

Sandra (Sue Andra) West

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Mission: To direct systems-level sustainability work that mitigates and adapts to our changing climate, creating a resilient future.

Professional Experience:

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE, SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

Albuquerque, NM

Sustainable Waste Specialist

4/2022 – Present

Create and manage programs, partnerships, policies, and procedures – primarily in the areas of waste diversion/reduction, community solar, and community engagement – that support progress towards goals in the 2021 Albuquerque Climate Action Plan, the Albuquerque Local Food & Agriculture Plan, and Mayor’s greenhouse gas reduction goal, and renewable energy goal for municipal operations, and Justice40 initiative. Key milestones and activities include:

- Direct Supervisor for FUSE Corps Executive Fellow, who is designing a citywide, equity-focused composting program.
- Developing short and long-term waste-related actions for the City’s next stage of planning as part of the Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant award; served as interim grant manager for the program November 2023 through January 2024.
- Leading development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation for the Office’s waste-related work, which involves budget preparation and management, contract management, collaboration with other city departments and outside organizations, task prioritization, and strong organizational skills. Current projects include: community composting, food scrap pilot project, initial operations waste survey, and related outreach and education.
- Established and managing the Office’s internship program, made possible by collaborations with Mayor’s Select Program and UNM’s Sustainability Studies Program. Mentored five college interns in 2023, which included developing projects and scheduling tasks.
- Coordinating and advising on the City’s roles in the State’s Community Solar Program, which involves contract management, collaboration with other organizations and cities, tracking, scheduling, prioritizing, and providing recommendations to leadership.
- Developed and implementing the Office’s community engagement strategy for the Climate Action Plan’s multi-year implementation period to maximize attendance and adhere to the Office’s available budget; to date, engagement included 12 speakers from the City and 4 other organizations, in 3 sessions covering 3 topics and 8 initiatives and gathered over 90 suggestions; major tasks include meeting coordination and facilitation, data collection and analysis, annual strategy assessment and redesign.
- Ensuring compliance with State regulatory requirements for community composting sites at City facilities, coordinated with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and local master gardeners to develop a new scale-specific training and operations plan.
- Built a partnership with the NRDC to calculate food loss and waste in Albuquerque (estimated to be 112k tons/year) and to establish food waste prevention projects, education, policies, and procedures to support the work at City facilities, businesses, and by residents.
- Coordinating annually with other departments and partner organizations to collect data on climate change and sustainability metrics for national reporting agencies: the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE).
- Facilitating, writing, planning, and budget preparation for federal grants with a wide range of partner organizations. To date, completed a cooperative agreement application for the EPA and grant application for a USDA grant, which involved collaboration with Albuquerque Public Schools, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, and other local organizations.
- Interpreted the proposed Plastic Pollution Reduction Act (HB432/SB243, NM 56th Legislature, First Session, 2023) and provided feedback to the authors and recommendations to City leadership.

- Communicating with different audiences across a range of platforms, including leading website updates and the Office's e-newsletter, creating content for social media, and attending regular collaboration meetings (the NM Compost Coalition, ARID LID, Coalition for Sustainable Communities, and others).
- Representing the Sustainability Office and City in meetings with partners, stakeholders, and community members, including providing presentations upon request. To date, spoke about community composting on the KRQE morning show in July 2023; served as a panelist at the US SIF's Annual Forum's "Drowning in Plastics" Session in May 2022; served as a panelist for UNM student project presentations for UNM SUST 434 in April 2023; presented as a guest lecturer on the City's Climate Action Plan for UNM's Land Use Class in August 2022; and provide composting, recycling, and sustainability plan education for garden classes at Wilson Middle School. In June 2023, KRQE, aired an excerpt of the speech celebrating the completed community compost bins.
- Writer, coordinator, and copy editor for 2022 and 2023 Climate Action Plan Implementation Reports.
- Integrating equity into all our work, including prioritizing training: Equity Foundations Course from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network in 2022 and Undoing Racism® / Community Organizing Workshop by the People's Institute for Survival Beyond (PISAB) in 2023.
- Advising City leadership on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy possibilities.

