



LOUISVILLE, COLORADO

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN
2016

Version 1.0 Approved by City Council: November 15, 2016

WELCOME

It's widely accepted that human decisions have adversely impacted our surrounding environment. Community leaders must adopt policies to support a sustainable future. Our hope is to prioritize environmental health, economic vitality and community well-being.

Short-term, or status quo, thinking will only limit our community's ability to remain successful in the region. The City of Louisville needs a clear framework of actionable items and credible guidance to achieve goals that support the environment and the community in a responsible way.

Community members have repeatedly voiced their support for the City's commitment to responsible governance. To this end, the City of Louisville has incorporated and invested in many sustainable initiatives in recent years. By making these initiatives a priority, Louisville will reach greater economic strength for businesses, better health and well-being for residents and provide a positive example for other communities in the State of Colorado.

The City established the Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board (LSAB) as an advisory board for relevant issues within our community. The purpose of this report is to provide an adaptable roadmap to advise the current and future City leadership as they continue to build Louisville's sustainable future.

Sincerely,
LSAB

LOUISVILLE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD (LSAB)

The LSAB Board consists of seven volunteer members from the Louisville community who are appointed by City Council to a term of four years. All members are tasked with specific responsibilities as detailed in the Municipal Code and City Charter. The Board complies with the City's open government rules and Code of Ethics.

Current Members:

Jamie Bartlett
Dan Delahunty
Mary Ann Heaney
Allison Johanson
Marianne Martin
Mark Persichetti
Justine Vigil-Tapia

MISSION STATEMENT

Promoting sustainability through energy efficiency, resource conservation and localization to better the environment, social well-being, and economic vitality of the City of Louisville.

Recent Contributing Members:

Jim Bradford
David Hsu
Claudia Lenz

Current Council Rep:

Jay Keany

Other Advisors:

Dave Szabados - City Staff

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INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

In 2012, the Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board tasked themselves with the creation of a document to outline recommendations for the City. The Sustainability Action Plan is intended to articulate Louisville's vision to create a more sustainable community as well as provide a roadmap for achieving our collective goals.

This following plan is intended to offer a perspective on past accomplishments and future endeavors. Additionally, the plan will help guide City staff with decisions related to sustainable focus areas.

The plan includes guidelines for internal City operations as well as community-wide approaches for residents and businesses. In general, the current plan has a focus on environmental impacts and their potential economic benefits.

WHAT IS AN ACTION PLAN?

The Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) sets measurable targets that can be tracked and updated on a regular basis. In this regard, the SAP will be a flexible document that will be regularly adjusted based on new data and information.

HOW DO YOU READ THIS PLAN?



GOAL

Desired state of the community



TARGETS

Numeric/quantifiable representation of the goal.



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Series of actions that help the community achieve goal
Supporting: Education, collaboration and research aimed at increasing the information knowledge gaps



DATA: Charts/graphics/statistics highlight relevant information

PLAN STRUCTURE

This action plan is sectioned into five key impact areas of sustainability. Each focus area offers a brief introduction provided by subcommittee members of LSAB. We identified impact areas specific to the City of Louisville, as well as goals to address each of those issues. Each focus area has at least one major Goal. We have outlined Internal (for the City to address) and External (for residents and businesses) Targets to reach these goals. Each target identifies potential community members who can positively impact this focus area (E.G. City Staff, Residents, Business). Specific implementation strategies for target areas will need to be adopted in follow-up plans approved by Council members.

Sustainability Action Plan Focus Areas:

1. Climate & Energy
2. Water
3. Transportation
4. Waste
5. Local Food & Agriculture



DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY

The word “sustainability” can be difficult for communities to define and sometimes off-putting or misunderstood. For some, the word conjures up images of living without. However, sustainability is an important and useful word regardless of your place on the political or ideological spectrum. For any community to thrive, it must consider that all resources have limits. Our community will become unstable and dependent if we consume resources faster than they can regenerate. By creating this plan, our goal is to identify at risk resources and lay out methods in which our community can effectively mitigate harmful impacts.

