



MEMORANDUM

PUBLIC WORKS - DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

DATE: June 12, 2012

TO: Roger Millar, Vice President, Leadership Institute, Smart Growth America

FROM: Arlan Colton, Planning Director *AC*

SUBJECT: First Progress Report Following Next Steps Memorandum,
EPA Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Technical Assistance Grant

This memorandum is in immediate response to the Sustainable Code Workshop and Suggested Steps as an Outcome of Technical Assistance ("Next Steps") memorandum dated June 2, 2012. It is the first of three progress reports required per the Memorandum of Understanding EPA Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Technical Assistance Grant between Pima County and Smart Growth America.

Staff has categorized the various recommendations listed in the Next Steps memorandum (*Section 3 Targeted Policies/Ideas/Strategies Discussed during the Workshop*) into near-term, intermediate-term, and long-term items. The near-term items are the "low hanging fruit" – the items which appear to be non-controversial and which are fairly straight-forward and do not require significant research. We expect to address and finalize these items within the next six months. These items include defining and permitting ground-source heat pumps, allowing clothes lines, defining and setting standards and incentives for community gardens and farmers markets, and providing nonconforming use/building exceptions to allow "green" building updates and renovations.

The intermediate-term items are those which appear to be viable solutions, but that will involve more research, taking six months to a year dependent on staffing. The long-term items are those which appear to be best supported by policy direction that may derive from the update to the Pima County Comprehensive Plan scheduled to commence at the beginning of 2013. It is expected that the update will be take approximately 18 months to complete.

Additionally, staff continues to analyze the Pima County Zoning Code and the Subdivision and Development Street Standards for sustainability using the Smart Growth Code and Zoning Audit tool provided by Smart Growth America. Staff hopes to expand on this analysis by utilization of a similar tool that we understand is available through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Cc: Chris Duerksen, Clarion Associates