

AGENDA

Navigating What's Next

Opportunities at the Intersection of Energy, Resources and Arizona's Economy

*The Fourth Workshop by the Center for an
Arizona Carbon-Neutral Economy (AzCaNE)*

Thursday, September 24, 2026

9 am - 5 pm Lunch Provided at 12:30

Breakfast Before & Dinner Following

Hosted on: Arizona State University Tempe Campus
Building: Walton Center for Planetary Health (WCPH)
Room: Auditorium 107

Address: 777 E. University Dr., Tempe, AZ 85281
Located at: SW corner of University Dr and Rural Rd

Closest Parking: ASU Novus Place Parking Structure
Address: 747 S. Packard Dr., Tempe, AZ 85281

Secondary Parking: Tyler Street Parking Structure
E Tyler St, Tempe, AZ 85281

Workshop Purpose

AzCaNE's fourth workshop will bring together leaders from across Arizona to explore how interconnected opportunities across energy, natural resources, transportation, industry, infrastructure, and public policy can advance Arizona's resilience and prosperity, support a low-carbon economy, and improve air quality, public health, and environmental outcomes.

The workshop will look beyond individual technologies and sectors to explore their intersections, dependencies, potential synergies, and tradeoffs across Arizona's economy.

Click Here to Register

Email us: AzCaNE@asu.edu

Click to visit us: AzCaNE.org

Workshop Context and Strategic Considerations

Arizona's continued growth and economic development are increasing demands on energy systems, infrastructure, natural resources, and supply chains. At the same time, emerging technologies, investments, markets, and policy developments continue to create opportunities across sectors. The workshop will bring these conversations together via:

Six Panel Discussions

Strategic Energy & Economy • Bioresources • Low-Carbon Transportation
Long-Duration Energy Storage & Hydrogen • Geothermal & Advanced Nuclear
Critical Minerals & Industrial Development

AzCaNE's Four Lenses

AzCaNE's four lenses—**economic, environmental, societal, and security**—will provide a common foundation for the discussions. Panels will also consider cross-cutting issues such as affordability, reliability, resilience, infrastructure, resource availability, air quality and health outcomes, workforce and economic development, and Arizona's distinctive geographic and resource context.

TWO MAJOR AzCaNE MILESTONES

Public Launch of Arizona Compass 2050

- AzCaNE will officially launch this economy-wide initiative to explore Arizona's long-term opportunities, choices, uncertainties, and indicators that may signal the need for course corrections

Public Release of the Renewable Natural Gas Assessment (Click to Read)

- AzCaNE will officially release *Renewable Natural Gas: An Assessment of Arizona's Resource Potential, Opportunities and Obstacles*, which examines Arizona's RNG resource potential along with the conditions, opportunities, and constraints that could shape its development

Workshop Design

- **55-minute panels** structured around discussion and engagement
- **(5-10 minutes)** Framing presentation to establish context and highlight key questions
- **(35-40 minutes)** A moderator will lead the panel discussion
- **(10 minutes)** Audience Q&A using Slido

Common Discussion Themes

Moderators will draw from a common set of questions to reinforce the workshop's integrated, economy-wide perspective:

- What opportunities does this area present for Arizona?
- What barriers, tradeoffs, or uncertainties remain?
- How does this topic connect with other sectors of Arizona's economy?
- What implications could it have for air quality, public health, environmental stewardship, economic development, security, and resilience?
- Where could collaboration across sectors create the greatest value?
- What developments, decisions, or investments could have the greatest long-term implications for Arizona?

Closing Engagement

From Insights to What's Next: Connecting the Day and Shaping CompAZ

AzCaNE will close the workshop by bringing the day's conversations together and looking ahead. We reflect on the ideas, opportunities, and challenges that emerged across the panels and reconnect them to Arizona Compass 2050.

This session invites participants to help shape what comes next:

- What connections across the day matter most?
- What questions need greater attention?
- Where could AzCaNE and CompAZ provide the greatest value?
- And how can participants engage, contribute their perspectives, and help ensure that CompAZ reflects the needs and opportunities across Arizona?

