

Sustainability & Resiliency

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Introduction

Page | 1

Global issues like population growth, fluctuating financial markets, decreased natural resources, and climate change have tremendous impacts on Coconino County and its residents. The County is addressing these emerging challenges by incorporating strategies that minimize harm and support long-term vitality within natural, social, and economic systems. **SUSTAINABILITY** means to live and thrive in the present in a way that does not compromise future generations' ability to also live and thrive. **RESILIENCY** is the ability to respond positively to challenging conditions, most notably in response to a changing climate and economy. In Coconino County these concepts guide a comprehensive planning approach that supports diversity across communities rather than a "one size fits all" approach. Large areas of Coconino County are rural, natural, open, and disconnected from urban life. Conserving these rural parts of Coconino County supports the goals within this *Comprehensive Plan*. Conversely, there are areas of higher density where goals include principles of compact and complete communities where people can live, work, shop, and play with minimum transportation and connect to alternative transportation options and the **FLAGSTAFF URBAN TRAIL SYSTEM (FUTS)**.

Many of the County's existing policies as well as those included within this *Comprehensive Plan* support the reduction of waste, energy, water, and emissions; as well as the preservation of open space, recreation areas, **ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS**, cultural and historic areas. Community enhancement through education, civic engagement, and economic development, **INFILL** and redevelopment, community safety and connectivity are also supported through County programs and strategic planning. This chapter builds upon these objectives by acknowledging that healthy **ECOSYSTEMS** will have social and economic benefits. The goals and policies in this Chapter offer guidance in supporting resource protection, growth, economic development, and community character outcomes that are shaped as much as possible by the Seven Generations Principle. This principle originated from The Constitution of the Iroquois Nations-The Great Binding Law in which it is written:

“Look and listen for the welfare of the whole people and have always in view not only the present but also the coming generations, even those whose faces are yet beneath the surface of the ground – the unborn of the future Nation.”
(28) ~ Iroquois Nations-The Great Binding Law

This chapter sets a clear direction for long-term and holistic decision-making in development and land use planning. By including sustainability and resiliency in the *Comprehensive Plan*, the County and its residents can strategically plan and be proactive in addressing and adapting to changing environments and systems. Specifically, planning efforts will direct the County's regulatory framework to encourage outcomes that pursue sustainability and resiliency.

40 **Coconino County in Action**

41 Comprehensive planning for a sustainable and resilient Coconino County involves knowing what
 42 the current and future demands and impacts are, including water, energy, waste, and emissions,
 43 as well as finding ways to mitigate negative impacts and adapt to changing conditions within the
 44 environment, economy, and society. Coconino County can and has worked to change limiting
 45 and outdated regulations to reflect the importance its citizen's place on sustainable living.
 46 County voters have long supported measures to restrict mining, improve watershed and riparian
 47 health, and protect the County and its residents from disasters such as fire and flooding.

48
 49 In April 2003, Coconino County adopted the *Coconino County Sustainable Building Program*
 50 (CCSBP) to encourage, support, educate, and develop sustainable building practices for the
 51 citizens of Coconino County. The CCSBP includes a sustainable development checklist, a free
 52 certification program for green builders, education on alternative building techniques, and
 53 specific technical guidelines for local owners and builders. Many sustainable building
 54 technologies require new codes, standards, and processes that, once adopted, will expedite
 55 efficient resource use in Coconino County. Since its adoption, the CCSBP has grown with great
 56 success and has certified over 120 sustainable building projects, has provided consultation,
 57 education, and resources to several thousand community members, and has aided in the adoption
 58 of many codes and standards to incorporate sustainable development. Being recognized as a
 59 model and resource for other jurisdictions, the CCSBP was awarded in 2014 by Arizona Forward
 60 with the Crescordia, the top award for environmental **STEWARDSHIP**.

61
 62 In 2007 the County adopted the 2006 *International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)*, setting
 63 minimum energy efficiency standards for construction throughout the county, and further
 64 committed to energy conservation in 2014 by adopting 2012 IECC. In 2008 the County adopted
 65 sustainable building standards for new County government facilities as part of the Facilities
 66 Master Plan, and began to retrofit all County facilities for energy and water efficiency.

