



## Editor's Insights

Lucinda Smedley • published in the April 2019 issue

**W**elcome to the sustainable development issue! The University of Arizona continues to lead the evolution of the sustainable built environment locally and nationally. Ralph Banks' article highlights four of the University's six new buildings that are pending LEED certification, adding to the existing ten LEED certified buildings. The issue also includes an overview on Amphitheater School District's sustainability initiatives which make the District one of the greenest in the country in addition to providing excellent curricula for the classrooms. We have included updates on the important work of non-profits Tucson 2030 District, Living Streets Alliance and Arizona Forward, insights from thought leaders Iris Patten and Zach Yentzer, and the latest news from The Gadsden Company, developer of the transit-oriented Mercado District. Finally, we feature overviews of Pima County's 2018–2025 Sustainability Action Plan for County Operations and The Fairfax Companies' sustainable waste management practices.



An illustration of the shipping container housing project

With Pima County's population projected to grow to 1,518,000 by 2050 and continued rising housing costs, many are looking at creative ways to provide more affordable infill housing close to existing infrastructure and amenities, such as those offered along the streetcar line. One of the projects that we have been following is Stackhouse. The Stackhouse concept includes a 75-foot-tall steel structure, or community tower, with slots for shipping containers, and parking spaces on the ground level. The concept's founders Ryan Egan and Janelle Briggs have purchased their first site at 941 N. Stone, just south of Speedway, which was a 13,000 square foot parking lot. At this site, Stackhouse will offer a total of 44 units for sale, with the 320-square-foot homes costing about \$45,000. The rooftop deck will



Floor plan of a Stackhouse shipping container home

have lounge chairs and a grill, and the living spaces include 150 square feet of private outdoor space with waist-high railing. In addition to the cost of purchasing a shipping container, rent for a slot in the Stackhouse, which will include utilities, cable and internet, will be between \$650 and \$1,100 a month, depending on the floor. All of Stackhouse partners are Tucson-based: architect Randel Jacob, manufacturer PVB Fabrications and web designer Nine25 Design LLC. Sales of Stackhouse units begin April 15. They plan to build in Colorado next and foresee homeowners taking their shipping containers with them to other states where they can rent a Stackhouse slot.

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