

For immediate release
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Flagstaff City Council Disregards Carbon Neutrality Plan; Constituents Take Action To Prevent Development By Voting NO On Proposition 480

Flagstaff, AZ – Flagstaff residents overwhelmingly voted no on Proposition 480 last Tuesday, preventing the rezoning of forest land around Ft. Tuthill County Park, which would have allowed for a \$800-million hospital development by Northern Arizona Healthcare (NAH). The effort to get the proposition on the ballot was started through grassroots efforts by the Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance (NAZCCA) and the Flagstaff Community First (FCF) Political Action Committee after City Councilmembers approved the development without following the requirements of Flagstaff’s Carbon Neutrality Plan, which has been amended into its Regional Plan.

"We are thrilled that the Flagstaff community rejected the rezoning for NAH's planned hospital mega-development," said NAZCCA Board Member and FCF Steering Committee Member Stefan Sommer. "This sends a strong and clear message that Flagstaff residents expect their City Council members to stick to its Carbon Neutrality Plan and Regional Plan when approving all new developments."

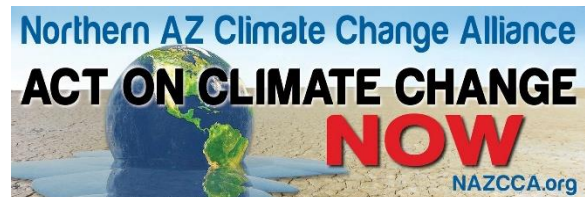
NAZCCA member, Sat Best, first noticed that the proposal for the hospital development did not include any estimate of its carbon footprint. Without a carbon footprint estimate, the NAH proposal does not support Flagstaff’s goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. And it reverses NAH’s previous plan in 2019 to renovate its campus which would have had a much smaller carbon footprint and cost much less. NAZCCA created the Clean Health Climate Action Team (CAT) and informed the Flagstaff Planning & Zoning Commission about the issue, which voted down the re-zoning request and hospital development proposal.

Flagstaff City Council voted to approve the re-zoning and development of the new hospital in an executive session behind closed doors, despite overwhelming public comments against the proposal and its Planning & Zoning Commission’s recommendation against both. In response, the FCF PAC was formed and the Vote NO on Proposition 480 campaign began. NAZCCA joined FCF to organize the community around the issue and gained collected enough signatures to place Proposition 480 on the ballot.

Proposition 480 failed with 72% of votes cast in opposition. NAH is evaluating other locations for a new hospital and is considering selling the Fort Tuthill site. The vote underscores the need for Flagstaff City Council and developers to follow the Carbon Neutrality Goals in its Regional Plan and to include the public in rezoning requests that will shape the region’s future. proposals

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