TIME	AGENDA
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	 Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM-9:20 AM	 Welcome and Workshop Framing: Welcome and AzCaNE update Four Lenses and Common Ground; framing the interconnected opportunities across Arizona's evolving low-carbon economy, including economic, environmental, air quality, health, resilience, and other considerations
	 Opening Remarks: Ellen Stechel (<i>Arizona State University</i>)
9:20 AM-10:15 AM	 Panel 1 – Strategic Energy & Economy: Arizona Energy Promise and the public launch of Arizona Compass 2050 , connecting near-term energy considerations with a longer-term, economy-wide perspective for Arizona Moderator: Marisa Walker (<i>Arizona Commerce Authority</i>)
	Panelist and Framing: Blaise Caudill (<i>Arizona Governor's Office of Resiliency</i>), Kimber Lanning (<i>Local First Arizona</i>), Thomas Maynard (<i>Greater Phoenix Economic Council</i>)
10:15 AM-10:35 AM	 NETWORKING BREAK
10:35 AM-11:30 AM	 Panel 2 – Bioresources: Forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction; woody biomass and other forest resources; agricultural, food system, wastewater, and other organic resources; and opportunities to create value from Arizona's bioresources. Featuring the public release of the Arizona Renewable Natural Gas Assessment Moderator: Matt Tomich (<i>Energy Vision</i>)
	Panelists: Joe Varela (<i>Southwest Gas Corporation</i>), Bill Brandt (<i>Arizona State University</i>), Stephanie Arcusa (<i>Arizona State University</i>)
11:30 AM-12:25 PM	 Panel 3 – Low-Carbon Transportation: Light-, medium-, and heavy-duty transportation; electrification; alternative and renewable fuels; freight; aviation; and supporting infrastructure Moderator: John Heckman (<i>Transportation Electrification Activator, Arizona State University</i>)
	Panelists: Gary Dirks (<i>Arizona State University</i>), Britta Gross (<i>Electric Power Research Institute</i>), CJ Berg (<i>EV Realty</i>)

12:25 PM-1:25 PM	 NETWORKING LUNCH
1:25 PM-2:20 PM	 Panel 4 – Long-Duration Energy Storage & Hydrogen: Long-duration energy storage; hydrogen production and use; industrial applications; grid integration; and cross-sector opportunities Moderator: Chico Hunter (<i>Salt River Project</i>) Panelist and Framing: Collin Friedrich (<i>Salt River Project</i>) Panelists: Giancardo De Franco (<i>Energy Dome</i>), William Meyers (<i>Chevron, Advanced Clean Energy Storage Site Delta</i>)
2:20 PM-3:15 PM	 Panel 5 – Geothermal & Advanced Nuclear: Emerging opportunities for geothermal and advanced nuclear in Arizona and their potential roles in the state's future energy system and economy. Moderator: Kayla Lucero-Matteucci (<i>Arizona Governor's Office of Resiliency</i>) Framing: Wilson Ricks (<i>Clean Air Task Force</i>) Panelist: Sarah Moore (<i>Tucson Electric Power</i>), Brian Gootee (<i>Arizona Geological Survey</i>), Barbara Cenalmor Bruquetas (<i>Salt River Project</i>), Christine Palmer King (<i>Idaho National Laboratory</i>)
3:15 PM-3:35 PM	 NETWORKING BREAK
3:35 PM-4:30 PM	 Panel 6 – Critical Minerals & Industrial Development: Mining; critical minerals; processing and manufacturing; supply chains; and opportunities for economic and industrial development in Arizona Moderator: Kray Luxbacher (<i>University of Arizona</i>) Confirmed Panelists: Skylie Estep (<i>South 32</i>), Brian Parkey (<i>Freeport-McMoRan</i>), Richard Brown (<i>Hayley & Aldrich</i>)
4:30 PM-5:00 PM	 Connecting the Day & What's Next: A facilitated closing conversation connecting themes from across the day and inviting participants to help shape what comes next with Arizona Compass 2050
5:00 PM	 NETWORKING DINNER