67
 68 In 2012, Coconino County adopted an internal sustainability program to help position the County
 69 for continued prosperity and resilience to the impacts associated with climate change, decreasing
 70 natural resources, increased emissions and waste, and the rising costs of utilities. The
 71 Sustainability Program works collaboratively with internal departments and external partners to
 72 improve upon efficiencies and sustainability efforts within the County through operations,
 73 services, and infrastructure.

74
 75 In 2014, the County adopted the *Stormwater Management Ordinance*, to comply with EPA
 76 regulations and goals for stormwater quality. Also in 2014-2015, the County began the
 77 installation of solar photovoltaics on County buildings; securing 1/3 of the County's electricity
 78 from renewable energy resources-and saving a projected \$2.3 million dollars in energy costs over
 79 a 25 year timeframe.

80

*“Sustainability is the practice of living off of our interest and not our
 principle.” by Bill Cordasco, President of Babbitt Ranches*

81 **The 3 Pillars of Sustainability: Environment, Economy, Society**

82 The basic tenet of environmental sustainability is that we live in an inter-connected world with
83 finite resources. The way we chose to use those resources today will impact the ability of future
84 generations everywhere to use them. Economic growth is often synonymous with ever-
85 increasing development, population growth, and consumption of resources such as water and
86 energy. Living sustainably requires us to recognize when our consumption will result in
87 irreparable resource degradation. Economic and social sustainability are dependent on
88 environmental sustainability, but require additional conditions such as economic diversification,
89 rule of law, and social equity. Creating a sustainable Coconino County means making hard
90 decisions in the present that recognize that the interconnectedness and interdependency of the
91 three pillars of sustainability.

92

93 **Environmental Pillar**

94 The environmental pillar of sustainability addresses ecological function and resiliency, the
95 overall health of ecosystems, air and water quality, availability and quality of open space, and
96 climate change impacts. It recognizes that social and economic capital are inherently tied to the
97 health of the environment. When making land use decisions, evaluating the impacts on natural
98 systems is critical for long-term prosperity for the County and its residents.

99 ***Ecosystem Services:*** **ECOSYSTEM SERVICES** are the numerous benefits provided to
100 humans by the natural environment ranging from the provision of clean water and air to the
101 regulation of climate and the enjoyment of bird watching. For example, a healthy **RIPARIAN**
102 **AREA** filters out pollutants before they reach a waterway. Instead of filtering water through
103 expensive engineering, maintaining healthy riparian areas serves the same function, but in an
104 environmentally responsible and inexpensive manner. The County can help support these
105 ecosystem services by encouraging the use of **INTEGRATED CONSERVATION DESIGN**
106 when making land use and development decisions.

107 ***Air Quality:*** The county's high air quality is a source of pride for residents. Excellent air
108 quality contributes to human health, outdoor recreation, darks skies, tourism and community
109 character. Recognizing the impacts of air pollution on the county's environmental, economic,
110 and community health is important in land use and transportation decision making.

111 ***Water Quantity & Quality:*** In this dry environment, water is a critical resource for both
112 humans and the ecosystem. Most of the domestic water in Coconino County comes from deep
113 **GROUNDWATER** wells that are replenished at very slow rates from precipitation events. The
114 County's handful of perennial rivers and springs are vital to maintaining wildlife populations and
115 biodiversity. In order to have resilient communities and ecosystems, we must strive to use water
116 at or below natural recharge rates. This is especially true in the face of climate change and the
117 current drying trend in the region. A comprehensive water resources plan that includes
118 conservation and reuse is needed to address the risk of unsustainable groundwater pumping in
119 the years to come. Healthy forests and **RANGELANDS** are also vital to **WATERSHEDS** and
120 maintaining property values and riparian health. We must work to bring forests back to natural
121 stand densities that support low-intensity fires in order to protect our water quality.

122 The County can continue to promote water conservation and alternative water sources in a
123 variety of ways. Educating the public, developers, and County staff is important. The County is
124 already helping incorporate conservation elements into development projects, and encourages the
125 use of reclaimed water, gray water, and rainwater harvesting systems. Currently, the County
126 offers free consultation and resources for implementing water conservation in new and existing
127 development through its Sustainable Building Program and for gray water reuse through
128 Environmental Quality. The 2001 Landscape Ordinance is based on xeriscape principles that
129 require new, nonresidential development to use native and/or drought-tolerant plants. Another
130 way the County works to promote water awareness and conservation is through regional
131 partnerships and programs like the Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council's Public Outreach
132 Program. New technologies are constantly emerging that can help us reduce our consumption of
133 water.

