**Want to get involved?**

Here is a small selection of places you might get started.

**City of Phoenix:**

<http://phoenix.gov/residents/community/index.html> Every city has their own version of this. Look up your city’s community page to get more involved. Each city also has boards and commissions that you can follow and sometimes participate in (apply to become a board member too!). For Phoenix, the boards and commissions page is <http://phoenix.gov/citygovernment/boards/index.html>

**Citizen’s Transportation Oversight Committee**:

<http://www.azdot.gov/ADOT_and/CTOC/> The CTOC facilitates citizen involvement in the decision making process for planning and construction of freeways, arterial streets and transit improvements that are funded by the Proposition 400 one-half cent sales tax in Maricopa County and in the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Transportation Committee. On their web site, you can see minutes from previous meetings, schedules for future meetings, news, members profiles, and important links to other information.

**Valley Metro free online webinars**:

http://www.valleymetro.org/business\_services\_new/calendar\_events\_by/category/webinars

**Valley Metro “Share the Ride” carpool match program** (free to sign up).

<http://www.sharetheride.com>

ShareTheRide is a state-of-the-art ride matching system that allows commuters to quickly and securely find a carpool, vanpool or public transit option. The system matches commuters based on proximity, destination and travel route, as well as schedules and preferences.

**Sign up for Air Quality alerts and more through Valley Metro**.

You can subscribe to get alerts, newsletters, public notices, and notes from Valley Metro (either on your phone or on your e-mail). Things like high pollution advisories, transit service outages, etc. You can unsubscribe just as easily. Go to http://www.valleymetro.org/sign\_up/rss to check it out.

**Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) public meetings** schedule (often during the work-day, but some meetings have a light lunch!). Meetings cover Transportation, Environmental Programs, Human Services, and many regional economic/fiscal services.

The Maricopa Association of Governments’ official bulletin board for posting notices is located on the third floor of the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Ave., Phoenix, Arizona, near the reception desk.  Please be advised that only MAG's official bulletin board may be relied on for official posting under the Open Meeting Law. This electronic information available on the website is provided as a public service and is updated daily, Monday-Friday. To view the meeting notice, click on the link to the meeting of interest in the calendar at <http://www.azmag.gov/>

**Your local library!**

<http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/default.jsp>

Many events happen every day at the library. Education classes, community events, youth exhibitions, and you can still check out books, CDs, movies for free! The Phoenix public library system even has a way for you to “check out” electronic content over the web (e-books and digital media for your computer, tablet, phone, or e-reader)! Get a library card today!!

**Library Culture Pass.**

The program is a partnership between the Phoenix metro public libraries and area museums. The Culture Pass gives cardholders free admission for 2 people at participating organizations when they "check-out" the admission at their library. As of 2012, the museums participating are:

* Arizona Historical Society Museum at Papago Park
* Arizona Museum of Natural History
* Arizona Science Center
* Cave Creek Museum - (Open October thru May)
* Children's Museum of Phoenix - (Closed on Mondays)
* Deer Valley Rock Art Center
* Desert Botanical Garden
* Desert Caballeros Western Museum
* Phoenix Art Museum
* Phoenix Zoo
* Pueblo Grande Museum
* Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art

**Find out what Arizona communities are sharing to work together on common sustainability goals**.

Arizona State University hosts the Sustainable Cities Network as a vehicle for communities to share knowledge and coordinate efforts to understand and solve sustainability problems. Check out their research and news at <http://sustainablecities.asu.edu/>

**Go to a City Council Meeting!**

Each city has their own meetings, ranging from formal meetings to zoning to public policy. You can learn about what it takes to manage your city, and you can speak directly to your city council (within certain specifications). The City of Phoenix website is listed below, but there are dozens of other cities in this Valley, so make them work for you because that is their job!

<http://phoenix.gov/citygovernment/meetings/councilmeetings/index.html>

**Get involved in your Homeowners Association!**

Not all of us own our homes, but you can get involved with your local HOA if you have specific concerns. If you don’t know who your HOA is, ask some neighbors or look them up in the phonebook.

<http://www.yellowpages.com/phoenix-az/homeowners-associations>

Often, local associations have e-mail distribution lists where they share news, announcements, and stay connected.