DANIEL B. STEPHENS & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Albuquerque, NM

Proposal Coordinator

7/2019 – 3/2022

Supported a variety of aspects of the business that involved collaboration across and outside the organization, including strategic planning, market positioning, pursuing contracts, and conducting projects.

Key milestones and activities include:

- Worked closely with the president, vice-president, and other corporate leadership in New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, and California.
- Led tracking of potential projects for engineering, hydrology, and biology sectors for Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. and some of the affiliates, including Clear Creek Associates, for the regions of New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Texas.
- Coordinated and supported strategic business development planning efforts for the biology team, Texas team, and Arizona engineering team.
- Facilitated break-out sessions in a two-day NASA stakeholder workshop with local environmental agencies about climate change related natural resource management collaborations.
- Coordinated and facilitated public meetings, two on behalf of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (NM EMNRD) and two on behalf of the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), including coordinating external communication to stakeholders and the public across a variety of media.
- Coordinated and edited over 45 proposals for clients in New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Texas; won over \$2,000,000.
- Developed and documented proposal procedures for standardizing grammar and writing style.
- Communicated effectively, both verbally and in writing, with staff, clients, and stakeholders.
- Communicated across a variety of media and audiences, including via website, social media, and e-newsletter content.
- Edited public announcement for the mayor of the City of Redlands, California.
- Wrote environmental compliance documents for two projects in New Mexico, near Gallup and in Deming.
- Analyzed data from marketing campaigns, and provided recommendations for improvement.

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Los Alamos, NM

Marketing Manager

8/2015 – 3/2018

Actively managed marketing and outreach for the Los Alamos Nature Center and other Pajarito Environmental Education Center programs, including community partnerships. Key milestones and activities include:

- Developed and documented marketing procedures for future marketing managers.
- Clearly and regularly communicated to a wide range of audiences through multiple media platforms, including social media, weekly e-newsletter with over 3,000 recipients, quarterly print newsletter to over 700 people, about 20 press releases each month, website content, and annual newspaper insert.
- Analyzed marketing and outreach data, and developed and implemented recommendations for improvement.

Educator

8/2015 – 10/2018

- Taught resource conservation and environmental education lessons to primary school students.
- Coordinated Electric Vehicle Show, recycle fashion creation activity at the Earth Day Festival, and other conservation-based events.

LOS ALAMOS COOPERATIVE MARKET

Los Alamos, NM

Outreach Coordinator

9/2011 – 8/2015

Actively managed outreach and marketing for the Los Alamos Cooperative Market, which also included the store's sustainability related work, building partnerships, and developing a variety of procedures, programs, training, and plans. Key milestones and activities include:

- Developed and implemented the Co-op's sustainability plan, including conducting energy and waste audits, developing a local food education initiative, and integrating waste reduction into existing programs and operations.
- Developed and managed the volunteer program, with over 120 volunteers.
- Established and managed the Terra Cycle up-cycling program, which raised funds for local non-profits.
- Worked closely with the general manager and leadership team.
- Served as acting general manager and the manager on-call as needed.
- Organized over 45 events, all in collaboration with at least one other business or organization, including two wellness fairs and two *Co-opRocks!* cooperative concerts for highschool and college students.
- Communicated with broad audiences across a range of platforms and media, including presenting at a national conference, distributing over 50 press releases, and conducting over 40 radio interviews.
- Analyzed data from customer surveys and outreach events and developed recommendations for improving customer service and community engagement.
- Regularly collaborated with over 10 organizations, and built a partnership with local cooperatives.
- Developed and taught fiscal management to over 30 staff, current and new, including leadership.

THE FAMILY YMCA

Los Alamos, NM

Adventure Department Coordinator

11/2010 – 3/2012

Supervised 5 climbing wall instructors and more than 50 volunteers to safely maintain and develop the climbing wall and related programming. Established and documented safety standards and maintenance procedures in alignment with current regulations and safety standards utilized at larger, successful facilities. Obtained sponsorships, grant funding, and donations to further support the facility, including collaborating with local and regional organizations to host an annual film festival.

