



## Arkansas women increase political involvement

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Parry thinks Nevada's numbers are interesting because Nevada state legislators are leading the way to women gaining numbers in legislative roles, she said.

"They lead the way. It's very important that people remember that public policymaking is happening in the state legislators, not in congress," Parry said.

Records could not only be broken for the number of female candidates for

2020, but also by the possible election of the first female U.S. president.

The 2020 election brought forth six female candidates for president -- the most in U.S. history, according to CAWP. Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D) and Amy Klobuchar (D) are

the two nominees still in the race.

Nonprofits like non-partisan group Women Lead Arkansas are working to get women across the state involved in local legislations that are following the same female-driven push

through campaign training programs.

"We just want to see more women taking the lead in their communities," founder Stephanie Harris said. "Whether it's running for office or leading a girl scout troop. It doesn't have to be politics, we

just want to make sure that women know that they can do it and not to sit around and wait for someone to ask them because we don't get asked."

The group plans on becoming an aggregator for all women in the state of Arkansas, Harris said.

## Construction progresses on former Hog Haus location despite obstacles

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After facing obstacles created by the age and original materials of the building, construction at the corner of Dickson Street and West Avenue is expected to be finished on schedule in summer 2020.

The construction method used by the original builders,

which consisted of a rubble wall with a layer of rock and pebbles, was not structurally sound, said Matt Poe, an associate at Modus Studio and design manager of the project. The builders expected challenges from the beginning.

Workers demolished the west wall of the building, which is also the part where Marina Zumi, an artist from Berlin, painted a mural in August 2017.

"We tried to do a lot to save all of the history of the building," Poe said.

The workers are also working around other obstacles created by renovations made by previous owners in the 1990s, Poe said.

The biggest change to the building will be on the west wall, where workers removed the rubble wall and mural. The structure will all remain, and more than 80% of the original building will be part of the finished project, Poe

said. Workers will also add a balcony hanging over the sidewalk next to West Avenue, but it will not disrupt pedestrian traffic.

The mural formerly painted on the side of the building has been preserved in some parts, but it was not possible to preserve the whole thing because it was painted directly on the wall.

"A lot of the pieces of the mural were removed carefully and then given to Experience Fayetteville

as they were a part of that project," Poe said. "When the building owners purchased the building it came with the mural...it wasn't conforming with the way the building was being developed."

The traffic around the construction area is being diverted while heavy machinery is in use, but the intersection and traffic flow will not be altered once the construction is complete.

Three House Ventures bought the building at

430 W. Dickson St., which previously housed Hog Haus Brewing Co., in October 2018. Construction on the project began in December 2018.

"I think a big part of the building's story is still unwritten," Poe said. "The corner is one of the most important corners in Fayetteville on Dickson Street, and we're happy they're building a high-quality building to replace what was there."

## Local leaders drive clean energy, alternative transportation projects

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Decreased service charges for recycling programs and new bike trails are a part of plans to make Fayetteville more eco-friendly in 2020.

City and UA officials are working to implement more sustainable practices in the city and on the UA campus through an increased push for clean energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

By expanding recycling and trash operations, city officials are working towards the goal of an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 for the community, said Chris McNamara, project manager for Fayetteville's sustainability department.

One of the long term goals for the city is "expanding bike trails within a half-mile of every neighborhood in the city," McNamara said.

There are currently 46.5 miles paved trails within the city, City of Fayetteville Trails Coordinator Matt Milahovic said.

"Our goal of our master plan is to connect [trails] within half a mile of every house in the city," Milahovic said.

A new trail being worked on near Gulley Park on East Township Street will make 2,000 houses approximately half a mile away from the new trail, Milahovic said.

Officials are also working on designs for a project that will connect the area around the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences to College Avenue, Milahovic said.

A new bond passed by taxpayers in April will add \$7 million to the city's \$1.5 million allotted to the trail building crews over the next nine years, Milahovic said.

New rates implemented in April discount commercial recycling and eliminated an extra charge for multi-family recycling, according to the City of Fayetteville.

The food-waste composting

pilot is now a commercial food-waste composting service, where participants pay \$14.87 a month to compost kitchen waste. The curbside compost service includes pick up three times a week.

The city is working to reach city government goals in addition to community goals.

In 2019, the city reached 72% of its goal to have 100% clean energy production for city government operations, McNamara said.

After solar panels were installed at Fayetteville's two wastewater treatment plants in fall 2019, the progress of the goal increased by 54 percentage points.

UA officials met their 2021 goal in 2017, which focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 125,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, according to the UA Sustainability Office.

UA Officials are working to meet this goal in a number of ways including by designing all new buildings to LEED Silver or above standards, encouraging alternative transportation and pursuing renewable energy, according to the UA Sustainability Office.

