



SUSTAINABLE
TUCSON

Sustainable Tucson's Renew Tucson Summit

April 23-24th





CAS Curriculum at PCC

Dr. Crystal McKenna

CAS Faculty and Department Head

What's already happening... and where we're headed



PCC CASP Target 2

"Ensure all learners understand the key principles of climate action and sustainability and can apply them in the field in which they are trained."

Every Class is a Climate Class

At Pima, we believe:

Climate and sustainability aren't just subjects, they are lenses for understanding the world.



**Across
disciplines**



**Across
programs**



**Across student
experiences**

Expanding Opportunities for Students

Courses now include:

GEO105 Climate Change

CAS101IN Sustainable Futures

CAS102IN Environmental Explorations

CAS110 Food, People & the Planet

CAS111 Sustainable Cities & Societies

CAS120 Systems, Logic & Sustainability

CAS290 CAS in the Community

LIT227 Literature & the Environment

(and more in development...)



SCAN ME

CLIMATE ACTION & SUSTAINABILITY

PREFIX - CAS - SUMMER/FALL 2026

SUMMER (ONLINE)

CAS101IN - 1st 8-week CRN 30712
CAS101IN - 2nd 8-week CRN 30713
CAS102IN - 1st 8-week CRN 30999
CAS102IN - 2nd 8-week CRN 30998
CAS120 - 2nd 8-week CRN 30714
GEO105 - 1st 8-week CRN 30711
GEO105 - 2nd 8-week CRN 30595

FALL (ONLINE)

CAS101IN - 16-week CRN 13007
CAS101IN - 16-week CRN 12827
CAS101IN - 2nd 8-week CRN 13422
CAS101IN - 2nd 8-week CRN 13420
CAS102IN - 16-week CRN 13419
CAS102IN - 2nd 8-week CRN 13421
CAS120 - 2nd 8-week CRN 13088
GEO105 - 16-week CRN 12828
GEO105 - 2nd 8-week CRN 13483

FALL - DOWNTOWN

CAS101IN - MW 9:45-12:25 CRN 13417

FALL - WEST

CAS101IN - TTh 9:45-11:00 CRN 13418
CAS101IN - TTh 11:15-12:25 CRN 12432
CAS110 - TTh 12:45-2:00 CRN 12433

FALL - NW

CAS101IN - TTh 2:15-3:30pm CRN 12826



FALL - EAST

GEO105 - TTh 12:45-2:00 CRN 12094

FALL - SANTA CRUZ

CAS101IN - MW 6:15-8:25pm CRN 13480
CAS101IN - TTh 6:15-8:25pm CRN 13481



Learning That Looks Different

Our Approach:

- No Prerequisites
- Meet several General Education requirements
- Open to all
- Transferable
- Aimed at creating an informed populace, not necessarily geared toward “majors”



SCAN ME

NEW PREFIX: CAS

CLIMATE ACTION & SUSTAINABILITY

@PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In-Person & Online!

LAB SCIENCE COURSES (4-CREDIT)

CAS101IN: Sustainable Futures
CAS102IN: Environmental Explorations

HUMANITIES COURSE (3-CREDIT)

LIT227: Literature & the Environment

SOCIAL-BEHAVIORAL COURSES (3-CREDIT)

CAS110: Food, People and the Planet
CAS111: Sustainable Cities & Societies
CAS120: Systems, Logic & Sustainability
GEO105: Climate Change

**TRANSFERABLE!
NO PREREQS!
OPEN TO ALL!**

520.206.4900 | pima.edu |    

Being community college is a great opportunity, offering a more affordable and flexible education compared to traditional four-year schools. Open access, transferable accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities to support access to all programs and services. Every effort will be made to provide reasonable accommodations as a priority. For student, public and employer accreditation requests and for information related to the ADA compliance process, please contact: Accessibility@pima.edu, 520.206.4900, or: Your College team (202) 226-9400/9401. Source: ADA 2010-2015.



PimaCommunityCollege

/// Keep striving.

Learning That Looks Different

Experiential. Local. Applied.

Students are:

- Exploring Tucson ecosystems
- Conducting field-based investigations
- Engaging in community-centered projects
- Connecting learning to real-world systems



Learning beyond the classroom

*Please check out the
wonderful student work
examples around the
room!*

Learning in Partnership

We collaborate with:

- Local organizations
- Schools and districts
- Regional sustainability leaders
- Community initiatives

**Learning happens with the community,
not just about it**



Momentum & Growth

Growing student interest

- 40 students in Fall 2024 → ~300 each semester

Expanding course pathways

- 2 courses in Fall 2024 → 8 specialized courses

Strategic Impact:

- Strengthening partnerships
- Collaborating across disciplines
- Contributing to institutional sustainability

This is just the beginning



SCAN ME

Join Our Movement

There are many ways to engage:

- Take a course
- Partner with us
- Bring this into your work
- Stay connected

Participate in our annual survey!



SCAN ME



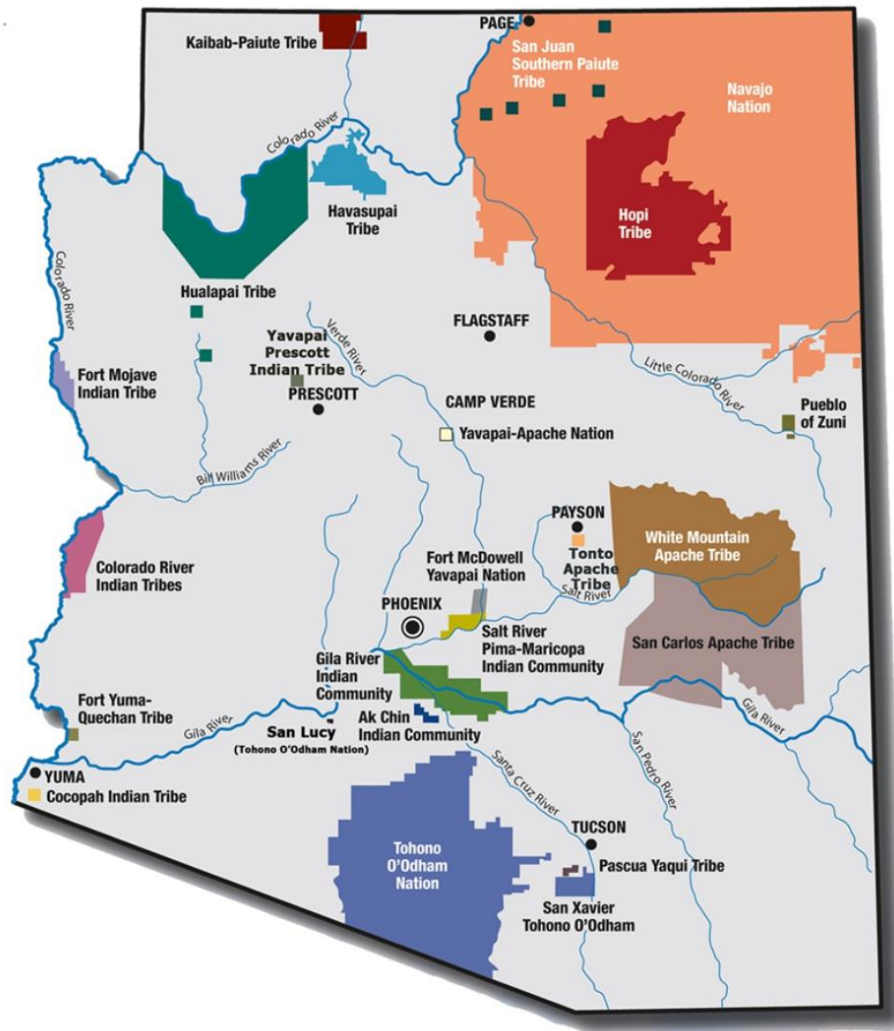
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April 23-24th

Scott Hancock

Land Acknowledgement



Backdrop

Living through history (again?!)

- 100 F days in March?



Underfunded

- federal and state support down

Q: How might we accomplish our climate goals?

Renew Tucson Summit – what is it?



April 23rd and 24th – Today and Tomorrow!



Pima Community College, Downtown Campus



Theme: Tucson investing in itself



Six Sectors

(1) Agriculture, (2) Built Environment, (3) Energy, (4) Industry, (5) Transportation, (6) Water



Bottom line?

Deeper **active** connection among community, government, and local industry that strengthen Tucson

Co-Create a new Path Forward!