134 ***Open Space:*** **OPEN SPACE** and ranchlands are critical to the character, quality of life, and
135 economy of northern Arizona as they support ecosystem services, watershed health, recreation
136 and tourism. Promoting the preservation of not only open lands, but functional wildlife corridors
137 is important. Promoting infill, brownfields redevelopment, and concentrated growth can help
138 maintain the large tracts of open space and migration routes that exist in the County, as well as
139 minimize negative impacts of new development.

140 ***Climate Change:*** Climate change is an overarching threat that communities and governments
141 are trying to forecast changes for and plan accordingly. Within Coconino County, projections
142 show that drought, wildfire, floods, increased temperatures, and loss of **HABITAT** and healthy
143 ecosystems are potential outcomes of climate change. One way we can improve ecosystem
144 resiliency in the face of climate change is to reduce the stress we place on natural resources.
145 Two examples are the *Four Forests Initiative (4-FRI)* working to restore forest health through
146 thinning and better management practices and ranchers adjusting grazing pressure according to
147 forage condition. As stewards of the land, the County, land managers, and private landowners
148 alike must be willing to adapt their practices according to the stresses imposed by climate
149 change.

150 ***Solid Waste:*** **SOLID WASTE** reduction is also a major component of sustainability. By
151 reducing solid waste, the County can minimize the natural resources that are consumed in
152 product production as well as reduce the environmental impacts of the item entering landfills.
153 For example, a plastic bottle can be recycled into composite wood for decking material, or paper
154 can be recycled into cellulose insulation. A concept behind solid waste reduction is termed
155 "cradle to cradle." Although recycling is a better option than items going into the waste stream,
156 there are environmental impacts from recycling an item into something else, so the best first
157 option is to reduce materials as much as possible, reuse the materials as much as possible, and
158 then recycle the material into a new item.

159 ***Redevelopment:*** **ADAPTIVE REUSE** and **BROWNFIELDS** represent an opportunity to
160 utilize previously developed lands. Adaptive reuse, the process of adapting old buildings for
161 new purposes, can save resources by reusing existing structures. Brownfield remediation can
162 have positive impacts on communities: they represent an opportunity to utilize previously
163 developed lands which may have environmental contamination. The redevelopment of the many
164 brownfields throughout Coconino County can address environmental and health concerns while

165 concentrating development in activity centers. Coconino County supports the remediation and
 166 redevelopment of Brownfields, infill and adaptive reuse to promote more sustainable, compact
 167 communities.

168 Coconino County is a member of the Route 66 Coalition which received a community-wide
 169 assessment grant for brownfields property from the Environmental Protection Agency for
 170 \$700,000 in October 2012. The grant is to be used for community involvement, property
 171 inventory, performing environmental assessments, and for cleanup planning addressing real or
 172 perceived contamination on public or private properties along the Route 66 corridor. The Route
 173 66 coalition for this project includes the cities of Winslow and Holbrook, Navajo County,
 174 Coconino County, The Town of Williams, and the City of Flagstaff. There are potentially a
 175 large number of sites which would qualify for cleanup though only one site has completed
 176 assessment and qualified as of 2015.

177

178 **Economic Pillar**

179 A strong economy is an equally important facet for a sustainable and resilient Coconino County.
 180 Promoting industries and businesses that are compatible with social and environmental goals
 181 highlighted in this *Comprehensive Plan* provides opportunity for long-term community vitality.

182 **Infrastructure:** Infrastructure is important to economic development. The County can help to
 183 pursue infrastructure improvements to promote small business in a way that is fair and equitable.
 184 A realistic understanding of infrastructure constraints is important. Many areas of the County
 185 have limited internet and package delivery services which limits or slows down residential and
 186 commercial access to on-line commerce. The County can support the expansion of such
 187 services. There are limits to the services Coconino County can provide. The County will help
 188 facilitate improvements to infrastructure that build healthy, resilient, and prosperous
 189 communities.

190 **Tourism:** One of Coconino County's greatest assets is its open space and quality of the natural
 191 environment. Outdoor recreation and the tourism industry benefit from these assets and
 192 constitute large proportions of the economy and employment opportunities for residents.
 193 Therefore, to continue to thrive in these nature based industries it's important to recognize and
 194 protect the County's natural areas and resources. There is still room for expansion of the
 195 economy within these areas, including developing **ETHNO-TOURISM** and **AGRITOURISM**
 196 industry in addition to the already thriving **ECOTOURISM** of the County.

