

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

ASU Walton Center for Planetary Health (WCPH) Auditorium

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 competitiveness and resilience, 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

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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

Throughout the day, speakers and participants will examine how developments in one area create opportunities, constraints, and consequences in others.

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

AzCaNE will structure the workshop around discussion and engagement rather than a sequence of keynote presentations. Each 55-minute panel will begin with a brief framing presentation that establishes context and highlights key questions. A moderator will then lead the panel discussion and incorporate audience questions submitted through Slido. In general, each session could have:

~5-10 minutes — Framing presentation

~35-40 minutes — Moderated panel discussion (three or four panelists)

~10 minutes — Audience Q&A using Slido

Where appropriate, the person giving the framing presentation may also moderate the panel. We can adjust the allocation within individual sessions to fit the topic and panel composition.

AzCaNE will emphasize in-person participation and provide networking opportunities during breakfast, breaks, lunch, and dinner. We will also enable virtual participation for speakers, panelists, and attendees who cannot participate in person.

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?

Using a common framework across the panels might encourage dialogue across sectors and help participants identify connections and themes that transcend individual technologies, industries, and policy initiatives.

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 will reflect on the ideas, opportunities, and challenges that emerged across the panels and reconnect them to Arizona Compass 2050 (CompAZ)—an initiative designed to help Arizona navigate an evolving energy and economic landscape.

This interactive session will invite 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?

We hope you will stay with us for this final conversation—and help turn the day's insights into direction for what comes next.

Timing Considerations

The current schedule provides 55 minutes for each panel, 20-minute networking breaks, a 60-minute lunch, and a 30-minute closing session, with the formal program ending at 5:00 p.m.

We considered allowing more time for panel discussion and networking, extending some or all panels to 60 minutes and/or extending the networking breaks to 25–30 minutes. However, doing so would extend the formal program to approximately 5:30 p.m. We concluded that would be too much and will have dinner immediately following at 5pm.

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 (CompAZ) , connecting near-term energy considerations with a longer-term, economy-wide perspective for Arizona.
	Moderator: Marisa Walker (<i>ACA</i>)
	Panelist and Framing: Blaise Caudill (<i>Arizona Governor's Office of Resiliency</i>), Kimber Lanning (<i>Local First Arizona</i>) Other Invited Panelists Unconfirmed: <i>Greater Phoenix Economic Council</i> and a <i>Municipality</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>Republic Services Waste Management in Phoenix</i>) Other Invited Panelist Unconfirmed: <i>Honeywell Aerospace</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-4:30 PM	 NETWORKING BREAK
	 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>) Invited Panelists Unconfirmed: Hayley & Aldrich, South 32, Freeport-McMoRan
4:30 PM-5:00 PM	 Connecting the Day & What's Next: A facilitated closing conversation connecting themes from across the day, looking ahead to CompAZ, and inviting participants to help shape what comes next.
5:30 PM	 NETWORKING DINNER