Underlying theme = Resource productivity



“If we can pull the big market levers, enabled by smart local government policies, programs, and investment initiatives, then a huge set of economic opportunities awaits us!” – Skip Laitner

Community Agreements

- Address people in respectful, non-judgmental ways
- Grace and courtesy are timeless values. Avoid demanding, critical, or zealous tones
- Choose terms that are appropriate to your audience
- Focus on facts, examples, personal experiences and values; avoid terms that promote ideological or other divisions
- Accept people where they are in their journey

Day 1 Activities

Day 1 (9am-5pm)

- 9:00 – Opening Plenary
 - Speaker: John A “Skip” Laitner
- 10:30 – Breakout #1: Sector Background
- 12:45 – Game
- 12:20 – Lunch Panel
 - Speakers: Tucson Mayor Regina Romero and County Chair Jennifer Allen
- 1:30 – 6 Great Examples
- 2:15 – Breakout #2: Exploring Solutions
- 4:15 – Closing Plenary

Day 2 Activities

Day 2 (9am-1pm)

- 9:00 – Opening Plenary: Review Day 1
 - Speaker: John A “Skip” Laitner
- 9:20 – Guest Speakers
 - Speakers: Matt McDonnell, Julie Dittmer, and Natalie Shepp
- 10:00 – Breakout #3 – Path Finding
- 12:00 – Plenary Summary
- 1:00 – Adjourn

A Note of Gratitude and Grace

Please Bear with Us



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**ECONOMIC & HUMAN DIMENSIONS
RESEARCH ASSOCIATES** ::::

GREATER PROSPERITY THROUGH RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY

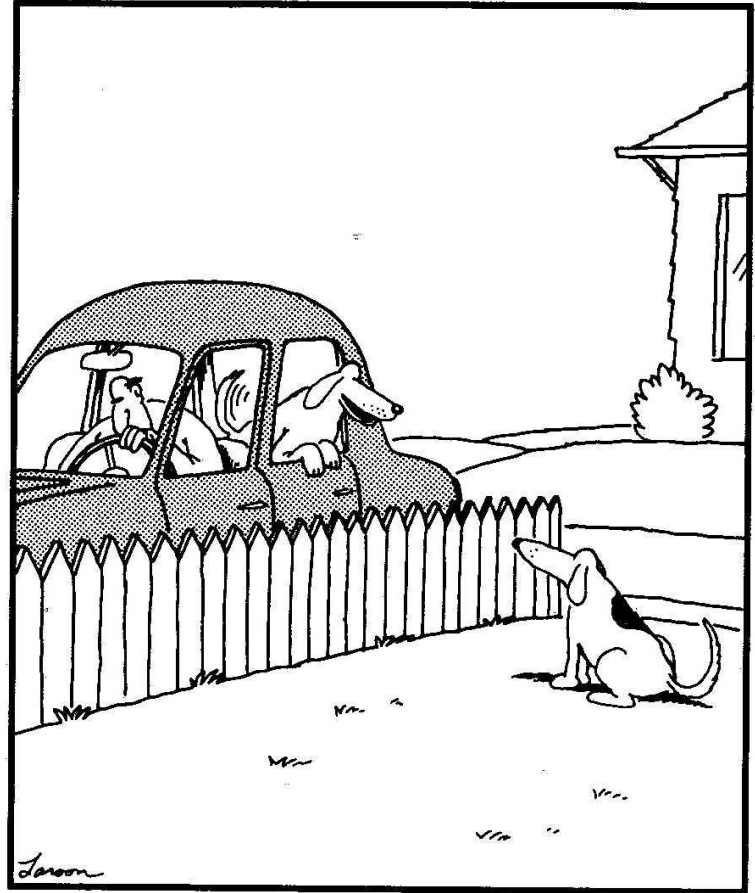
**ASKING NEW QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE NEW
OPPORTUNITIES**

Shifting to a 21st Century energy productivity mindset:

**RETHINKING ENERGY PRODUCTIVITY TO DRIVE OUR SOCIAL,
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND OUR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC WELL-BEING**

John A. "Skip" Laitner

And as we are reminded by my favorite American philosopher, Gary Larson, small differences in assumptions can lead to very big differences in outcomes!!



"Ha ha ha, Biff. Guess what? After we go to the drugstore and the post office, I'm going to the vet's to get tutored."

April 14, 2026 marked the 91st anniversary of

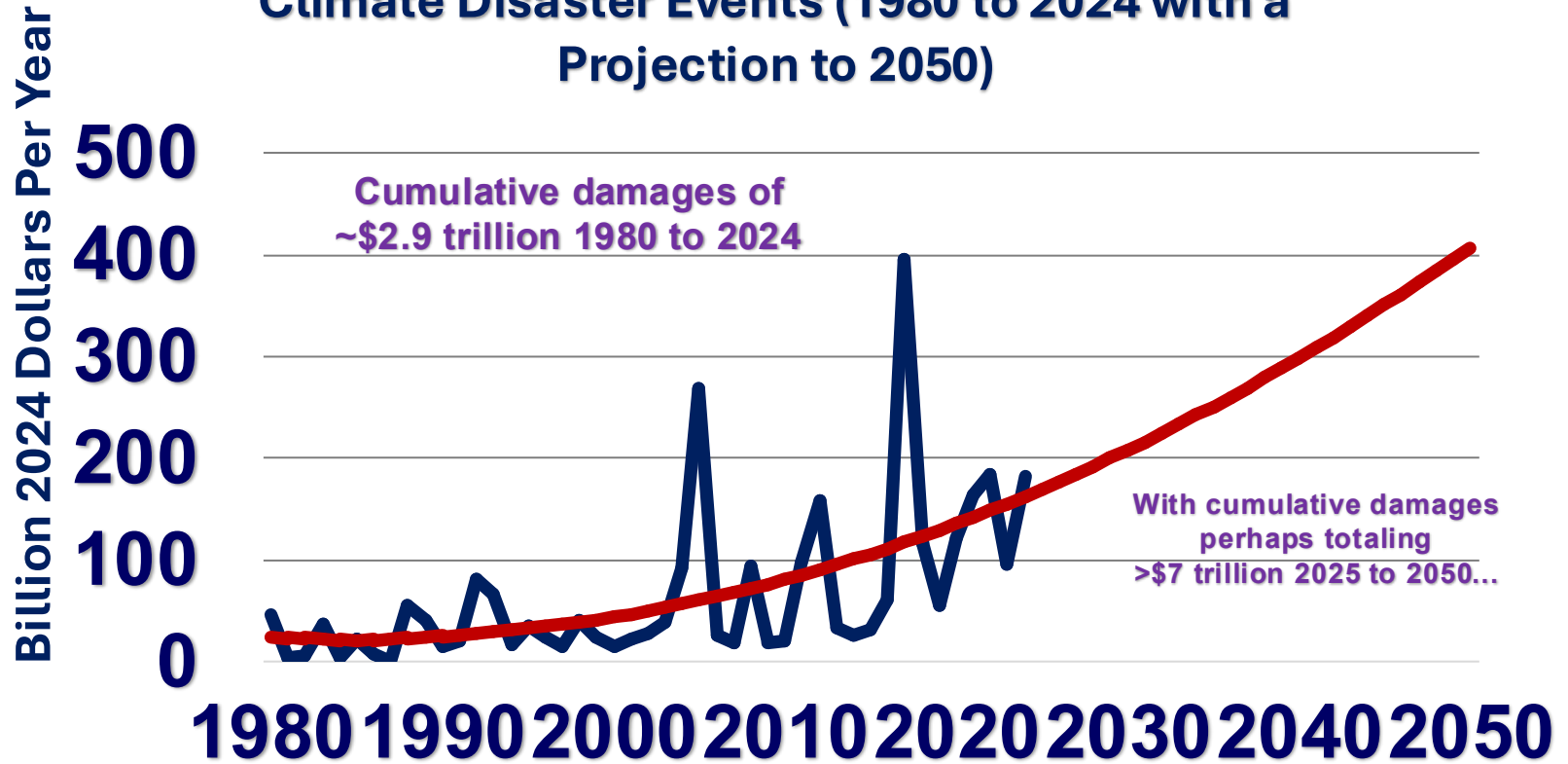
BLACK SUNDAY

We created **The Dust Bowl** drought of the 1930s – one of the **worst environmental disasters** of the Twentieth Century anywhere in the world.

And we're about to do it again, only worse and in a different way...



From Dust Bowl to Annual Impact of U.S. Billion Dollar Climate Disaster Events (1980 to 2024 with a Projection to 2050)



Source: Laitner Calculation and Working Projection based on NCEI-NOAA Data April 2025.

So Let's Continue With a Critical Question:

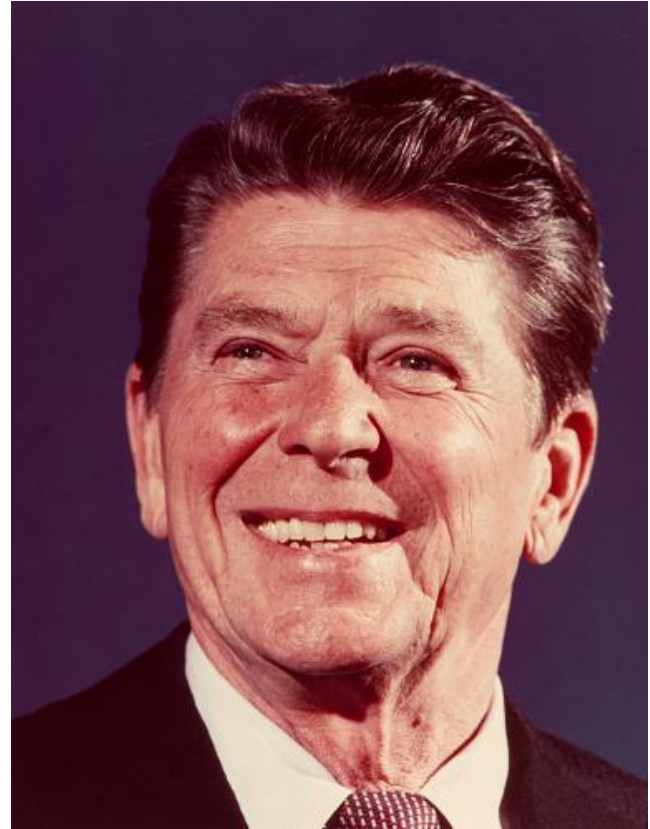
Might limited data and metrics also limit both our insights, as well as our understanding of what our larger economic opportunities might actually be?