SUSTAINABILITY MEANS creating balance among the environment, the economy, and society to ensure that practices and decisions do not compromise the quality of life for future generations. Sustainability is not an end goal, but an approach that recognizes the interplay between natural, economic, and social interests.

This plan is not exhaustive (as community members will also recognize other important resources). As a board, we chose to focus on the following impact areas because 1) they have large environmental and economic impacts; and 2) there are numerous attainable and affordable strategies the City of Louisville can implement in the near future



LSAB MILESTONES

The City of Louisville has maintained a commitment to sustainability. The following are some of the recent highlights and milestones representing our Community's commitment.

1988

- Creation of Recycling Advisory Board

1992

- Established Resource Conservation Advisory Board

2004 - 2006

- LRCAB implemented zero-waste trash recycling during city events

2006 - 2008

- Boulder County High-Efficiency Lighting Program grant

2008 on

- Lighting/Energy efficiency upgrades throughout City facilities

2009

- Implemented "pay-as-you-throw" priced single-stream curbside recycling and compost collection

2010

- Installed 432 KW Solar at Waste Water Treatment Plant and Water Treatment Plant

2010

- Established as Sustainability Advisory Board

2013

- Backyard Chickens Approved

2013

- Installed Library electric vehicle charging station

2014

- Sponsored a Greenhouse Gas & Sustainable Action Plan that identified commercial and residential energy usage in 14 sectors

LSAB MILESTONES

The City of Louisville has maintained a commitment to sustainability. The following are some of the recent highlights and milestones representing our Community's commitment.

2015

- Awarded Boulder County Environmental Sustainability Matching Grant, funds Community Garden

2015

- Executed Lease/Purchase for 146 KW Solar with CEC

2016

- Executed Lease/Purchase for 200KW Solar with CEC

2016

- Awarded funding for Water Conservation Efforts
- Established Green Business Recognition Program
- Community Garden Opens

2016

- Executed Capacity Commitment Agreement for 400KW Solar with CEC



First City EV plug, 2013

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

The following goals guide each section of the plan. These goals represent Louisville's sustainability vision.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Reduce energy consumption, increase the use of clean energy and transition away from fossil fuels.

WATER

Provide ongoing leadership for water efficiency and water quality efforts to ensure sufficient, clean water for current and future generations.

TRANSPORTATION

Encourage more fuel-efficient transportation and infrastructure, and support healthier and active lifestyles for Louisville community, through increased multimodal options.

WASTE

Increase community waste diversion, striving for a goal of zero-waste, and manage our material resources responsibly and effectively.

LOCAL FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Ensure a sustainable, safe and healthy food supply that is accessible to all and supported by our community.

FUTURE ADDITIONS

We expect this plan to remain flexible as the demands on the City grow and change. While there are still many important issues we haven't highlighted, they are often integrated into these major impact areas.

PLAN EVALUATION

LSAB established a system of metrics to guide the SAP goals. These metrics allowed us to set benchmarks and evaluation criteria for each focus area. Once we organized this information, we were able to identify the remaining knowledge gaps for each area of focus. Further, it initiated some baseline criteria for the City to assess progress on each goal. During future iterations of the SAP, we will continue to work and update this set of metrics to adjust the plan as needed. Below is our qualitative and quantitative criteria for evaluation:

WHAT INFORMATION EXISTS OR IS NEEDED?

Outline existing information, the resource for that information, validation of data.

VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Is this high profile? Will a significant percent of citizens notice or be actively engaged?

IMPACT

Will this have a significant positive environmental, economic and/or social impact? How?

COST

Will this be a significant cost to implement for the City budget? Are there ongoing costs? What is the return on investment?

FEASIBILITY

How difficult will this be to implement? What are the known barriers? Is funding available?

SCOPE

Will this impact municipal, commercial, residential?

