

# Sustainability

## FACT SHEET

CAP's dedicated team reliably manages and delivers Colorado River water to Maricopa, Pinal and Pima Counties. Our Environmental Team helps to accomplish this mission in the safest and most environmentally conscious and sustainable way possible. The team ensures CAP complies with all environmental laws and regulations and manages four successful programs that help the organization reduce its impact on our environment.



### GREEN ENERGY PURCHASING

CAP is one of the largest consumers of electricity in Arizona due to the amount of power it takes to lift water approximately 3,000 feet over its 336-mile system. CAP has developed a diversified power portfolio, which includes energy from a 30 MW solar facility that provides 5% of our power needs.

Since 2020, renewables account for an increasing portion of CAP's electricity use. CAP's practice of purchasing most of its power during daylight hours when solar generation is at its peak accounts for some of this, as does the regional shift from coal to less carbon-intensive sources.



### WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

Over the past 20 years, CAP's award-winning environmental management system has recycled, reused, and repurposed more than six million pounds of material that would otherwise have been delivered to a landfill.

Both CAP and its employees regularly donate items no longer needed to local teachers and social service organizations. These and other efforts contribute to a circular economy where waste is minimized, and reuse improves the communities we serve. Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions, conserves landfill space, and helps protect our natural resources.

The proceeds CAP receives for recycled materials and the reduction of waste-hauling expenses fund the entire waste reduction program.

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## SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING PROGRAM

CAP's Sustainable Purchasing Program identifies and procures environmentally preferable products and services.

A convenient one-page checklist serves as a guide to protect the health and well-being of employees, reduce environmental impacts, lower overall costs and liability, reduce consumption of natural resources, encourage external organizations to adopt a similar program, and help CAP meet its sustainability goals.

When buying products and materials CAP chooses materials -- whenever practical -- that are recyclable, repairable, low toxicity, biodegradable, or otherwise prevent or reduce waste and pollution.



## VESP PROGRAM

CAP is a Platinum Member of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality [Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program](https://www.azdeq.gov/VESP)<sup>1</sup> (VESP). The program identifies and rewards organizations with a strong history of compliance with environmental regulations. The program identifies five levels – copper, bronze, silver, gold, and platinum. To achieve platinum status, an organization must have a fully implemented environmental management system – a set of processes and practices that represent reduced environmental impacts and increased operating efficiency.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.azdeq.gov/VESP>

The four environmental programs highlighted in this fact sheet are only a sampling of the many efforts made by CAP and its employees to protect the environment and incorporate green business practices throughout the organization.



### REDUCE

the amount and toxicity of trash you throw away



### REUSE

containers and products



### RECYCLE

as much as possible and buy products with recycled content



### REPURPOSE

a product you don't use or haven't used in a while and give it a new life somewhere else



### REFUSE

to purchase new products if a reuse alternative is available

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