

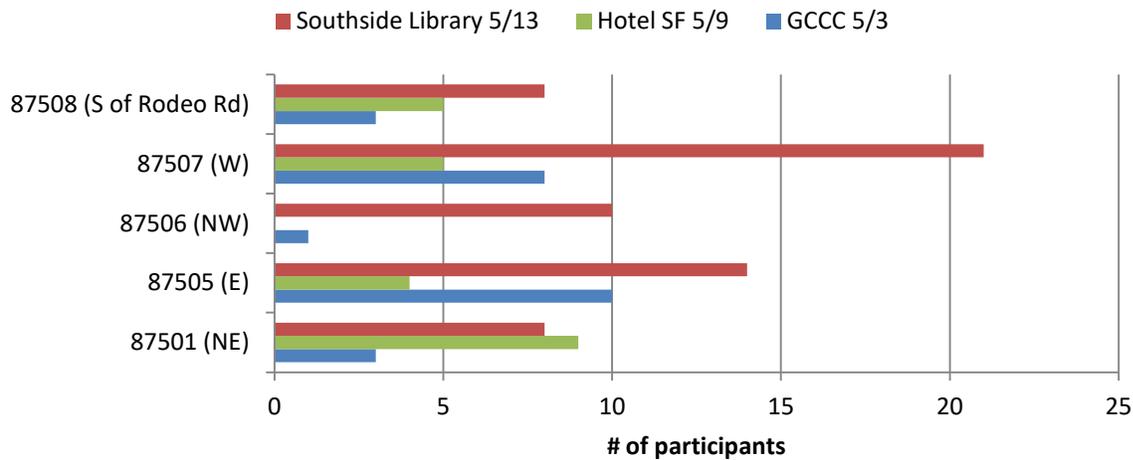
SUSTAINABLE SANTA FE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Hotel Santa Fe, May 9, 2017

1. Attendance

There were about 40 members from the public, 2 City Councilors (Signe Lindell and Renee Villareal), the mayor, and 5 members of the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission.