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

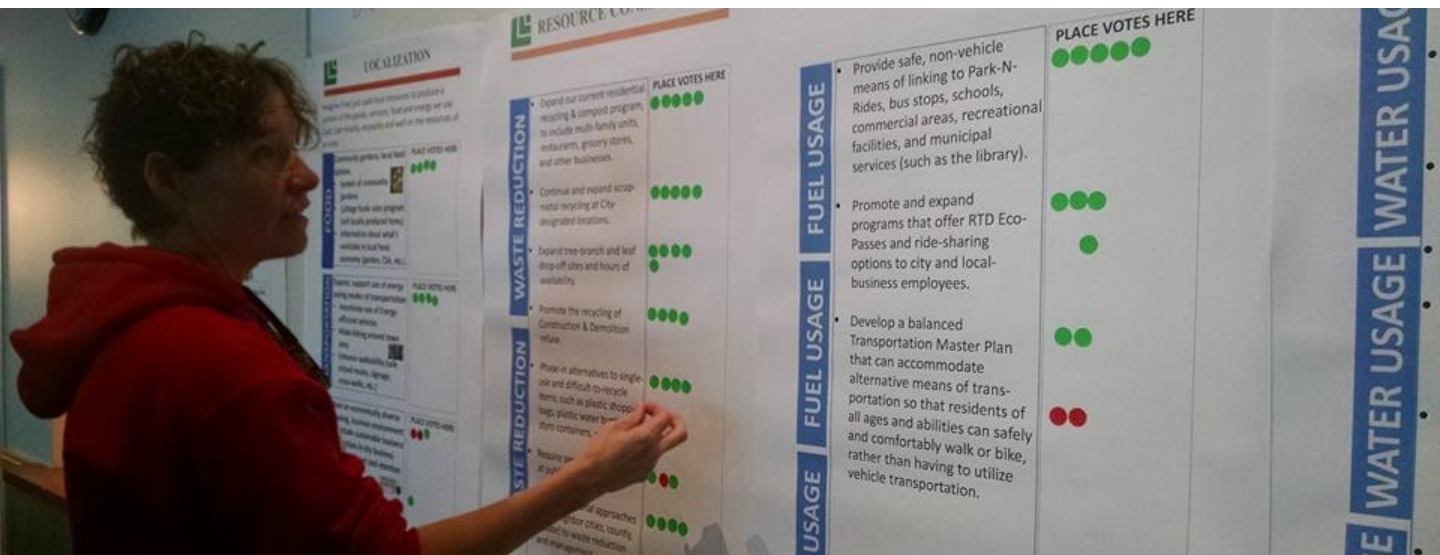
The development of the Sustainability Action Plan involved frequent engagement with community stakeholders. We took a multi-faceted approach including:

- **2016 Citizen Satisfaction Survey highly ranked SUSTAINABILITY as a community priority**
- Public open house events
- Online surveys
- Interviews at community events
- Direct communication with interested community members
- Direct communication with City staff members
- Direct communication with County sustainability partners
- Direct communication with neighboring sustainability leaders
- City Council Study Sessions

2 Public Forums

2 Council Study Sessions

52 Public Survey Responses



Public Forum, October 14, 2015

CLIMATE & ENERGY

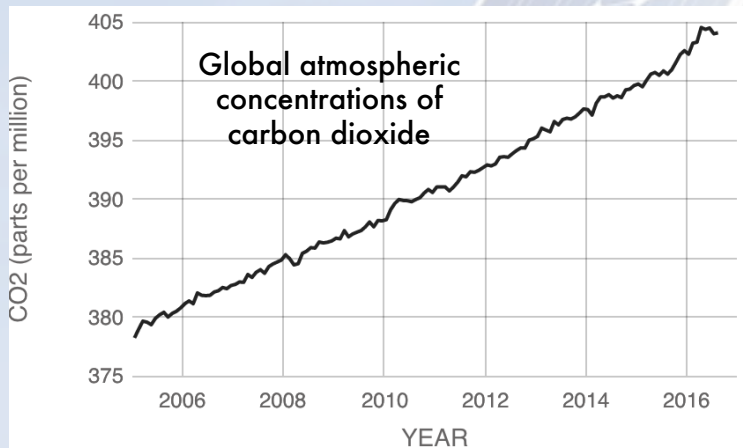
INTRODUCTION

Small towns located in thriving environments can struggle with increased population demands. Louisville should foster responsible expansion that highlights stable, sustainable and diverse neighborhoods without negatively impacting Louisville's small town charm.