Since then, UA officials have worked to reach 50% waste diversion from landfills by 2021 by recycling, composting and focusing on waste aversion, according to the UA Office for Sustainability. On campus, 45% of waste is diverted from the landfill.

At the University of Tennessee, a similarly sized university with 28,321 students, the amount of waste diverted from the landfill was 33% in 2018, compared to 36% at the UofA.

Fayetteville's City Plan 2040 sets a framework for development, which includes the city's specific plans for becoming more sustainable, senior planner Jonathan Curth said.

The most recent draft of the plan was discussed at

the Dec. 17, 2019 City Council meeting.

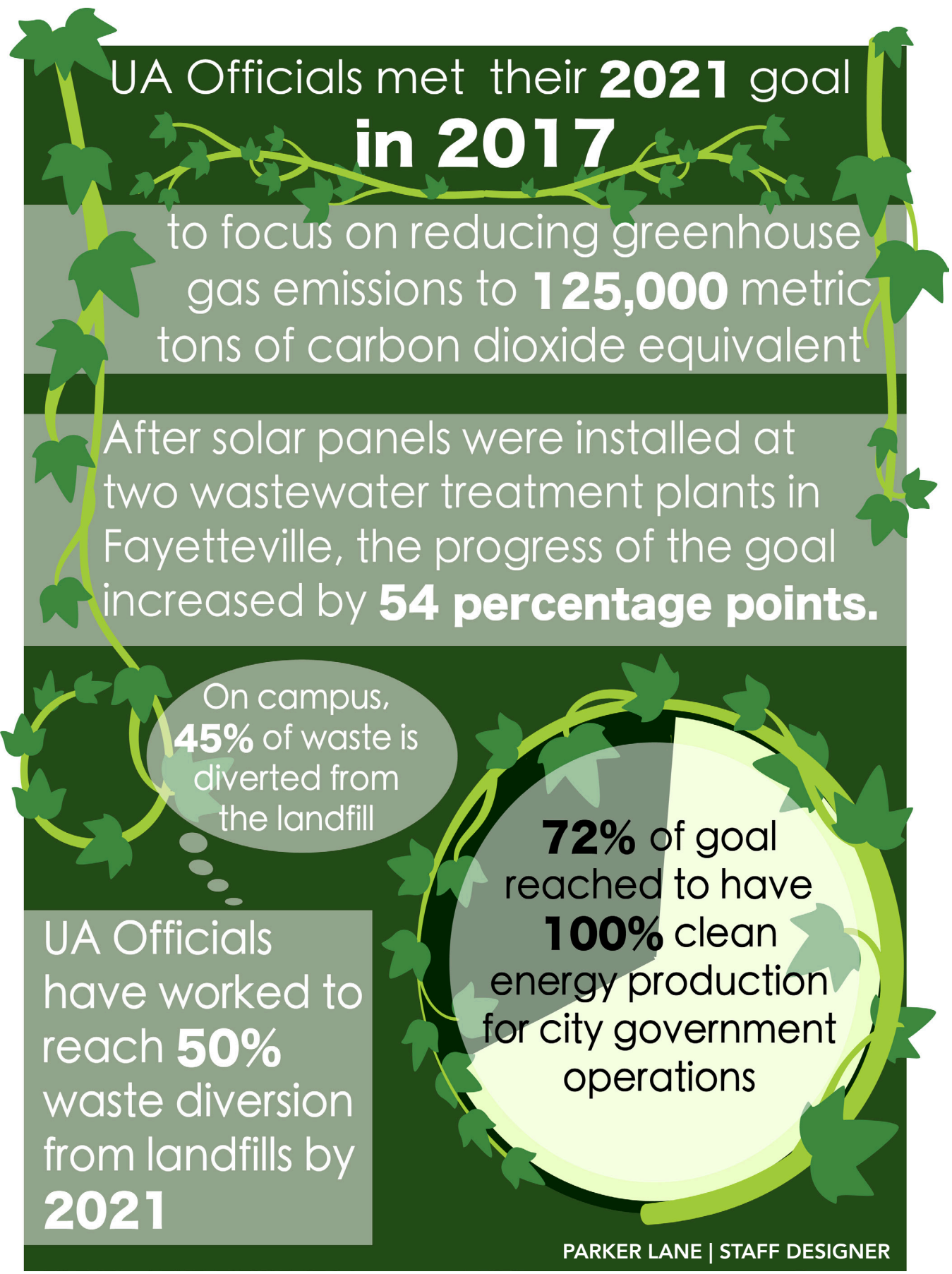
The city plan outlines goals like the development of properties closer to town,

connected neighborhoods, a livable transportation network and develops environmentally sensitive areas carefully, Curth said.

"That's where you get into seeing some of the language of how Fayetteville is working to develop more sustainably and more intention towards

the implications of climate change," Curth said.

City council members will vote on a draft at the second city council meeting Jan. 21.



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