Zip codes of participants for community conversations



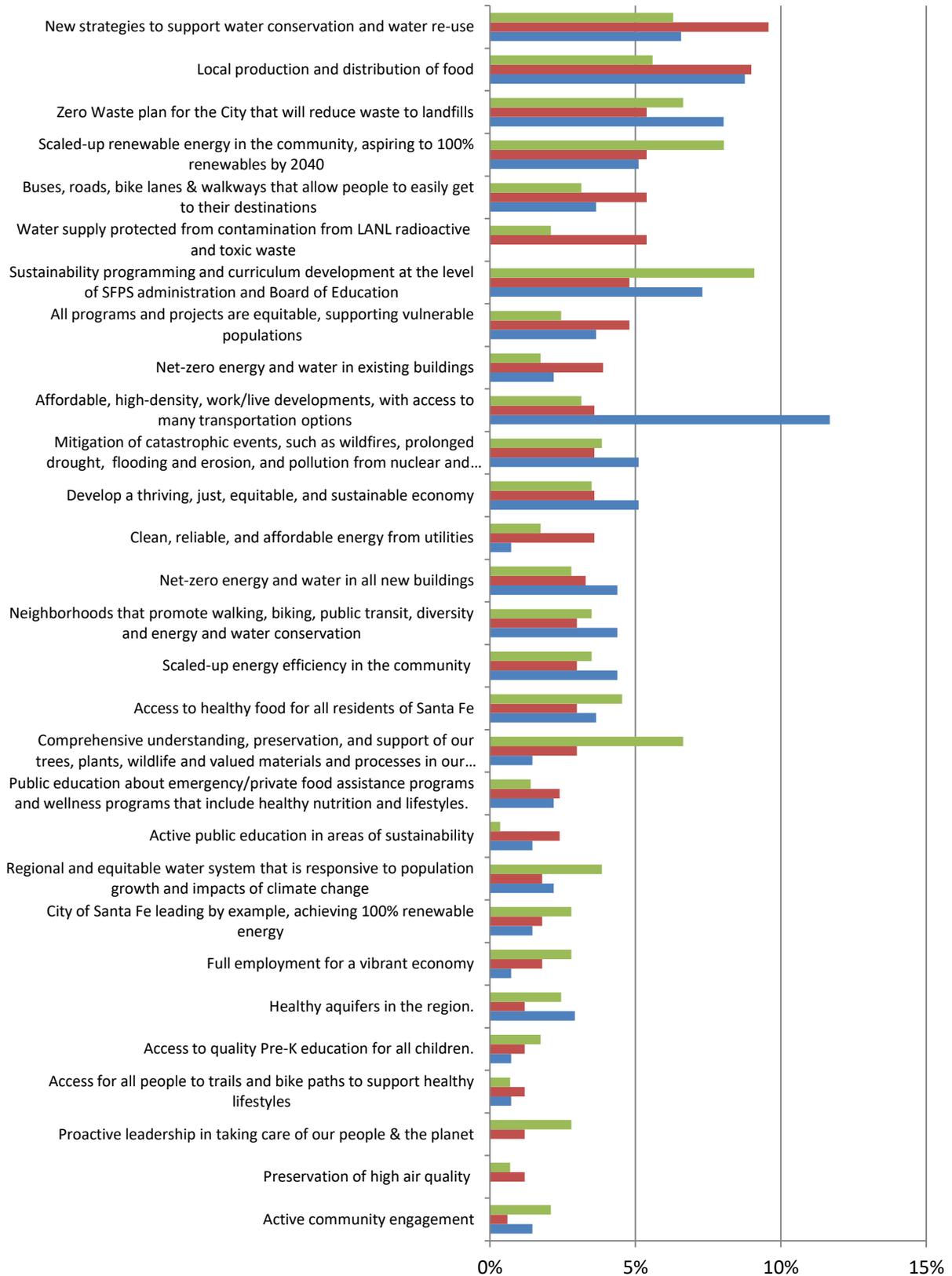
2. Prioritizing goals

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 purpose of the exercise was to motivate people to carefully read the content of the posters and think about their priorities. The sums of the total dots for each goal is presented in the figure below.

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

Percentage of dots by individual goal

■ 5/13/2017 ■ 5/9/2017



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

- Social equity is important and hard to communicate

Food Security

- Educate stores and consumers about best-by/sell-by dates
- Compost food leftovers and distribute leftovers from restaurants to those in need
- Encourage neighborhood/community gardens in all neighborhoods
- Support veterans who garden and make sure they have access to land

Water

- Grey water systems in rental units (multi-family housing)
- Stop using potable water for irrigation and other unnecessary uses
- Stop putting hazardous chemicals in the water system, like Flouride
- Differentiate between fact/fiction about LANL threat to water

Waste

- Make dumping nuclear waste (“ecocide”) illegal
- Residential composting programs supported by GRT (eliminate GRT support for waste tipping fees)
- Repair shops run by retired people who fix electronics, furniture, appliances, instead of sending them to the landfill
- Encourage city-wide composting and green-waste pickup
- Curbside compost pickup to get economies of scale for processing.
- Link zero waste to economic development (e.g., forest/watershed restoration turn wood chips to power, like they teach at SFCC)

Energy

- No smart meters
- Solar options for renters
- Community solar gardens for renters
- If state won't re-introduce 10% tax credit for solar installations, the city should instead
- Loans for electric cars with low interest rates for low-income families

Building and infrastructure

- Implement tiny homes ordinance and allow development within city limits

- Use infill eco districts all over the city, not just for low-income homes

Transportation

- Create safer designated bike routes and trails
- Educate the public about safe road sharing with bikes
- Make all vehicles electric

Economic development

- Buy local, create a long-range plan that increases local procurement by 10% by 2025 (for example)
- Encourage entrepreneurship among young people
- Look at wages in terms of profit created, not employers minimizing costs
- Keeping track of dynamic, complex factors is a challenge, and judgment on short term impacts might be premature.
- Entrepreneurial activity may help address city budgets, savings, and economic development

Implementation

- Involve political systems and neighborhood association to get out information
- Build in evaluation processes that include stakeholders

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

- UBER may be a good affordable way for people to get around and is convenient for a quick pick up for those without a car, but it's overall impact on reducing emissions isn't clear. The City may consider policies that help both reduce the use of cars but encourages UBER drivers to utilize cars that use less gas and/or consider electric cars.
- Given the new direction of driverless cars, the city needs to consider policies on how these types of vehicles are used and perhaps how they can reduce gas use. It may be challenging to have such a car in a 400-year-old city with narrow streets and so many one ways.
- Gas is a heavily subsidized resource and the City should consider how to tax and or increase it so that it offsets the impacts to streets and roads and encouragement to use cars with less of an impact on roads.