The City of Louisville and its residents recognize the role of energy and the built environment in creating a vibrant and sustainable community. LSAB envisions a future where low-impact development, renewable energy sources and resource-efficient buildings protect our local ecosystem and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

While a baseline emissions inventory was performed in 2012, new available data and the Partners in Energy program will help identify emissions sources and reduction strategies. LSAB recommends that the City conduct a more thorough emissions assessment of baseline metrics and estimate the impact of key strategies. Based on such, the City should adopt a greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal that is both ambitious and achievable and identifies priority strategies.

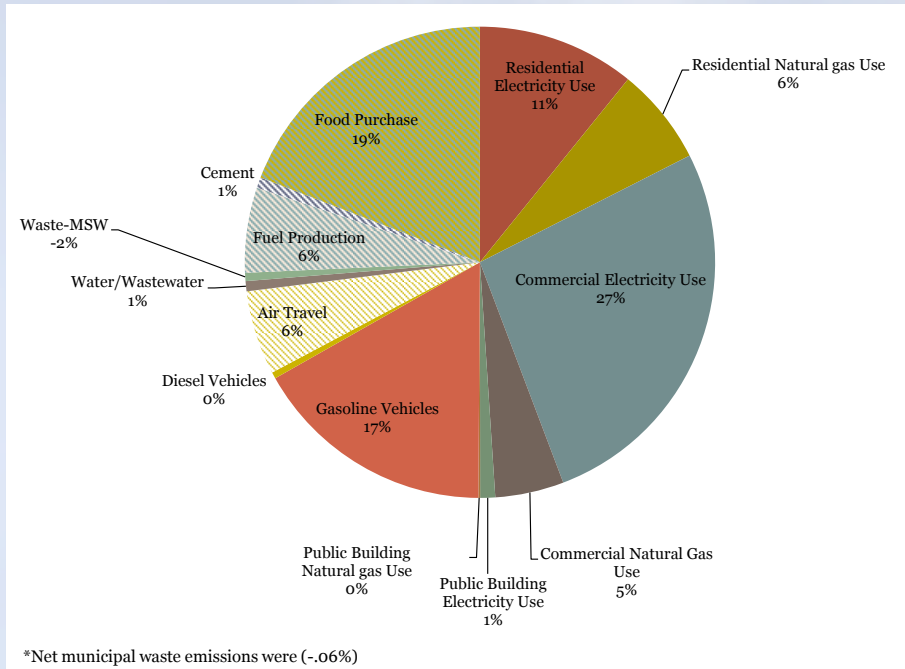
Why do we care about greenhouse gases?



In 2016, global levels of CO₂ permanently passed 400 parts per million. This amount of CO₂ is pushing global temperatures beyond any point human civilization has experienced.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Where does
Louisville
create their
greenhouse
gases?



Louisville Baseline Energy Study 2014

CLIMATE & ENERGY GOALS

CLIMATE

Move toward carbon neutrality and become more resilient to the effects of climate change

ENERGY

Reduce energy consumption, increase the use of clean energy and transition away from fossil fuels.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

INTERNAL

TARGET 1

Move towards carbon neutrality for all City operations

STRATEGY 1

Update inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) production

STRATEGY 2

Set new goals for GHG reductions

STRATEGY 3

Purchase lowest fuel-use vehicles practical for the City fleet

STRATEGY 4

Develop conversion plans for City vehicle fleet to implement new vehicle technologies as they become available for testing and use

STRATEGY 5

Implement controls and policies to limit idling of City vehicles

STRATEGY 6

Install LED traffic signals



First City electric vehicle, 2016

CLIMATE & ENERGY

INTERNAL

TARGET 2

Move toward carbon neutrality in all City buildings

STRATEGY 1

Aim for all eligible existing City buildings be benchmarked using the ENERGY STAR performance standards. For ENERGY STAR eligible buildings, a strategy and costs will be developed for energy efficiency improvements.

