may produce an organic crop, but by the time it is on the shelf it may have gone through many steps where seasoning, sugar, preservatives, etc. are added. In addition there is the production of the container, the label, and the storage and transportation of the product. By the time the item reaches the shelf it is hard to determine for sure what has been added, by whom, when and where.
- Food miles: The more food locally produced the better. The number of miles involved in bringing food to the consumer can be in the thousands -- apples from New Zealand, etc. This has an impact on the environment, the freshness of the item, and greatly increases our food security risk. However some imported products are more economic than locally produced counterparts, and it may not be possible to be completely self-sufficient.

### *Opportunities:*

- Learn from our indigenous neighbors: For hundreds if not thousands of years, tribes and pueblos have been surviving on food they hunted, grew, gathered and preserved. They have much to teach us about the value of native foods, their production, and how to prepare for disaster. Although the modern palate might prefer a more varied selection, local foods like game, corn, squash, beans, melons, berries and nuts can provide a balanced and healthy diet.

- Technology may create opportunities for enhanced food production and marketing. A 3D printer may be able to “print” food. Sparkfun is a website with good information for those interested in farming and food production.

### ***Environment, Waste, Climate Change***

- **Glass recycling.** This came up a couple times. My table felt that the city’s decision to no longer include glass in curb-side recycling means that many people will simply toss it in the trash. We need to find a solution to glass recycling...

### ***Education***

- “The right hand needs to talk to the left hand.” We discussed the critical need for an integrated, **cohesive internal system** at the city level, where various contractors and personnel are all working toward the same goals, under the same assumptions and values, within an organized system and under centralized coordination/direction. In addition to a public education campaign, there needs to be a system in place to educate contractors/personnel internally, so that everyone follows a cohesive sustainability plan. Everything is interconnected (roads and paths, water drainage, plant life, the river, transportation, public health, etc.)
- The need to utilize a variety of different media, including both social and print media, in order to reach both younger and older generations, rural and urban, etc.
- How well do people in the city understand the extent to which they rely on a healthy ecosystem for clean air, clean water, etc.? To what extent does the City take into account that economy and ecology go hand-in-hand... in order to change people’s behaviors toward the natural environment, the correlation of goals and actions to economics must be obvious.

### ***HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELF PARTICIPATING?***

- **Working Locally.** When asked how they saw themselves participating in the solution, both women at my table felt they would be most effective within their own small community, or their own small neighborhood. For example, Mary’s elderly neighbors started throwing away glass when it was no longer picked up with recycling, so she offered to take their recycling along with hers.