Assistant Director of the Summer Youth Earth Service Corps

5/2010 – 8/2011

Supervised a staff member and 20 summer students, taught environmental education, guided students through service projects, and prepared students for other service-based outdoor programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps.

Assistant Director of Aspen Elementary After-School Program

8/2010 – 12/2010

Supervised 2 staff members and provided after school learning for approximately 30 students.

Site Director of Aspen Elementary After-School Program 8/2009 – 8/2010
 Managed the after-school program; supervised 4 staff members, and oversaw after school learning for approximately 30 students.

Science Director of Elementary School Summer Camp 5/2009 – 8/2009
 Developed and taught age-appropriate science activities to over 100 students.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO Los Alamos, NM

Teaching Assistant, Biology Department

- Biology lab instructor for non-majors, BIOL 124 1/2009 – 5/2009
- Cell and Molecular Biology Teaching Assistant, BIOL 201 8/2008 – 12/2008

Research Experience for Undergraduates, Civil Engineering Department

- Tested floating boom designs for arroyo surface debris removal. 6/2004 – 8/2004

Education:

MS Biology (Ecology focus; GPA 4.0), University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 2008

BS Environmental Engineering (GPA 3.6), New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, NM 2006

Relevant Volunteer Experience:

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY Los Alamos, NM

Served as a member of the Environmental Sustainability Board, an advisory board for the Los Alamos County Council (2/2015 – 7/2016). While in this role, I

- Drafted, collected, and evaluated data from the public to determine community needs and feasibility of a plastic bag ban.
- Reviewed and provided input on the County's Environmental Sustainability Plan.
- Evaluated sustainability programs.
- Heard public comment on current and potential sustainability programs and challenges.
- Provided recommendations to the County Council on waste-related programs.

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY Los Alamos, NM

Member of Environmental Sustainability Board Subcommittee

Served on a subcommittee for Los Alamos County's Environmental Sustainability Board (2016 – 2018), which evolved into the Zero Waste program. While on the subcommittee, I

- Aided in the development and implementation of the Zero Waste sustainability initiative and expanded it to include public outreach and education. Many of the educational tools I helped develop before moving back to Albuquerque are still present on the Zero Waste webpage.
- Researched, analyzed, and evaluated options for a pay-as-you-throw waste management service, including delivery methods and techniques.
- Presented to Voice of Los Alamos on Zero Waste, by invitation, on July 23, 2018.

CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT, NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CHAPTER Albuquerque, NM

Leadership Committee Member

Served as a Leadership Committee Member for the Climate Reality Project, Northern New Mexico Chapter (since 2018). While in this role, I

- Coordinated chapter meetings, activities, volunteers, and marketing efforts.
- Gave presentations on climate change and sustainability, including an invited presentation to staff at the Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility, on June 17, 2019, titled Climate Change and the Role of Water Treatment Solutions.

RESILIENT NEW MEXICO PODCAST Albuquerque, NM

Co-founder and co-host of the Resilient New Mexico Podcast (since December 2020), which aims to share stories, actions, and information on how people/communities/businesses/governments are and can build an environmentally and socially just future for New Mexicans. Responsibilities include planning episodes, researching topics, inviting and interviewing guests, technical aspects of recording, and publishing audio.

ALBUQUERQUE AND NEW MEXICO CLIMATE COALITIONS

Albuquerque, NM

Since 2018, I have been part of the Climate Coalition groups, which serve to share information and actions on sustainability focused initiatives. Prior to working for the City, I was an active member. Currently, I serve as a resource for the Albuquerque group and an attendee for the New Mexico group.

Other: PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (10+) *List available upon request*

PROJECTS (13) including studying impacts and possible implications of climate change on ecosystems.
Complete list available upon request

PUBLICATION: McDowell, **White**, Pockman (2008) Transpiration and stomatal conductance across a steep climate gradient in the southern Rocky Mountains. *Ecohydrology* 1: 193-204.

TRAINING: CPR/AED/FA trained and maintained since 2000

LANGUAGES: English (native) and Spanish (beginning conversational)