**Explore your heritage!**

There are many cultures represented here in the Valley. If you want to explore any of these cultures, or want to connect with others who share your ancestry, then find out if there is a cultural center which represents your interests. Below is a partial list of the many organizations here in Phoenix:

COFCO Chinese Cultural Center: [www.phxchinatown.com](http://www.phxchinatown.com)

Irish Cultural Center: [www.azirish.org](http://www.azirish.org) or <http://phoenix.gov/parks/irishcult.html>

Arizona Latino Arts & Cultural Center (ALAC): [www.alacaz.org](http://www.alacaz.org)

Phoenix Indian Center: <http://phxindiancenter.com>

Arizona Center for Germanic Cultures: [www.**phoenix**oktoberfest.com/home.html](http://www.phoenixoktoberfest.com/home.html)

**Take a class, get in shape, have some fun!**

Check out your local community center. Your tax dollars pay for it, so put it to good use! Use their feedback mechanisms to let them know if you want something new or if the community center is not meeting your needs. The City of Phoenix Community Center is at: <http://phoenix.gov/parks/centers/index.html>

**Come to ASU for an event!**

Arizona State University has many events and public lectures. Seek out a topic of interest to you and follow the “events” web page for that department. For example, Sustainability events are at <http://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/events/>

Many events require an RSVP due to limited seating or catering orders. Or, you can look at all events for the university on a given day at <http://asuevents.asu.edu/>

**Water Resources**.

The Arizona Department of Water Resources has plenty of information about where our water comes from, how it is treated, what we can expect with droughts and groundwater issues, and even details on the commission linking Arizona and Mexico with water issues. <http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr/default.aspx>

There are public meetings notices posted on this website as well. The public meetings cover Groundwater Users, Water Resources Development, Arizona’s Water Protection Fund, Arizona’s Water Banking Authority, and sometimes other special topics. The consolidated list of public meetings can be found specifically at [www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Legal/PublicMeetingNotices.htm](http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Legal/PublicMeetingNotices.htm)

**Solar Energy**.

If you want to know more about solar power, or just want to get to know more people who already know about solar energy, find out if there is a local grassroots organization in your area. One place to start would be your local chapter of the Arizona Solar Energy Association (ASEA). Their main website is <http://www.arizonasolarenergy.org> and they have meetings in Phoenix, Mesa, and Scottsdale. The group is a local chapter of the American Solar Energy Society, which was founded in the 1970s. The members are diverse collections of individuals who share a common interest in sustainable human activity and the use of solar energy. They reach out to both professionals and non-professionals alike.

The Arizona Solar Center is a good information resource: <http://www.azsolarcenter.org/>

**Cleaner Energy and Fuel**.

You might also inquire with your energy provider to see what programs they might have to educate about solar/renewable energy, and what incentives they might have (home energy audits, rebates, discounts, etc.). APS posts community events and other “future fuels” information at <http://www.aps.com/my_community/default.html>

SRP’s community outreach page is at <http://www.srpnet.com/community/outreach.aspx>

NRG’s community page is at <http://www.nrgenergy.com/econrg/community.html>

The Department of Energy has very detailed information, with region-specific details on laws, incentives, and availability of alternative fuels. Find their Alternative Fuels Data Center at <http://www.afdc.energy.gov/>

**Learn more about biofuels in the desert**.

The Desert Biofuels Initiative was a non-profit social venture aimed at advancing sustainable regional biofuels. They are no longer active, but have left their website up indefinitely for archival purposes. Check it out at <http://www.desertbiofuels.org/>

**Find out how walkable your neighborhood is**:

<http://www.walkscore.com/> Walk Score is an organization with a mission to promote walkable neighborhoods. Walkable neighborhoods are one of the simplest and best solutions for the environment, our health, and our economy. You can enter your zip code or city or neighborhood and find out how walkable it is. Moving soon? Use Walk Score to help you decide where to live next!

**Participate in the Planning Project in Phoenix!**

MyPlanPHX provides an opportunity for all residents to help shape the future of our city through participation in two very important projects: an update to the city’s General Plan (Conserve Create ConnectPHX), and planning for the communities along the light rail line (ReinventPHX). Check out the information and links on their web page to learn more about both projects. <http://www.myplanphx.com/shaping-phoenix-s-future/>

**Get e-mail updates from ASU’s Center for Nanotechnology in Society (CNS):**

If you would like to subscribe to the CNS-ASU mailing list, please fill out the form on the web page <http://cns.asu.edu/contact/subscription.htm>

**Get e-mail updates from ASU’s School of Sustainability (the “Sustainability Digest”):**

ASU’s Global Institute of Sustainability publishes a weekly digest with interesting news, new research announcements, and local and regional events of interest. Sign up at <http://sustainability.asu.edu/contact/digest.php>

**Find out more about what ASU is doing downtown.**

Downtown Devil is a web resource that is geared for the “urban Sun Devil.” Stay informed by checking out <http://downtowndevil.com/>

**Tear apart, build, create, conspire, inspire, invent, and collaborate!**

HeatSync Labs is a local “hacker space” that was established in 2009 in Mesa. You can sign up for the community space and follow what other people are doing, or you can come out to one of their events or the space itself. Check them out at <http://www.heatsynclabs.org/>