- Look at good examples of public transportation such as Europe, which have much denser urban forms (built before the age of cheap gasoline). The US needs to look at what has been done with transportation in other countries and use this as a model for how to develop our transportation networks. This type of thinking is new for the US and may require specific leadership from cities that can show proven examples.
- Bus routes in Santa Fe should be more efficient and address the issue of efficiency specific to time for both routes and users so that those getting to their destination don't have several miles to walk to a stop nor significant waits to ride the bus to work and or school.
- Look at examples of other cities for developing bike routes and bike sharing programs. For example, Portland, Oregon has done a marvelous job of creating bike lanes and routes that keep bikers off main routes where they must compete with cars. The crossing at St. Michael's Drive to the rail trail is an example of what doesn't work well to create a safe passage for bicyclists.

Land use

- Issues that affect both housing and transportation are worker housing. Density is important, but also appropriate density must be considered and not all areas of Santa Fe are appropriate for density.
- Lack of sidewalks are critical for people being able to walk to work, school and recreate.
- The City needs to address issues of too much black top that affects increasing heat and inability to cool off land. Perhaps creating policies around use of rain gardens, infiltration points for water tables and run-off will be important to harness an important resource such as run-off.
- Perhaps better coordination between departments can increase support for addressing storm water.
- In new development, the city should consider more work/live space that creates opportunities for people to work at home and reduce the need for transportation.
- Waste damaging land should be illegal and an ordinance to this effect should be developed.
- There are several projects in the works that hold the potential to make a difference on land use. For example:
 - The Santa Fe Indian School is approximately 100 acres that will be developed by the School. A master plan has been developed and it will be imperative for the City to influence the development on this high impact area. Cerrillos Road will be affected with traffic and density and hopefully the city can be involved in how this moves forward appropriately.
 - Other areas of potential development are St. Michael's Drive, Las Soleras, St. Katherine's and SF University of Art and Design which could include housing.
 - The mixed-use formula could be changed or be more flexible.

Food, Housing and Education

9 participants. Three members of the Food Policy Council and one City Water Conservation staff joined this group. There was agreement that all three topics are interrelated and should be considered in ways that support each other.

Food

- Important issues:
 - Making sure everyone has adequate, healthy food
 - Quality of food: GMO-free, organic, fresh
 - Making good food accessible to all
 - Growing food locally
- Growing food locally:
 - Community gardens in Santa Fe:
 - Adam Gabriel Armijo or Cerro Gordo Park (1404 Cerro Gordo next to Maha Bodhi Buddhist Center), Cielo Vista Park (1058 Calle Carmelita on the west side of street), Frenchy's Field Park (Agua Fria and Osage), La Familia (1035 Alto St.), Maclovia (1202 Maclovia), Sunnyslope Meadows (Avenida Aliso and Cibola Drive)
 - City-owned land available for community gardens
 - Report on community gardens (Alex Pino) revealed that the great majority of gardens are begun and used by middle and upper class women; gardens are not being used to their fullest to supply fresh produce to those who need it most
 - Important to have neighborhoods initiate the gardens for their own use
 - Valuable way of bringing people together for shared education and bonding over healthy lives; can be places for intergenerational activities
 - Individual garden plots:
 - Almost everyone has room to grow something – a rooftop, a garage, a backyard, pots, etc.
 - Need to have instruction about how to grow food, some are willing but ignorant
 - Need to have clearinghouse-type place where tools could be shared, techniques taught about planting, composting, mulching, water conservation, etc.
 - Young Farmers Coalition has tools exchange program
 - School and institutional gardens:
 - Challenge in maintaining them through the summer; neighborhoods need to pitch in and take ownership
 - Can provide great education for children in environmental stewardship, healthy lifestyles, cooperation, responsibility for living things, etc.
 - Can be tied to classroom curriculum
- Access to good food:
 - Currently many neighborhoods without access to healthy food sources
 - Could have small corner groceries with locally grown, organic, healthy food, as well as traditional items