197 **Federal Land Management:** The management of large swaths of public lands by the
 198 United States Government is an essential aspect of economic and environmental sustainability
 199 for the County and its residents. The resources that are channeled into local economies, the jobs
 200 that employ large numbers of residents, and the stable management of public lands by the US
 201 Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management in particular
 202 remain vital.

203 **Ranching:** Ranching remains an important part of the economic health and community
 204 character of Coconino County. Additionally, a thriving ranch economy maintains long-term,

205 stable land-use and conservation patterns. Working with ranchers to identify value-added
 206 opportunities in addition to traditional ranching practices can help to maintain these working
 207 lands which are vital to the character and environment of the county.

208 ***Cottage Industries:*** Not all economic development is synonymous with increased building
 209 and infrastructure. Supporting cottage based industries that do not negatively impact the
 210 neighborhood character are great ways to support economic development with minimized impact
 211 on natural or infrastructure resources.

Page | 6

212 ***Green & Emerging Markets:*** Identifying major waste streams throughout the region and
 213 creatively finding uses for them can build an economy while preserving the natural environment.
 214 An example is finding uses for the small-diameter trees that are removed in the thinning of
 215 forests, such as through the *Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)* efforts. Flexible zoning
 216 that protects property while allowing for new sustainable industry is important to aid in reuse of
 217 these products. Additionally, having a diverse economy and workforce that includes targeted
 218 industry development can support economic vitality and community resilience because the
 219 economy is not tied to one sector or industry. Green market development supports industries that
 220 can build upon the county's natural assets, while minimizing negative impacts on the community
 221 and environment. Some examples can include solar and wind industry, green-resource efficient
 222 building and infrastructure development, local food production, high-tech, research, biotech and
 223 hospitality.

224 ***Workforce Development:*** Having a workforce prepared to address industry needs and
 225 trained for new economic opportunities is critical to taking advantage of a diverse economy. The
 226 County supports efforts that provide well paying, high quality employment opportunities for its
 227 community members, as well as educational opportunities for all ages and levels of knowledge,
 228 including community events such as the Festival of Science and other educational conferences.

229 ***Natural Environment:*** The natural environment of northern Arizona are important to
 230 protect because they support economic revenue streams like tourism that bring financial benefits
 231 to a variety of associated industries like hospitality, restaurants, entertainment, and
 232 transportation.

233

234 Social Pillar

235 Social sustainability addresses not only health, but quality of life. While promoting policies that
 236 address social equity and sustainability, the County can work to ensure every citizen has equal
 237 opportunity to the pursuit of happiness. A part of this process is providing opportunities for civic
 238 engagement and for citizens to give their input in the shaping of the County. These processes
 239 can help foster community connectivity and to balance what is fair and/or equitable in decision
 240 making.

241 ***Informed Public:*** Coconino County has an essential role in keeping the public informed
 242 about a broad range of information. Because of the size of the County and the number of
 243 collaborators involved in shaping projects and programs, it is often difficult for the public to
 244 remain aware and informed – particularly in decision-making processes. Expanding on this

245 already assumed role, the County will work to develop strategies and take advantage of new
 246 technologies in providing the opportunity for the public to be informed and involved. This
 247 concept is particularly important in the far-reaching and more rural areas of the County where
 248 distance and broadband access provide challenges.

249 ***Income Inequality:*** The economic conditions that define Coconino County offer significant
 250 opportunity and reason for optimism, but income inequality continues to widen and generates
 251 particular concern as the County works to shape a resilient future. This issue has been very
 252 much part of a national economic discussion in recent years, but the statistics in Coconino
 253 County provide reason for action. Median household income, general poverty rates and poverty
 254 rates among children paint a challenging picture in comparison to state and national data. The
 255 combination of low incomes with housing costs (particularly in the Flagstaff area) makes it
 256 difficult for an increasing number of residents to fully contribute to the social and economic
 257 fabric of the community. Of particular concern is the creation of disparities in accessibility to
 258 essentials like health care, transportation and healthy food options.