STRATEGY 2

Expand solar and renewable energy purchases for City buildings

STRATEGY 3

Adopt building codes and policies that promote energy efficiency in new and existing buildings

STRATEGY 4

Aim to achieve 80% of all points within the Energy and Atmosphere section of the USGBC LEED for new City building construction

STRATEGY 5

Perform energy audits of City facilities

FROM **2015-2018** LEED-CERTIFIED BUILDINGS ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE AS MUCH AS...

💡 **\$1.2 BILLION** 💡
IN ENERGY SAVINGS

💧 **\$149.5 MILLION** 💧
IN WATER SAVINGS

🕒 **\$715.3 MILLION** 🕒
IN MAINTENANCE SAVINGS

🗑️ **\$54.2 MILLION** 🗑️
IN WASTE SAVINGS

CLIMATE & ENERGY

EXTERNAL

TARGET 1

Increase energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption in the commercial and residential sectors

STRATEGY 1

Promote and use available county EnergySmart efficiency services for residents

STRATEGY 2

Promote and use Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) sustainability services for businesses, and collaborate on a green business recognition program

STRATEGY 3

Provide and develop information for residents and businesses on conservation and rebate programs

STRATEGY 4

Adopt building codes and policies that promote energy efficiency in new and existing buildings

STRATEGY 5

Support utility demand-side management programs and renewable power supply incentives

STRATEGY 6

Promote low-interest financing for residents and businesses to complete energy efficiency upgrades and install renewable energy