Education

Important issues:

- Curriculum – common core restrictive, ie. water conservation must be taught in context of reading, not science, because of strict common core requirements

- Bilingual education – how to best educate both English and Spanish speaking students to produce citizens fluent in both languages and well-educated in their subjects (two separate tracks)
- Health should be central in education

Housing

Important issues:

- Need more affordable housing – possible use of “tiny houses” as on display at Santa Fe Maker complex; community of tiny houses could include community garden
- Need to include gardens when developing housing, facilitate gardens for anyone interested
- Need more protection for renters – laws are biased in favor of landlords; need hotline and lawyers for those in need of help

Environment, Waste, and Climate Change

This table had between 6-8 people, with a few joining halfway through the discussion. Participants agreed that topics at this table are inextricably linked to other issues, for example: transportation and built environment are connected to clean air/water, waste management, and other topics, which in turn affect social equity. WASTE (management, landfills, green waste, etc.) seemed to be the most discussed topic.

- The Climate Action Taskforce has gone away (?): without real attention to climate change, nothing else matters.
 - We need to pay attention to CO2 and methane emissions
- Organic / Green Waste
 - We need to keep things out of landfills that don't belong there: food waste, yard waste, etc.
 - We need to develop a city-wide green waste collection
 - New Mexico ranks 39th in the nation in “Green Rankings” – we need to improve!
- Chem trails
 - Chem trails deliver poisonous/toxic chemicals (strontium, aluminum,...)
 - There is wide-spread denial about this globally (Tom Udall is the only politician who has admitted this happens openly)
- Glass Recycling
 - With glass no longer being included in curb-side recycling, it will now end up in the trash and in the landfill
 - Because there is no way to recycle glass locally, it has to get shipped to the nearest recycling facility in Phoenix, so there's a cost-benefit to collecting glass here... it costs us in transportation. What's the solution? We shouldn't throw it away...
- Storm Water Management
 - Dirty, possibly toxic storm water ends up in our stream beds, mainly because our current system funnels/channelizes/speeds up storm water the carry it “away” quickly and efficiently

- We need to slow it down instead, create ways to get it back into the ground close to where it hits the ground so it doesn't get contaminated
- Curb cuts help slow rainwater and puts it back in the ground
- Cost (both financial and ecological) of producing energy
 - We need to switch to renewables: solar and wind
 - Distributed generation
 - Solar on all city /state government buildings
- South side vs. North side
 - The south side tends to have fewer services, fewer trails, more noise pollution (e.g. airport)... we need to address social inequity within our city, make sure everyone has access to the same services
 - There are no senior centers on the south side
- No GMOs in the city
- Transportation
 - We need environmentally sustainable transportation (i.e. city buses)
 - We need safer and better connected bike trails
 - Examples of solutions: Car2Go, City bike programs
 - What is the right transportation? What makes sense for our city? How do we approach built environment and transportation more cohesively? What needs to change in both categories? Lessen the need for people to travel by creating a built environment with easy-access services, and create a more user-friendly bike trail system.
- Landfill management
 - See above points regarding green waste, yard, waste, etc.
 - Re Food Waste:
 - need to educate public on "good by" date on processed foods. Food is good beyond that date.
 - Find ways to utilize unwanted food—soup kitchens, etc.
 - Also: one solution that was proposed to lessen the amount of waste going to landfills: create Repair Shops run by retired seniors. Residents can take their broken objects, small appliances, etc. and have them repaired. Benefits are many:
 - Seniors are given a fulfilling way to contribute, put their skills to work, make a little money
 - Fewer items are thrown out