Do Limited Data and Metrics Also Limit Insights and Understanding?

“If I could leave you with one last thought, it's this: There are no such things as limits to growth, because there are no limits on the human capacity for intelligence, imagination, and wonder (emphasis added). A century ago, oil was nothing more than so much dark, sticky, ill-smelling liquid. It was the invention of the internal combustion engine that turned oil into a resource, and today oil fuels the world's economy.”

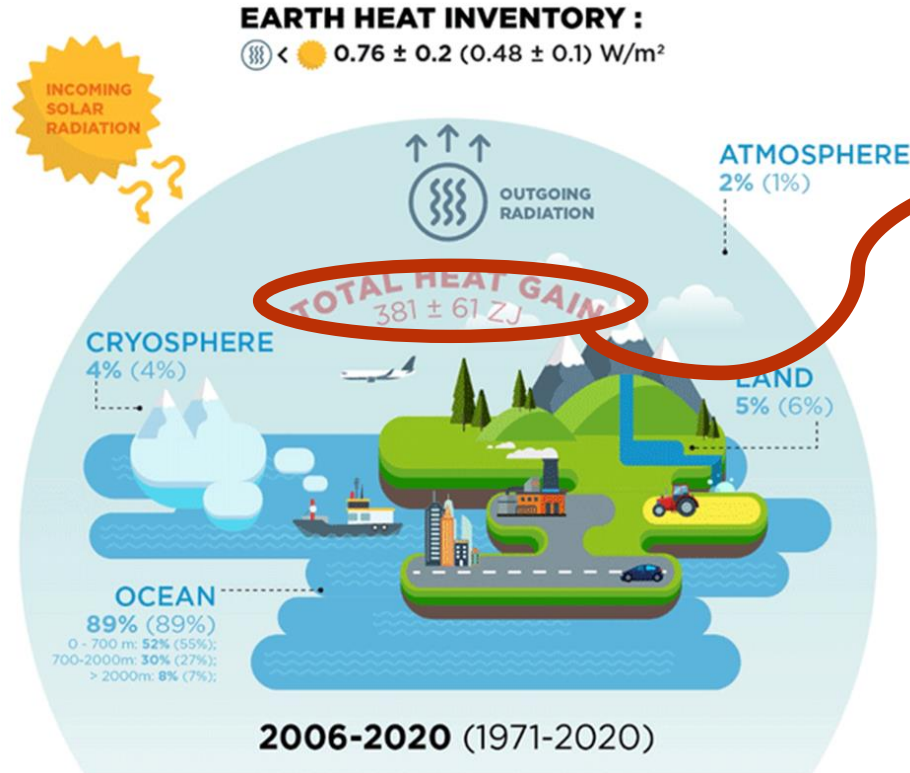
.....

President Ronald Reagan, Remarks at Convocation Ceremonies at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC on September 20, 1983



And yet. . .

Understanding the Earth-Energy Imbalance (EEI): The Build-up of Heat in the Earth's System



Updated to 2025, now
~424 zettajoules (ZJ) of
heat which is ~600
times (or more) of all
the energy used by the
entire global economy
in a single year

Perhaps equally critical, the scale of both energy and resource consumption is driving very big changes in our environment and economy in ways that may erode our long-term social, community, and economic well-being.

Source: Heat stored in the Earth system 1960–2020: where does the energy go? <https://essd.copernicus.org/articles/15/1675/2023/>

So . . .

However “imaginative” our (in)efficient use of fossil fuels, other energy, water, and resources altogether, the economic burdens of energy, water, and resource wastes have grown big time. . .

And the Scale of Resource Use by Pima County?*

Pima Domestic Material Footprint: 21.0 million metric tons

Pima Energy Use Tonnes of Coal Equivalent: 8.5 million metric tons

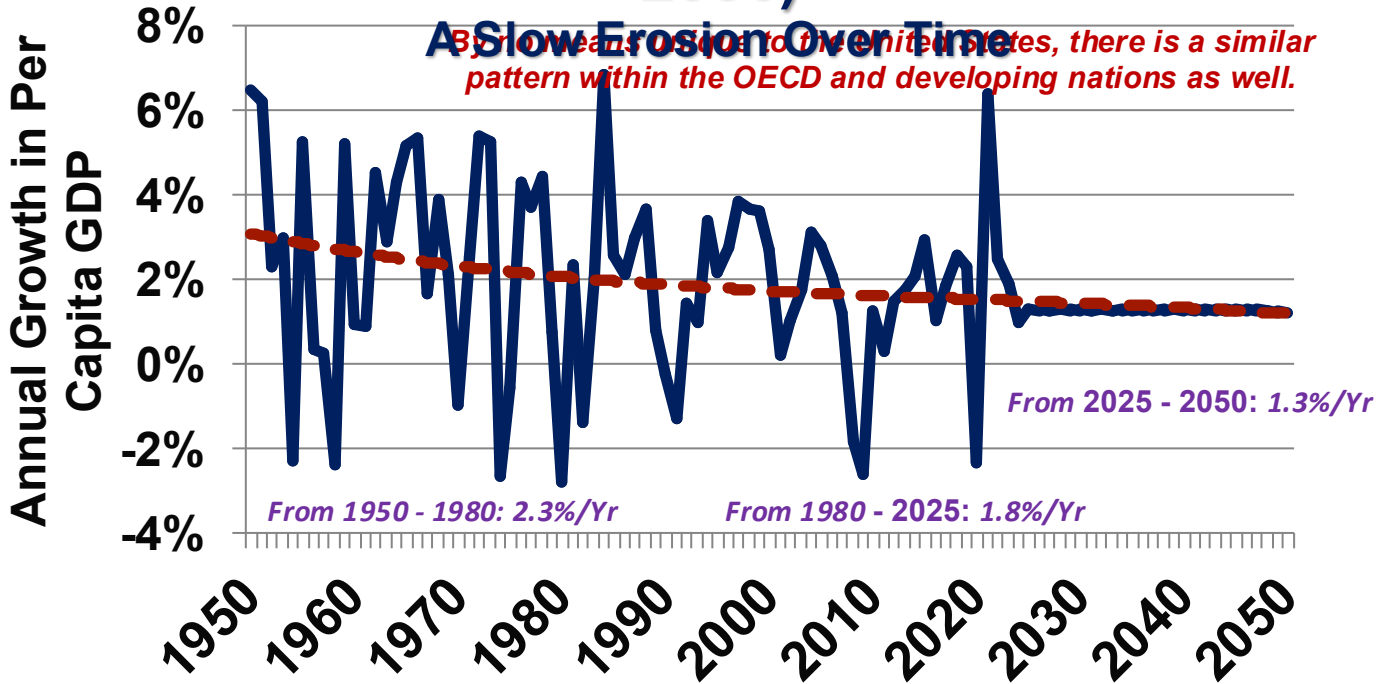
Pima Fresh Water Consumption: 372.8 billion gallons

Pima Total Scope 1, 2, & 3 GHG Emissions: 19.5 million metric tons

*And to highlight the scale of economic costs which might be imposed only by GHG emissions?
My working estimate of the “Social Cost of GHG” for Pima County alone is an annual
economic burden of ~\$3.6 billion per year. . .*

** The metrics shown are based on a variety of data sources as adjusted for both per capita consumption and income. They are intended to show the insight of scale rather than precise estimates. But I am happy to discuss and extend this thinking as people may find it useful.*