259 ***Housing Affordability:*** The median price of housing in Coconino County doubled between
 260 1987 and 2002 and increased another 18% in the past decade despite the national drop in housing
 261 prices related to the recent recession. Median home prices in Coconino County are more than
 262 \$220,000 while they are only \$165,000 state-wide. The median household income from 2009-
 263 2013 was \$49,555 according to Census data. This means that over half of the households in the
 264 county cannot afford a median-priced home based on the Housing and Urban Development
 265 (HUD) measure of affordability. More than 20% of the population is below the Federal poverty
 266 level and vacancy rates are less than 3%, adding to the difficulty of obtaining housing in the
 267 County.

268 Part of providing fair and/or equitable opportunities is assuring that housing is attainable to
 269 people on all spectrums of the economic scale. Land use decisions regarding housing should
 270 consider including **AFFORDABLE HOUSING** as a component. Sustainable building practices
 271 should be promoted because they have positive economic benefits by assuring long-term
 272 affordability of the house through reducing energy and water costs. The utility cost savings
 273 realized over the life of a household with conservation and efficiency measures are significant.
 274 The Sustainable Building Program assists residents with methods for reducing the cost of
 275 maintaining a home. Potential home buyers can also find help through other programs offered
 276 by the **NORTHERN ARIZONA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (NACOG)**, the Housing
 277 Authority, and the Coconino County Community Services. These programs offer down payment
 278 and mortgage assistance.

279 Non-profit organizations such as Housing Solutions of Northern Arizona and Habitat for
 280 Humanity are active in the County and both support families in need of housing. Housing
 281 Solutions of Northern Arizona assists low income (making a maximum of 80% of the area's
 282 median income) families in purchasing homes. Habitat for Humanity works to help people
 283 obtain affordable housing by constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes, and by
 284 advocating for fair and just housing policies. Both provide training and access to resources to
 285 help families improve their shelter conditions.

286 Affordable housing land trusts are another solution to affordable housing issues. Trusts hold the
 287 land while owners are able to purchase the improvements upon the land. This allows low-

288 income owners to be able to purchase housing where they otherwise would not be able to afford
 289 it. The system balances low/moderate income owner's equity with permanent affordability.
 290 Housing is sold at a price determined to be affordable and the resale value is limited by covenant
 291 or easement.

292 ***Sustainable Construction:*** Sustainable building practices are healthier for the occupants
 293 and the environment. They conserve energy and water, limiting environmental impacts.
 294 Buildings constructed using these practices have superior indoor environmental quality. They
 295 incorporate environmentally sensitive site planning and resource efficient materials. One
 296 example is a hogan (a traditional Navajo dwelling) built using locally harvested, small-diameter
 297 logs. Although the trees that supply these logs are often unusable in the timber industry, they
 298 must be thinned to maintain forest health and prevent catastrophic wildfires. Many alternative
 299 building materials are readily available on the market. Alternative building styles, such as
 300 rammed earth and strawbale homes, should be promoted as an appropriate and marketable
 301 housing product.

302 An important function of sustainable building is to reduce energy consumption through
 303 architectural design. Techniques such as installing more efficient insulation, heating, and
 304 cooling systems, placing windows where they can best take advantage of solar energy, and
 305 weatherizing can dramatically reduce the amount of energy we consume. Many of these
 306 measures can be implemented at minimal additional cost to conventional construction and can
 307 help to ensure the long-term affordability of operating and maintaining homes and buildings.

308 ***Food Security:*** As the climate changes, assuring access to food and water will be important to
 309 the health and well-being of residents. By supporting local agriculture, ranching industries, and
 310 other food production, the County is helping to provide food security in the event of
 311 emergencies. Removing barriers to small-scale agriculture and helping to preserve working
 312 lands will help the community be resilient.

313 Except in a few limited areas, virtually no farmland is used for large-scale commercial
 314 production in Coconino County. Fredonia has a few small family farms, the north end of the
 315 Timberline-Fernwood area features pumpkin and bean farms, and Oak Creek Canyon has a few
 316 apple orchards. Additionally, lands across the county were historically used and remain
 317 important to Native Americans for the collection of significant plants; both as a food source and
 318 a renewable source of material for traditional crafts, such as dye-plants for weaving and fibers
 319 for basketry. Following European settlement, considerable potato and bean farming occurred in
 320 the Flagstaff area, but most of these areas have been converted to development. However, with
 321 growing interest in local food and farmer's markets, and reducing the cost of living for families,
 322 more small-scale production is occurring. Many areas of the country are finding that even very
 323 dense land uses can be compatible with raising chickens, bees and growing food. Many small
 324 farm animals such as pot-bellied pigs and goats have no more impact on adjacent properties than
 325 typical household pets. In addition to being able to grow food to feed their own family, residents
 326 are looking to be able to buy and sell goods with their neighbors. As of 2015, the *Zoning*
 327 *Ordinance* is being updated to further support the goals and policies identified in the
 328 Comprehensive Plan, including small scale agriculture.