Energy and the Built Environment

- Concern about SMART electric meters; Silver City residents were able to require PNM to have an opt out program; this community member wanted Santa Feans to have increased awareness and the same option. Concerns include radiation pulse, ease of getting hacked, use as a surveillance tool
- Ability to see Santa Fe use energy like the Scandinavian model- biomass generated and other alternatives
- Increase solar energy use in Santa Fe both by the community and the government

- Increase energy efficiency opportunities for home owners to do little projects (e.g. purchase appliances, weatherization), including funding (e.g. microfinancing), energy efficiency evaluations, etc.
- Incentivize landlords to increase energy efficiency, so that tenants aren't stuck with high electric bills
- Develop cost-effective funding mechanisms to promote energy efficiency in LMI households. (There is an existing federal low-income weatherization program that offers home owners \$6500 to increase home efficiency; educate? Expand?)
- Build zero-net energy buildings.
- Carbon tax (fee) and dividend on a local scale?- Could this provide incentives to landlords to increase EE at their rentals?
- Allow value recognition for energy efficient homes, like a rating or certificate, that increases value at time of sale.
- Purchase electric company (e.g. PNM); City and County did a feasibility study in 2013 and concluded that it wasn't viable.
- Pursue community choice aggregation (New Energy Economy is working on this) whereby the electric company is demonopolized and is still paid for wheeling electricity and maintaining distribution, but individuals choose power source?
- Learn and implement "Thrive" as an energy supply (more information at thrivemovement.com and YouTube video: Thrive: What on Earth Will It Take)

Water

Storm runoff

- Areas of the City which were developed prior to the availability of storm drains and a water system have runoff management issues as well as issues relating to the age of privately owned domestic wells which are suffering from falling water table.
 - Homeowners in such areas are concerned about the cost to connect to city water when the well is no longer able to meet demand.
- Preponderance of runoff paired with the need for irrigation – we should be able to capture runoff and utilize it for irrigation. This is presently illegal under NM state law, but there was consensus that efforts should be made to convince lawmakers to revisit this designation.

Water quality

- A water quality audit of groundwater pollutants in the City should be carried out and focused in the area near the former Young Jr. High behind which PNM dumped for many years.
- Fracking chemicals and pharmaceuticals in water are terrifying and that the city and its residents need to remain vigilant in order to resist the impact of these new and concerning chemicals.
- Bio-Remediation is an emerging water treatment practice (perhaps re-emerging is the way to characterize it) that offers significant potential and the City ought to investigate it.

- The city is presently cooperating with two artists via the Santa Fe Art Institute's Water Rights residency program to evaluate the usefulness of using Mushroom BioRemediation to remove undesirable constituents in the soil adjacent to the lower Santa Fe River below the wastewater treatment plant.
 - One participant has used similar mushroom spores growing through woodchips in her yard with significant positive impacts experienced by her garden – including a reduction in the amount of water required.
 - The city could utilize some of the wood being removed from the upper watershed for watershed restoration to create mulch to support the creation of additional mushroom bags that could be distributed throughout the city.
- There is significant concern regarding levels of heavy metals which are accumulating in the lymphatic systems of city residents as observed by one of the table participants who is a Lymphatic Decongestive Therapist. The source of these metals is unknown, but it was widely believed that this issue was more pervasive in Santa Fe than in the rest of the world.
- One group of attendees at the meeting felt VERY strongly that we need to stop adding fluoride to the water because it's a horrible chemical byproduct of weapons manufacturing that's harmful to people. In subsequent discussions with City staff responsible for fluoride, it was noted that Santa Fe has to add fluoride because it does not occur naturally in our surface water but that most cities have it without adding it because it's in the water already.

Misc

- The City ought to pursue a solar array with which to power a pump to bring discharge from the WWTP upstream and release it. This water could support river flows and the aquifer and river recreation and power could be collected a second time via turbines in the water. This could also offer an opportunity for bio-remediation through a wetland within city limits.
- The point was made that the City's decision to purchase the water company was one of the best things that the city has ever done – and this wasn't said in the context of meager accomplishments but as a true compliment.
- Finally, the discussion ended on the topic of how to create change – and everyone agrees that it's done through education for children on the importance of healthy, clean water and watersheds.