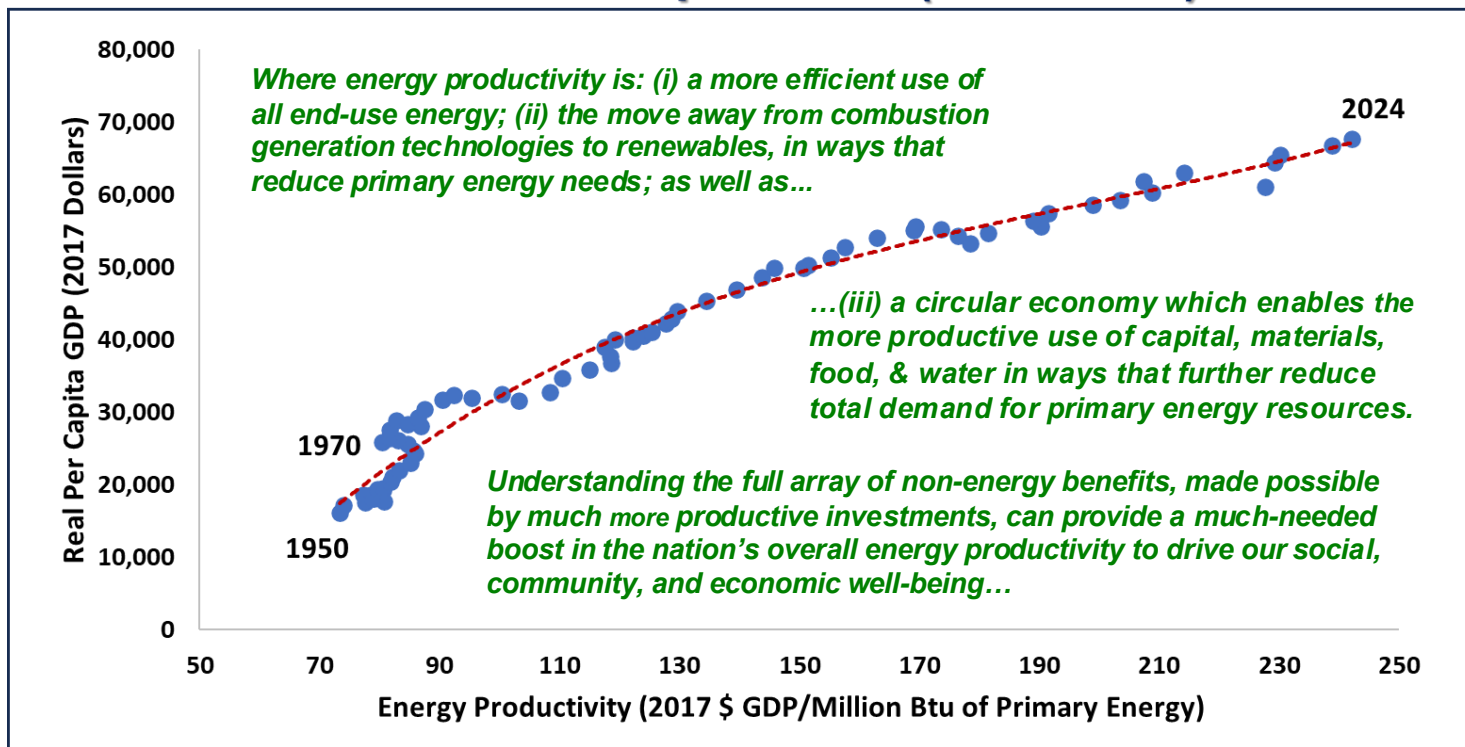
Growth of Real U.S. Per Capita GDP (1950 – 2050)



Source: Economic and Human Dimensions Research Associates calculations based on various BEA and W&P Data (2025).

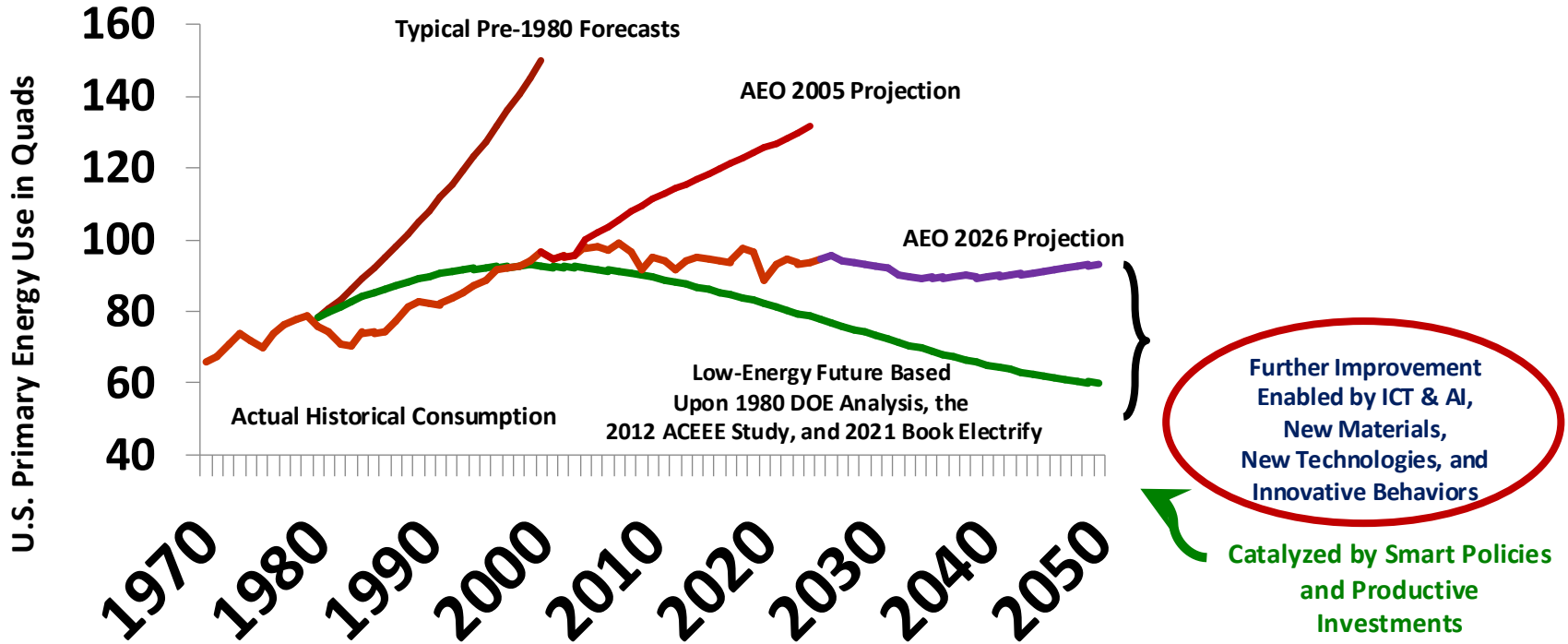
Question: Might we imagine the economic erosion is a result of the cumulative \$2.9 trillion U.S. losses from climate change over the period 1980 to 2024 (slide #5)? With perhaps a growing burden of waste, but also a lagging energy productivity??

The Connection Between U.S. Energy Productivity and Real Per Capita GDP (1950-2024)

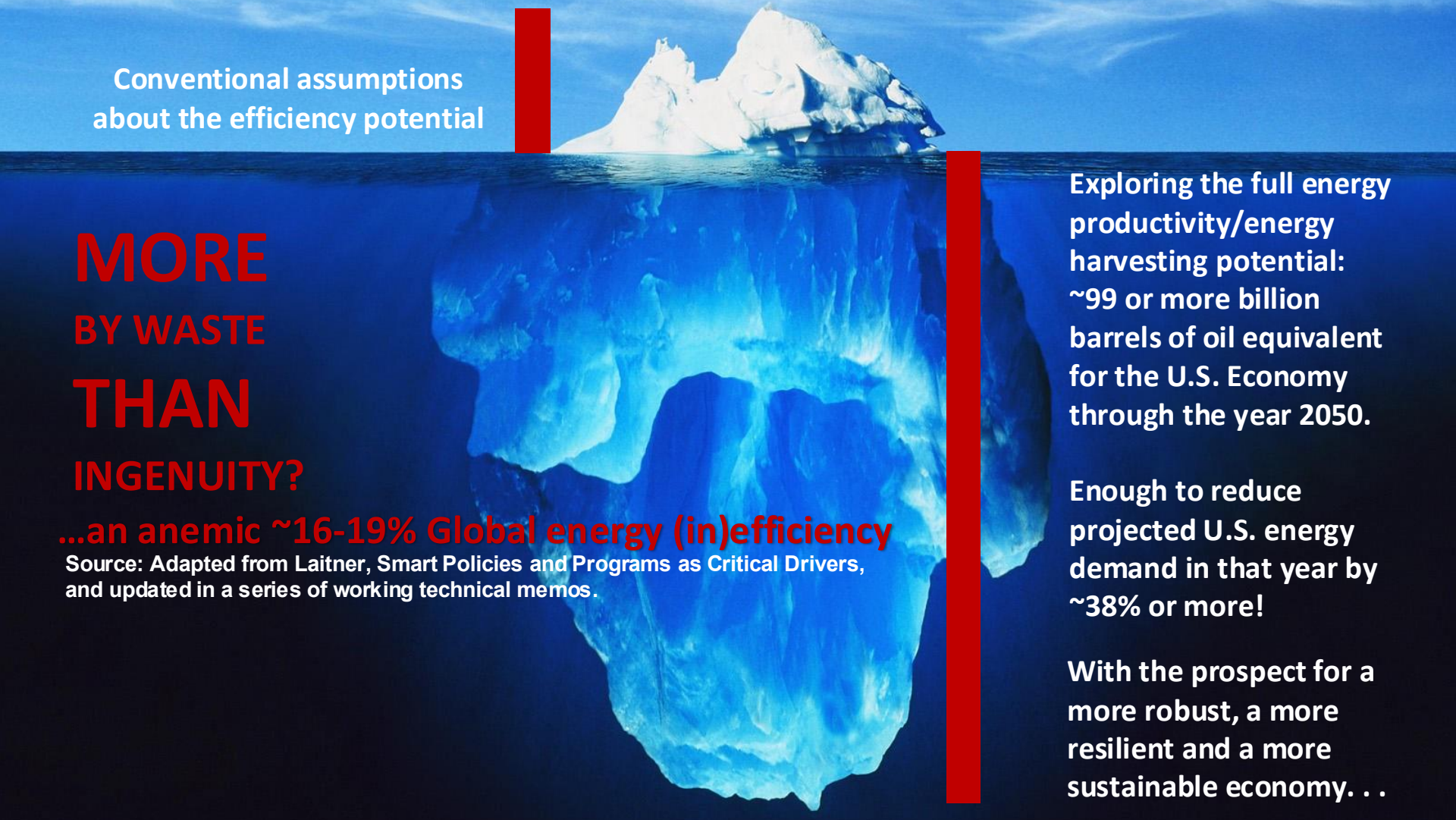


Source: Calculations by John A. "Skip" Laitner using EIA and BEA data for the United States, October 2025.