Clean Energy Collective Solar Farm, Colorado

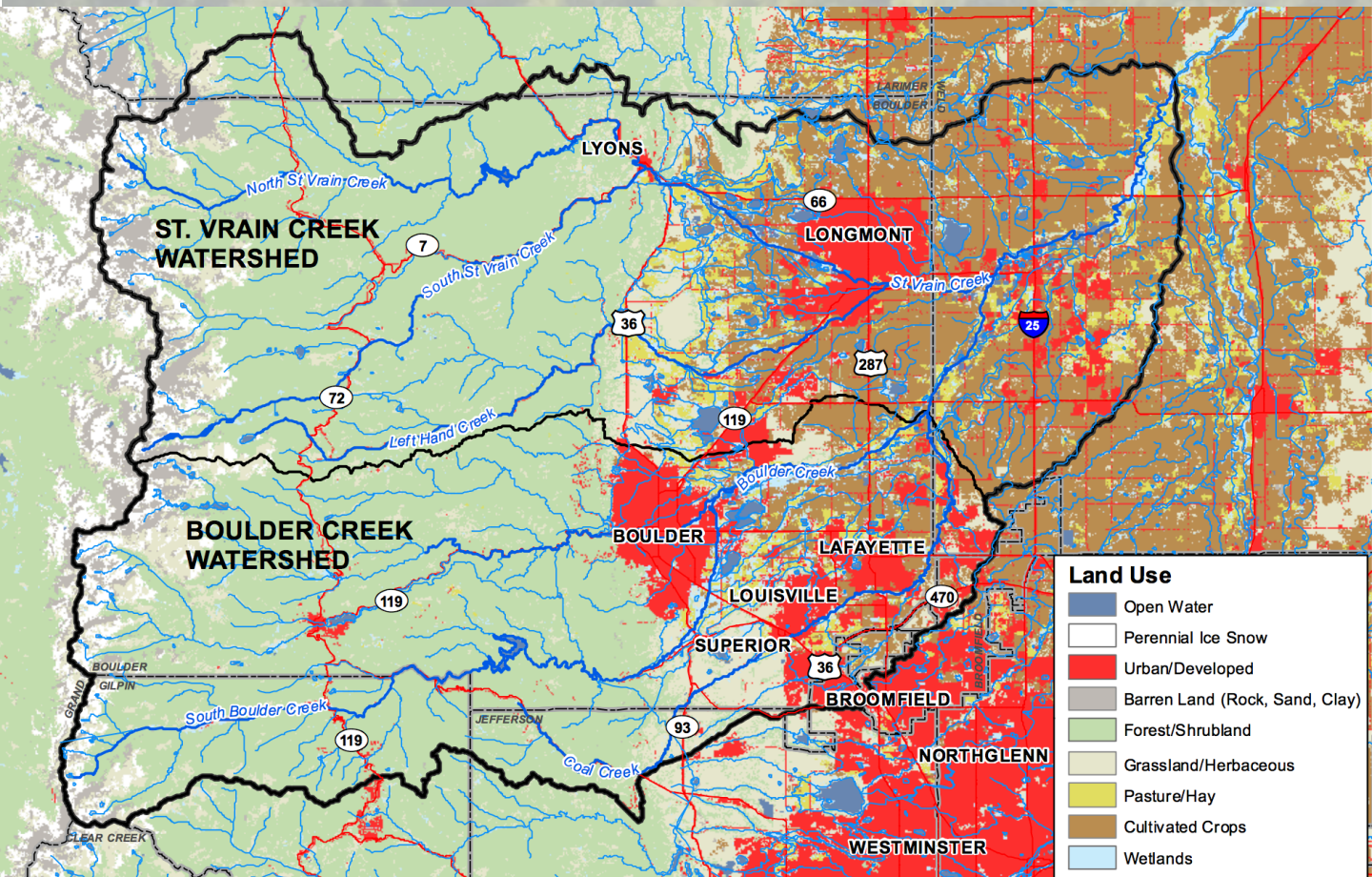


WATER

INTRODUCTION

Clean water is one of the most valuable resources world-wide. In Colorado's semi-arid climate and with growing populations, the amount of water available for consumption can vary from year to year. Beyond drinking water, Louisville's water bodies are home to wildlife, used for recreation, and comprised of snowmelt, storm, and treated wastewater. The following outlines strategies to conserve indoor and outdoor water and maintain healthy water bodies.

Where do we get all of our water?



WATER GOAL

WATER

Provide guidance for water efficiency and quality and ensure clean water for current and future community members.

INTERNAL

TARGET 1

Reduce water usage and improve efficiency of water use within City buildings

STRATEGY 1

Benchmark all City buildings' indoor water use

STRATEGY 2

Replace or retrofit city building plumbing fixtures to meet or exceed current code requirements

STRATEGY 3

Achieve 80% of all the new construction water efficiency points in the USGBC LEED for water use reduction and rain water management, applicable to specific type of building.

STRATEGY 4

Manage and upgrade infrastructure to reduce leaks in the system

INTERNAL

TARGET 2

Improve efficiency of water use on Open Space and City landscaping

STRATEGY 1

Create a community-wide green infrastructure plan to capture and infiltrate rain where it falls, thus reducing storm water runoff.

STRATEGY 2

Encourage quality drought resistant landscaping through the development review process.

WATER

INTERNAL

TARGET 3

Minimize use of treated water for non-potable functions

STRATEGY 1

Use non-drinking water systems to meet residential, industrial, and agricultural needs when feasible

INTERNAL

TARGET 4

Improve and maintain water quality

STRATEGY 1

Continue to update equipment and procedure manuals related to water use, wastewater and storm water treatment and incorporate methods to promote sustainability and limit environmental impacts

STRATEGY 2

Aim to have Coal Creek removed from state's list of impaired or polluted waters

EXTERNAL

TARGET 1

Expand water conservation education for City residents and businesses

STRATEGY 1

Conduct a gap analysis of the water efficiency tools, resources and incentives for residents and businesses.

STRATEGY 2

Promote and continue to use local water quality programs including: Keep it Clean; Boulder Area Sustainability Information Network (BASIN); Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE); Center for ReSource Conservation, Slow the Flow; and EnergySmart

STRATEGY 3

Develop, market to the community, and update Louisville specific plans that address water conservation and quality

TRANSPORTATION

INTRODUCTION

A city-wide multimodal transportation system is needed to meet the mobility and access needs of all users and to support health and wellness. This can be achieved by planning the land use and transportation infrastructure as a multimodal system that facilitate a balanced system and enhances travel by bicycle, transit, and foot.