329 ***Emergency Preparedness:*** Being prepared for emergencies is an important part of
 330 community resiliency. The County is a regional leader and partners with other agencies in
 331 providing emergency preparedness and response services, including public planning and safety
 332 around natural disasters like fire, flood, and severe weather storms. Multigenerational thinking
 333 takes into consideration how projects may affect human and environmental health, such as
 334 potential hazards from the import of pests like mosquitos that spread diseases. Land use
 335 decisions should also consider environmental justice and ensure impacts are not being heavily
 336 borne by any one culture or economic group.

337 ***Climate Change:*** The impacts of climate change on human health are becoming prevalent
 338 with growing reports on the impacts to humans from increased temperatures, severe weather
 339 patterns, natural disasters, and the instability of energy, food, and water resources. The County
 340 can address the impacts of climate change on its residents by supporting strategies that minimize
 341 greenhouse gas emissions, and implement practices that support community adaptation and
 342 resiliency.

343

344 **Goal:** Incorporate and support integrating the principles of sustainability and long-term
 345 community resilience and prosperity into future land use and development plans, as
 346 well as the actions and decisions of elected and appointed officials.

347 **Policies:**

- 348 1. Develop and support programs, plans, and partnerships that work to mitigate climate change
 349 and its impacts, as well as develop adaptation strategies for long-term resiliency and vitality.
 350
- 351 2. Develop collaborations with a wide variety of communities across the County to maintain
 352 regional economic, environmental, and cultural diversity.
 353
- 354 3. Implement organizational improvements and methods to track and measure County
 355 resources consumption, waste, and impacts, and modify actions as needed in order to meet
 356 today's needs while maintaining resources for future generations.
 357
- 358 4. Continue to engage in the brownfields programs and remediate properties so they may be
 359 used to their fullest extent.
 360
- 361 5. The County supports the creation of an affordable housing land trust that would acquire
 362 housing and use it in a system that balances low/moderate income owner's equity with
 363 permanent affordability.
 364
- 365 6. The County will pursue state and national standards for sustainability and resiliency within
 366 County planning documents, County developed projects, and internal policy and practice.
 367
- 368 7. Develop awareness of the broad impacts of decisions on all three facets of sustainability and
 369 look for ways of accomplishing multiple goals while maintaining private property rights.
 370

- 371 8. In decision making, consider the value of the long-term health and well-being of residents,
372 ecosystems and a thriving economy.
373
- 374 9. Develop strategies for wise restraint, recognizing that sometimes the best choices for the
375 long term are not the easy choices.
376
- 377 10. Utilize the Zoning Ordinance to increase the ability of residents to partake in agricultural
378 practices for food and fiber on their properties or within a residential neighborhood while
379 encouraging low-water use and water conservation technologies.
380
- 381 11. Continue the County's sustainability programs and educational initiatives, and explore
382 incentives to use sustainable building practices that minimize consumption of energy, water,
383 and other resources.
384
- 385 12. Support communities and land managers in their effort to restore forest health, reduce the
386 likelihood of high-severity wildfire, and safeguard watershed health.
387
- 388 13. Implement organizational improvements that will better enable the County to provide its
389 residents with the most up-to-date information using a variety of methods.
390
- 391 14. Encourage household resiliency so that residents are prepared for the temporary loss of
392 infrastructure, services or other emergencies.
393
- 394 15. Utilize County programs and policies to help reduce disparities in access to health services,
395 transportation and healthy food options.
- 396 16. The County will explore flexible pilot permitting that facilitates sustainable and innovative
397 projects that are in support of the goals of this comprehensive plan
- 398 17. The County will work cooperatively with the public and agencies to protect scenic
399 viewsheds, prevent fragmentation of open lands, preserve important wildlife habitat, protect
400 watersheds, and provide buffers between developed areas.

401