Key Insight: The Energy Productivity Resource Is Larger than Generally Understood or Believed



Sources: Laitner April 2026, based on DOE 1980 Policy Analysis, AER 2026, ACEEE 2012, AEO 2005, AEO 2026, Griffith 2021.



Conventional assumptions
about the efficiency potential

**MORE
BY WASTE
THAN
INGENUITY?**

...an anemic ~16-19% Global energy (in)efficiency

Source: Adapted from Laitner, Smart Policies and Programs as Critical Drivers,
and updated in a series of working technical memos.

Exploring the full energy
productivity/energy
harvesting potential:
~99 or more billion
barrels of oil equivalent
for the U.S. Economy
through the year 2050.

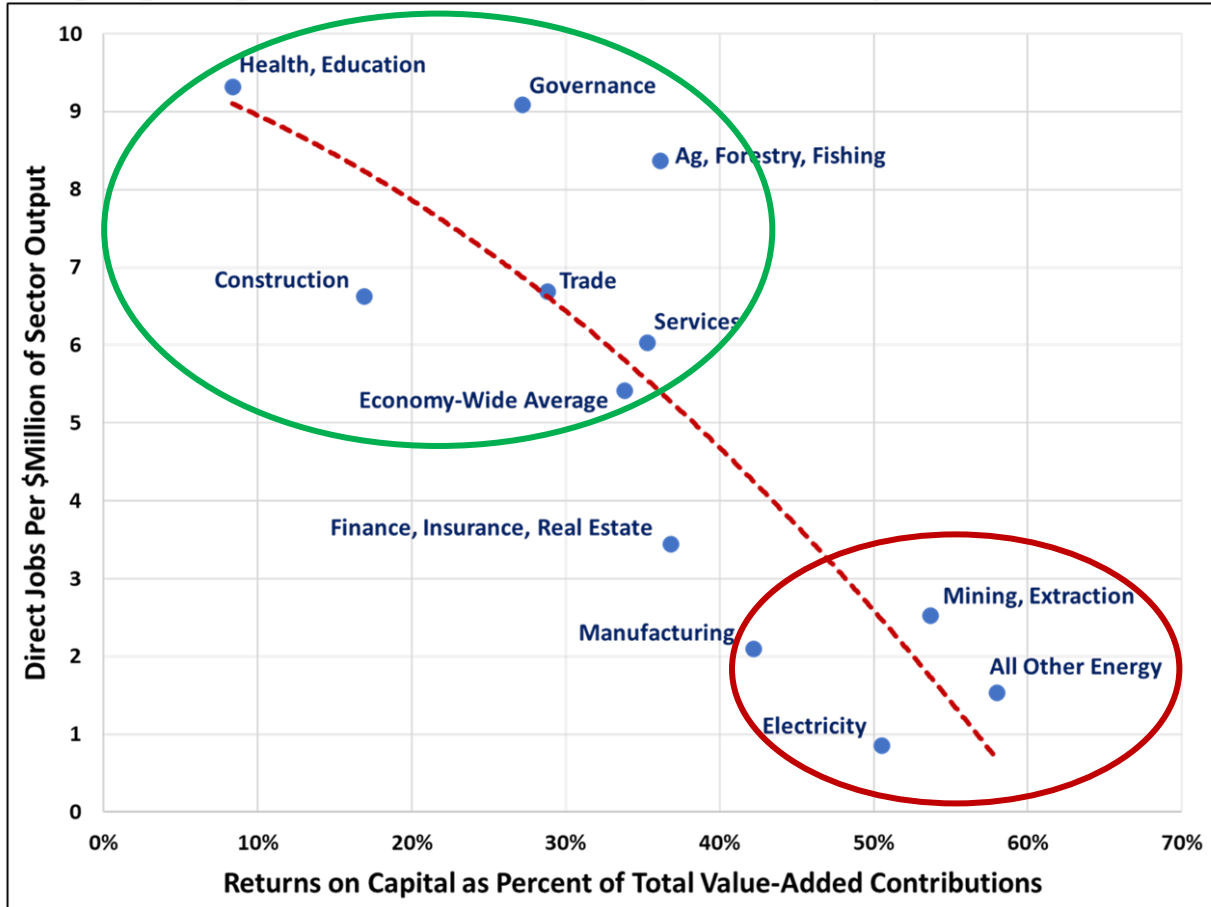
Enough to reduce
projected U.S. energy
demand in that year by
~38% or more!

With the prospect for a
more robust, a more
resilient and a more
sustainable economy. . .

AND WHAT ABOUT JOBS?

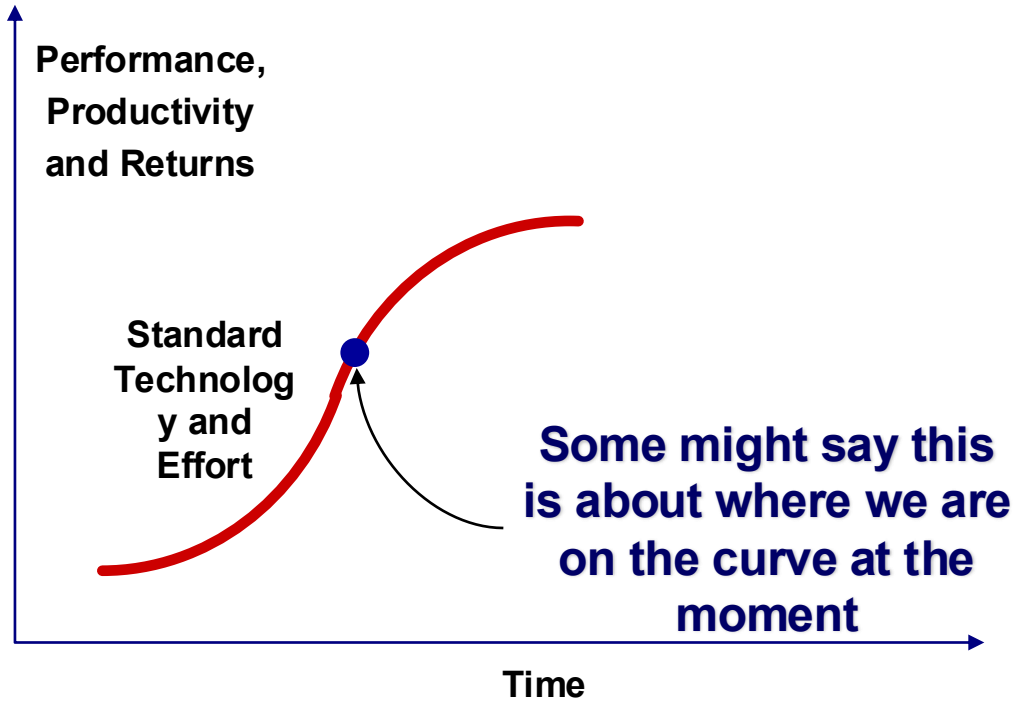


Highlighting the Link Between Capital Intensity and Job Creation

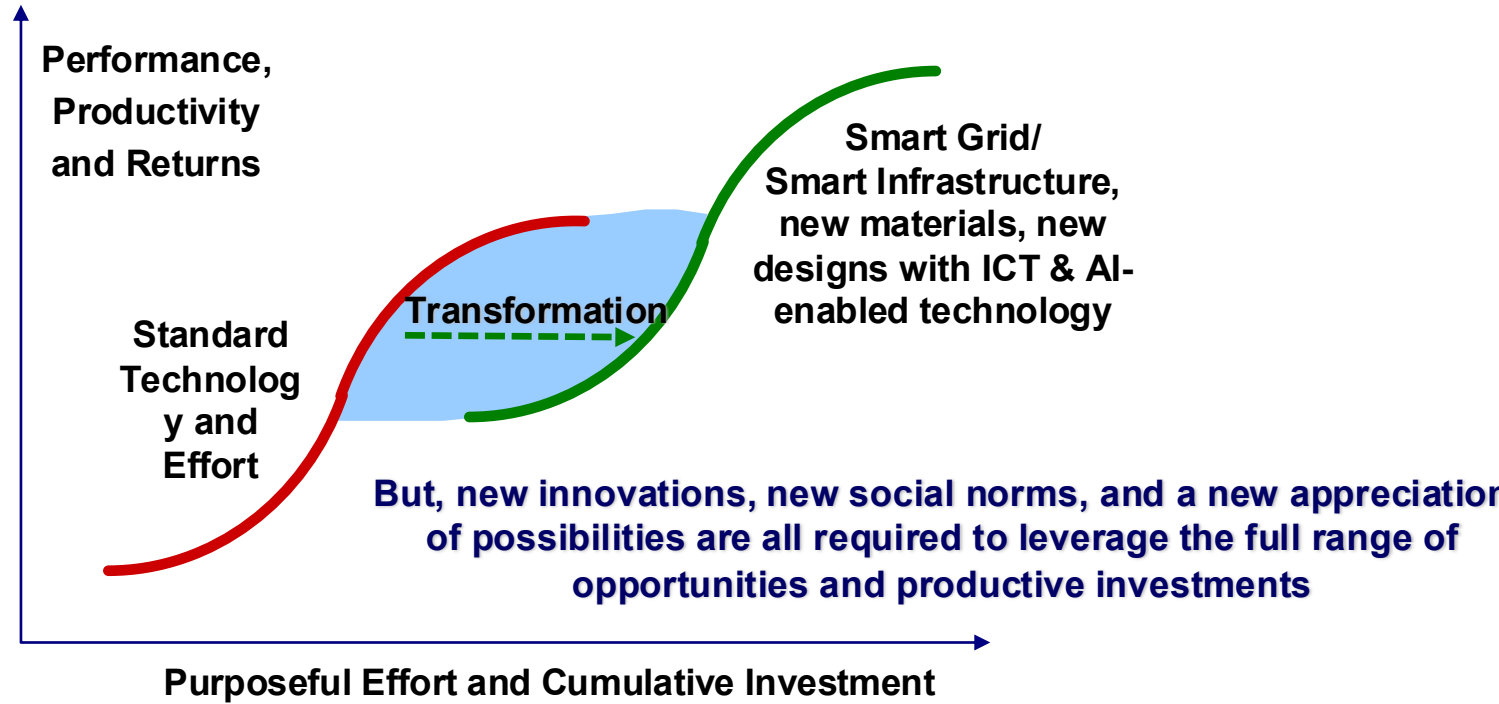


Source: Author calculations based on US 2018 data from IMPLAN (October 2020).

***A Key Insight: Purposeful Effort and Productive Investments Are Required
If We Are to Respond to the Imperative of Greater Energy Productivity***



***A Key Insight: Purposeful Effort and Productive Investments Are Required
If We Are to Respond to the Imperative of Greater Energy Productivity***



**How 'moonshot' thinking
could save the world.**

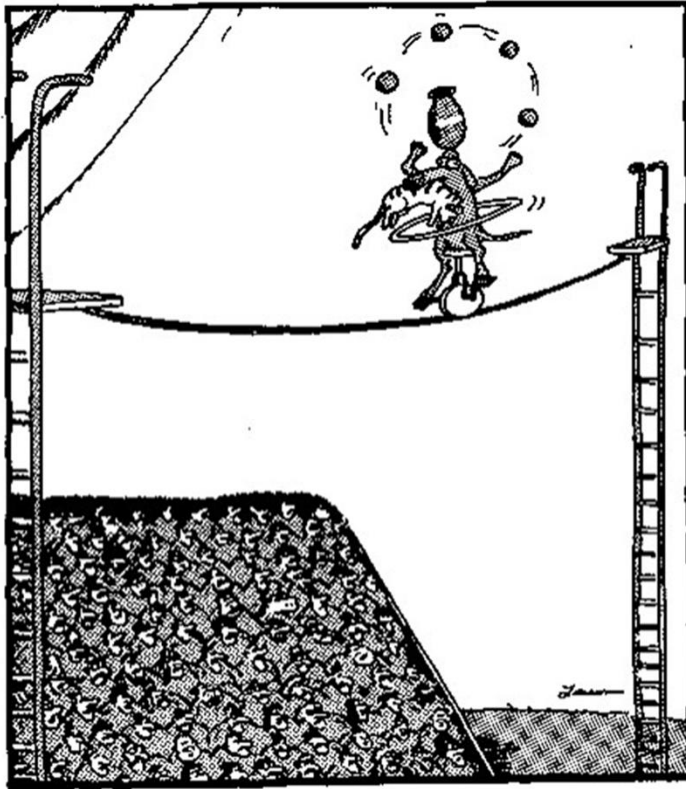
.....
– Mariana Mazzucato
Mission Economy: A Moonshot Guide
to Changing Capitalism (2021).



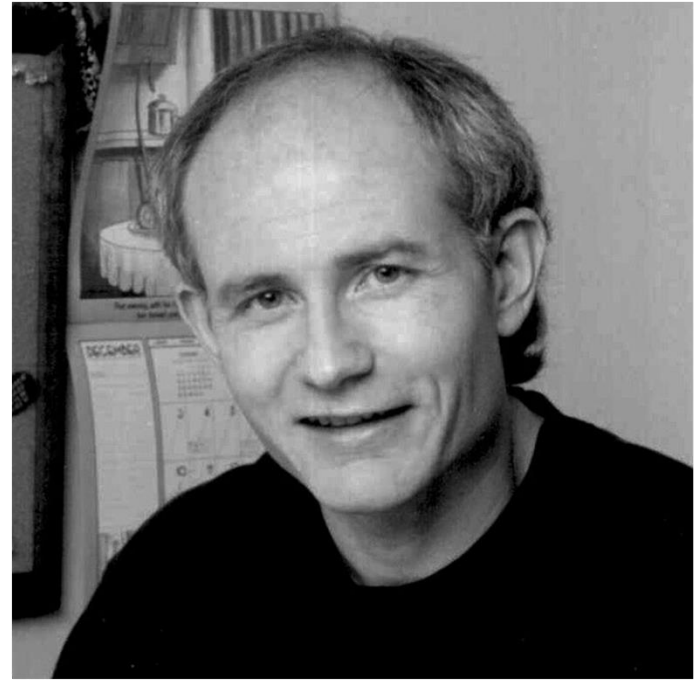


**“Thinking is the
hardest work
there is which
is the probable
reason why so
few engage in
it.”**

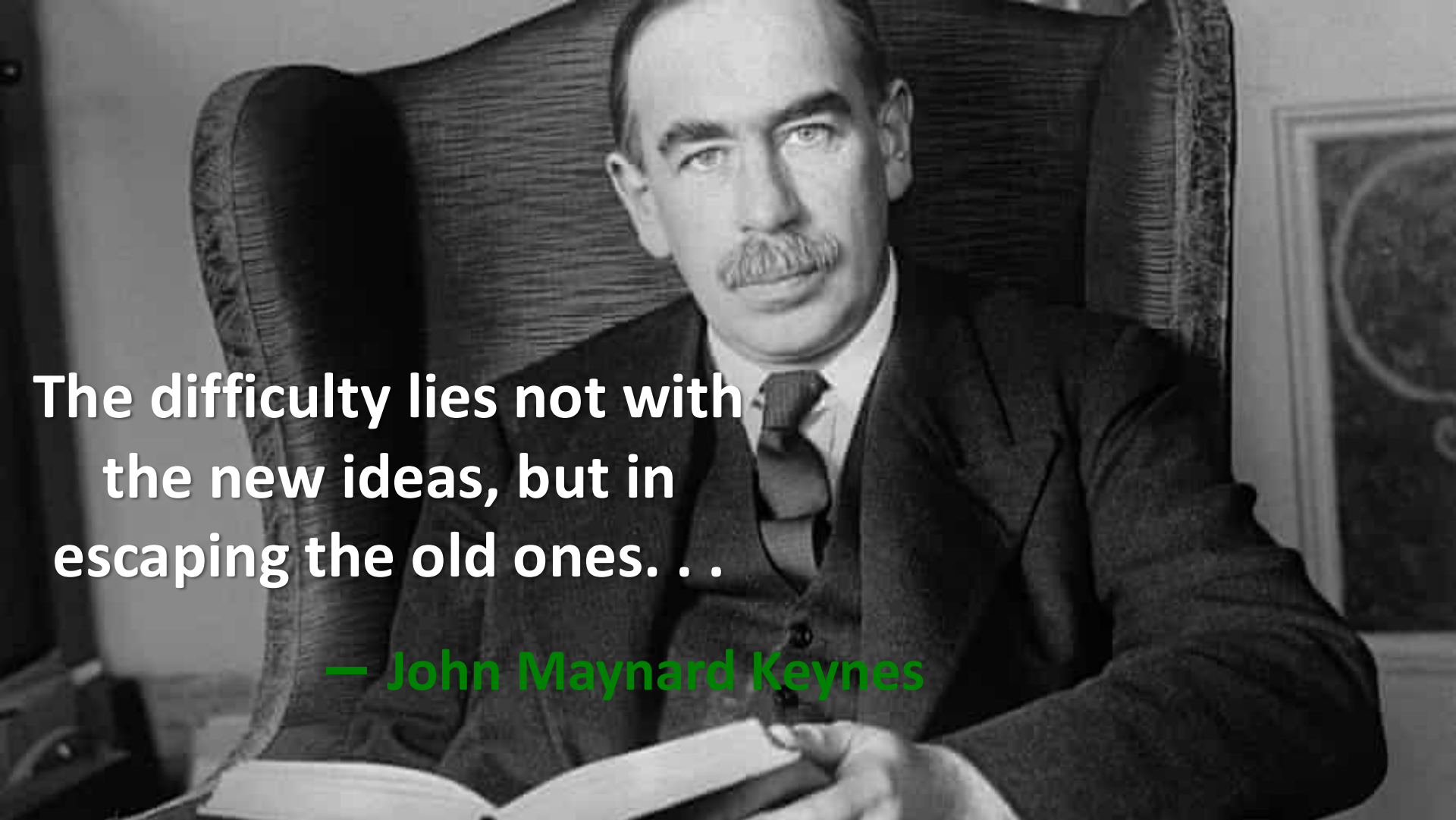
– Henry Ford



High above the hushed crowd, Rex tried to remain focused. Still, he couldn't shake one nagging thought: He was an old dog and this was a new trick.



Perhaps a last word from, not my favorite physicist, but my favorite American Philosopher, Gary Larson. . .

A black and white photograph of John Maynard Keynes. He is seated in a large, upholstered armchair, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He has a prominent mustache and is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. His hands are resting on an open book in his lap. The background is slightly out of focus, showing a framed picture on the wall to the right.

**The difficulty lies not with
the new ideas, but in
escaping the old ones. . .**

— John Maynard Keynes

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- **Laitner, John A. “Skip”. 2020.** Institutional Perspectives on the Productive Use of Resources. An overview article as a guest editor in a special issue of the Russian Journal, Economic Policy. April 2020. Available from the author.
- **Rifkin, Jeremy, Rob Wilhite, Gordon Gill, John A. “Skip” Laitner, Daniel Lashof, et al. 2021.** America 3.0: A Smart Third Industrial Revolution Infrastructure and the Recovery of the American Economy. A Report Prepared for Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Senate. <https://www.foet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Jeremy-Rifkin-America-3.0-The-Resilient-Society-20210728.pdf>
- **WMO 2021.** Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970–2019). Geneva, Switzerland: World Meteorological Organization. https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=31020#YheDaN_M12w

With many thanks for your attention, but do also note:



**THE DIFFICULTY
IS TO ESCAPE
THE OLD
IDEAS**

*For more information, contact:
John A. "Skip" Laitner at
EconSkip@gmail.com*



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CHALLENGES



SOLUTIONS



**WHAT'S
YOUR
SOLUTION?**

#lovemyrainbasin



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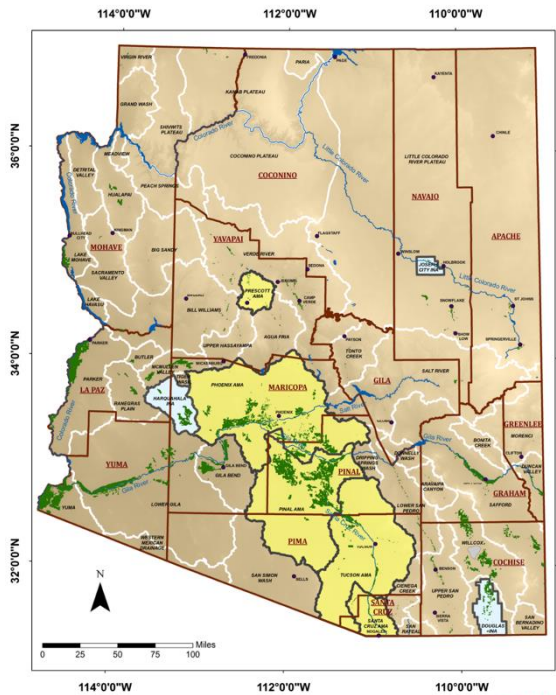


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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Center for Urban Smart Agriculture

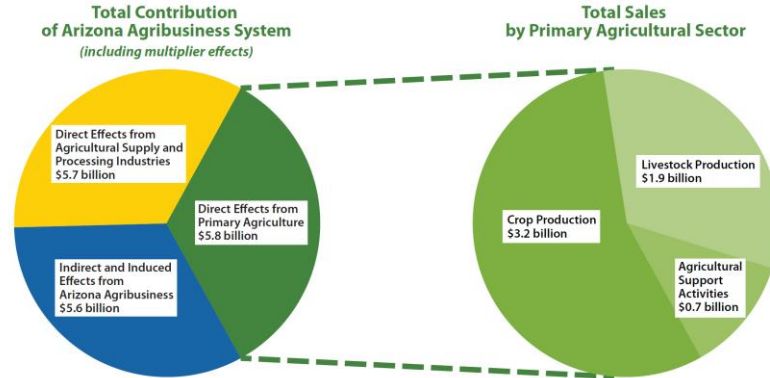
**Creating Opportunities for a
Changing Agriculture in Arizona**

Ayman Mostafa



Commercial Agriculture land in Arizona

Arizona Agriculture is a \$30.9 Billion Industry



- **Three Counties ranking in the top 1% of all U.S. counties in a number of agricultural sales**
- **Support $\geq 126,000$ full & part-time jobs**
- **Employing $\geq 160,000$ unique workers.**

TABLE 1 2017 alfalfa hay yield by county (in tons per acre)

	State, area, county	Yield (in tons/acre)
1	Arizona, Southern, Maricopa	9.15
2	Arizona, Northern, Mohave	8.7
3	Arizona, Southern, Pinal	8.45
4	Arizona, Southern, Lapaz	8.15
5	Arizona, Southern, Yuma	7.6
6	Washington, Southeast, Walla Walla	7.3
7	Arizona, Southern, Pima	7
8	New Mexico, Southwest, Sierra	6.95
9	New York, Southeast, Columbia	6.9
10	Arizona, Southern, Cochise	6.65
11	New Mexico, Southeast, Eddy	6.5
12	Washington, East Central, Grant	6.45
13	Washington, East Central, Adams	6.4
14	Illinois, Northwest, Putnam	6.35
15	Kansas, Southwest, Seward	6.2
16	Illinois, Southwest, St Clair	6.05
17	Colorado, Northeast, Morgan	6
18	Illinois, Southwest, Clinton	5.95
18	Kansas, Southwest, Grant	5.95
20	Colorado, East Central, Phillips	5.85
20	Illinois, Central, Mclean	5.85
22	New Mexico, Southeast, Chaves	5.8
23	Illinois, East Southeast, Cumberland	5.75
23	Illinois, Southwest, Randolph	5.75
25	Illinois, West Southwest, Bond	5.65
25	Kansas, Southwest, Gray	5.65
27	Idaho, Southwest, Owyhee	5.55
27	Nebraska, Southeast, Fillmore	5.55
27	Nebraska, Southwest, Hitchcock	5.55
30	Idaho, South Central, Cassia	5.5
30	New Mexico, Northeast, Torrance	5.5
30	Oregon, Southeast, Jefferson	5.5

National average 3.34



Significant dairy



**Yuma
Winter salad bowl**

**Arizona tops US upland
yields per acre**



**Arizona's High Quality
Durum Wheat has
Global Celebrity Status**

Challenges, Needs and Limited Resources

- **Management of water resources & drought**
- **Urbanization and land loss**
- **Climate change**
- **Labor Shortage**
- **Supply chain, trade, inflation, and economic uncertainty.**
- **Regulations and Policy shifts**



Arizona Water Resources and demands

Arizona's Water Supply



SOURCE: ADWR, 2020

Arizona's Water Use Sectors



SOURCE: ADWR, 2020

Diminishing water availability in the Colorado River Basin

Aridification, Megadrought, Crisis





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Center for Urban Smart Agriculture

**Creating Opportunities for a
Changing Agriculture in Arizona**

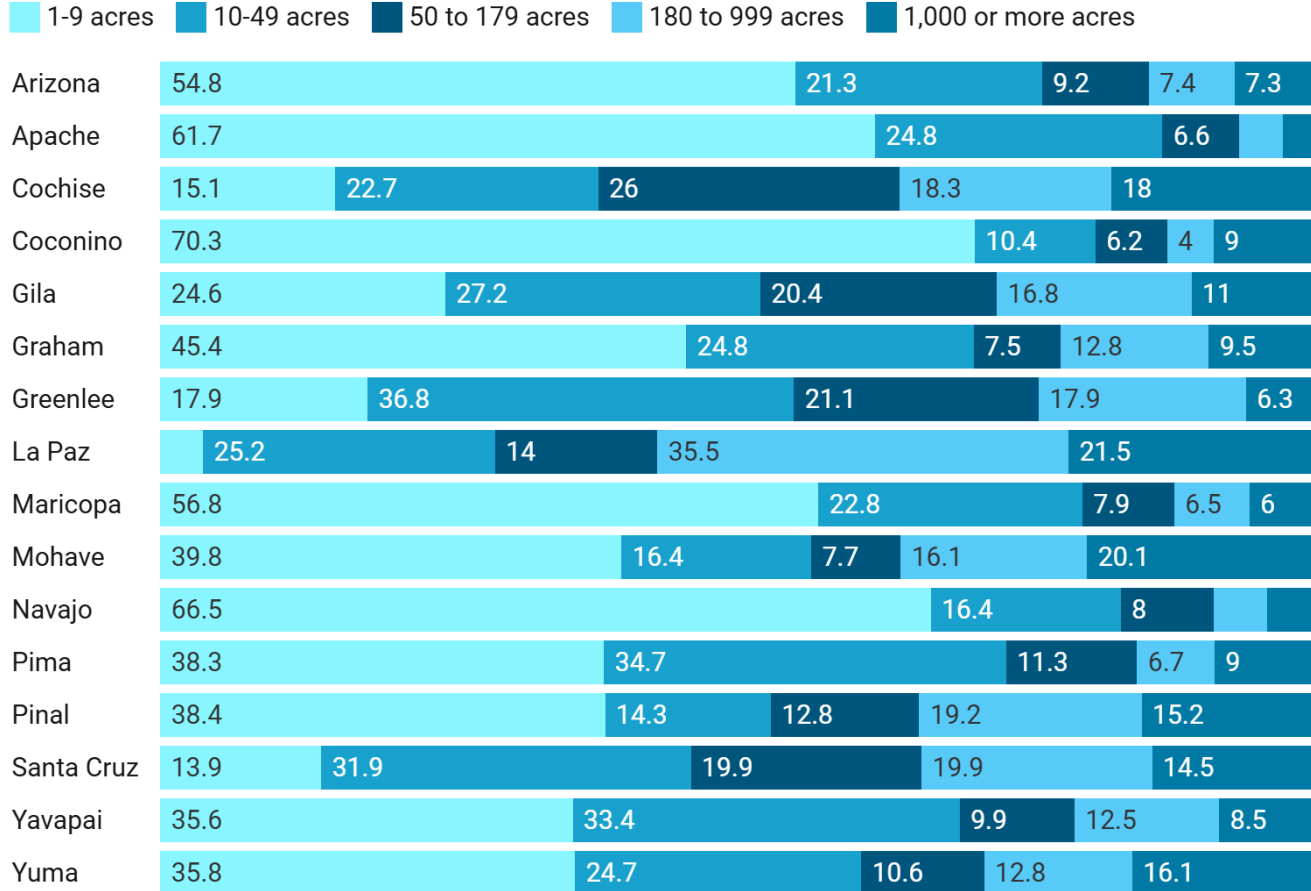
Ayman Mostafa

Number of Farms 2012 - 2022

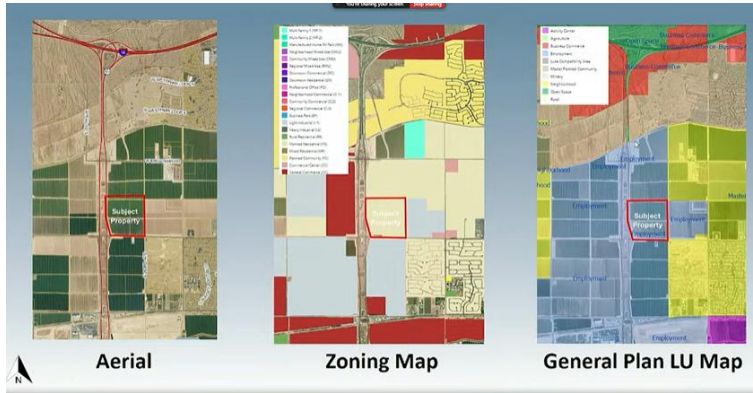
	2022	2017	2012	Percent Change 2017-2022	Percent Change 2012-2022
U.S.	1,900,487	2,042,220	2,109,303	-6.9%	-9.9%
Arizona	16,710	19,086	20,005	-12.4%	-16.5%
Apache	5,343	5,551	5,591	-3.7%	-4.4%
Cochise	1,002	1,083	1,093	-7.5%	-8.3%
Coconino	2,057	2,142	2,239	-4.0%	-8.1%
Gila	191	298	195	-35.9%	-2.1%
Graham	359	448	412	-19.9%	-12.9%
Greenlee	95	123	159	-22.8%	-40.3%
La Paz	107	97	125	10.3%	-14.4%
Maricopa	1,527	1,874	2,479	-18.5%	-38.4%
Mohave	274	317	335	-13.6%	-18.2%
Navajo	3,269	4,205	3,846	-22.3%	-15.0%
Pima	478	661	855	-27.7%	-44.1%
Pinal	718	762	938	-5.8%	-23.5%
Santa Cruz	166	219	236	-24.2%	-29.7%
Yavapai	727	850	940	-14.5%	-22.7%
Yuma	397	456	562	-12.9%	-29.4%



Percent of Farms by Size 2022



The Loss of Agricultural Land



Example in Maricopa County

- The county has the fastest farmland loss rate in the U.S.
- American Farmland Trust report

- ~ 11.5 sq miles/year.
- No farmland in the County in 36 years!
- Significant footprint of farmland conversion



More statistics

- Average age of farmer in AZ is 60.1 (national average is 58.1)
- 88% of the farms earn less than \$25,000 in annual sales.
- Average farm sizes in Arizona decreased by 57%
- Farms with \$25,000 - \$49,999 in sales increased in number by 19% from 2017-2022, with 25% beginning farmers in AZ. Every other category decreased.



Thank you!



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Mobility Diet Examples: Planned vs. Organic

Almere (Planned, Post-WWII)



What it is

- New town (1970s–present), ~220k people
- Built on reclaimed land near Amsterdam
- Designed as polycentric districts (multiple centers)



Mobility Diet Features

- ✓ **Separated bike network** → fast, safe, direct routes
- ✓ **Dedicated busways + rail** → transit is competitive with cars
- ✓ **Polycentric layout** → daily needs closer to home
- ✓ **Green corridors** → pleasant, continuous active travel routes
- ✓ **Mode hierarchy** → walking/biking/transit prioritized by design



A rare example of a modern city intentionally designed around Mobility Diet principles.



West University Neighborhood (Organic, Pre-WWII)



What it is

- Built ~1890–1930
- ~0.5–0.7 sq mi, ~4,500 residents
- Between downtown Tucson & University of Arizona



Mobility Diet Features

- ✓ **Compact scale** → most trips short
- ✓ **Connected street grid** → direct walking/biking routes
- ✓ **Mixed nearby destinations** → jobs, shops, services within reach
- ✓ **Transit access (streetcar)** → viable non-car option
- ✓ **Human-scale design** → shade, frontage, active streets



Naturally achieves Mobility Diet outcomes because it was built before car dependence.



DENSITY IS THE MULTIPLIER

Density multiplies the benefits of smart investments that connect people to important destinations nearby.

Density may allow for shorter distance, but doesn't have to. Proper investments can shorten distances, increase choice, and make sustainable options the easy choice.

INVESTMENTS THAT MULTIPLY IMPACT:



SHORTER DISTANCES

Put daily needs within a 15–20 minute walk or bike ride



SHADED, SAFE & INTERESTING TRIPS

Trees, wide sidewalks, seating, lighting, art, and engaging streets



SAFE CROSSINGS FOR EVERYONE

Make major street crossings safe for large numbers of people



GREAT TRANSIT TO ELSEWHERE

Frequent, reliable transit connects you beyond the neighborhood



HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

Home delivery reduces that need for car trips



ALL OF THIS ENCOURAGES NEIGHBORS TO WALK OR BIKE TO THE NEARBY URBAN VILLAGE CENTER

More people close by means more vibrant local shops, services, jobs, and community life—for everyone.

Mobility Diet:

A New Model for Accessible Neighborhoods

Better places. Fewer trips. Healthier communities.

A NETWORK OF NEIGHBORHOODS
CONNECTED TO NEARBY SERVICES
AND GREAT TRANSIT



1. Reduce Total Travel

Bring daily needs closer to home and shorten trip distances.



2. Accessibility Over Mobility

Design for people—so everyone can reach what they need, easily.



3. Park Neighborhoods

Transform neighborhoods into walkable, bikeable, greener, more livable places.



4. Calm, People-First Streets

Use traffic calming to create low-speed streets where cars are guests.



5. Green, Comfortable Places

Add shade trees, green infrastructure, and pocket parks for a cooler, healthier environment.



6. Urban Village Centers

Create distributed centers with essential services, jobs, and housing near transit.



7. High-Quality Bus Rapid Transit

Connect centers with frequent, reliable, comfortable BRT for fast, convenient trips.



8. Safe Short Trips

Build strong pedestrian and bike networks and safe crossings over busy streets.



9. Less Car Dependence

Support local access and alternative delivery to reduce the need for car trips.



Healthier
People



Greener
Environment



Stronger
Communities



Lower Costs,
Greater Value



More
Resilient City



SUSTAINABLE
TUCSON

Sustainable Tucson's Renew Tucson Summit

April 23-24th

Scott Hancock