*Louisville Walk Score, Walkscore.com,
Retrieved October 30, 2016*

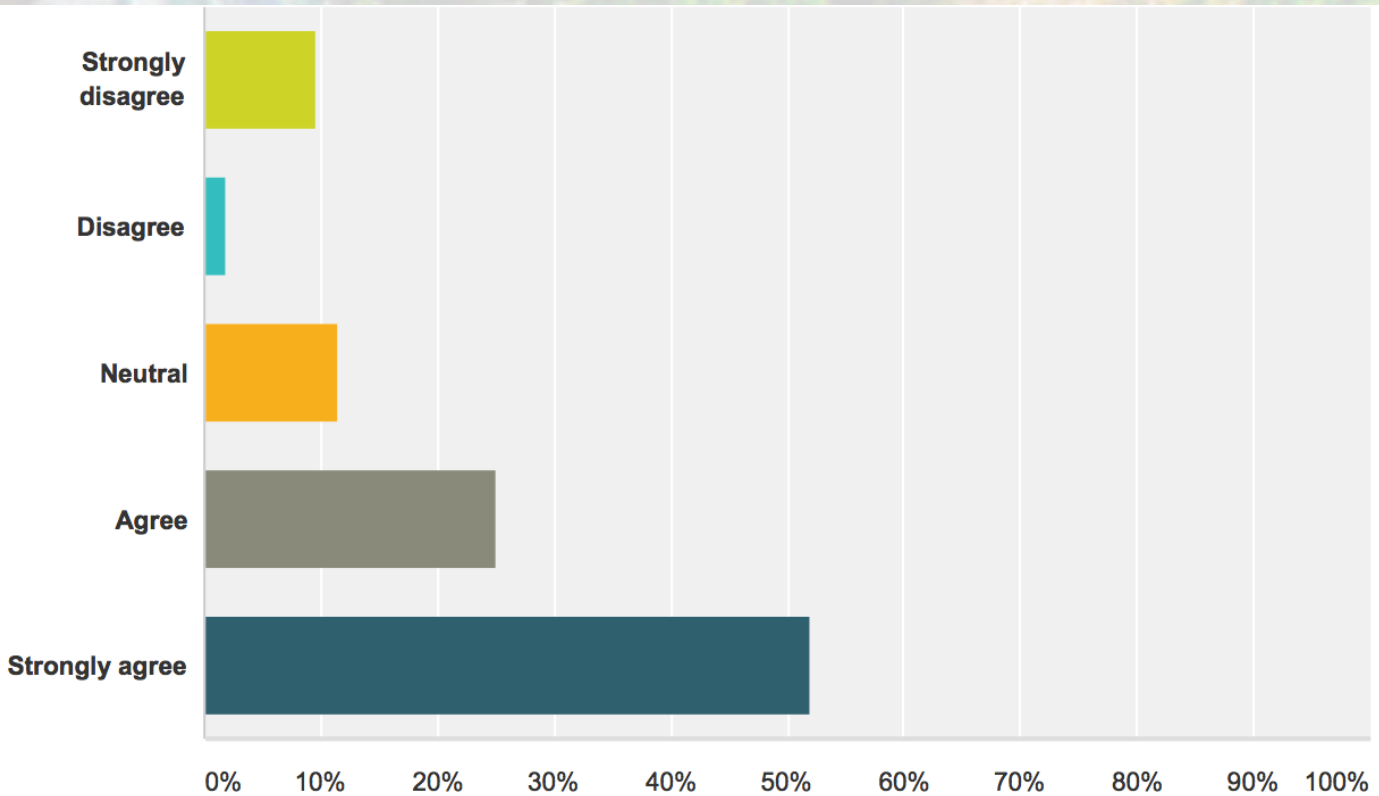
Currently, Louisville averages a walk score of **37** (see scale below). The walk score measures the walkability of any address based on the distance to nearby places and pedestrian friendliness. The score is becoming very prominent on real estate mobile and web applications.

SCORE

90 – 100 Walker's Paradise Daily errands do not require a car	50 – 69 Somewhat Walkable Some errands can be accomplished on foot
70 – 89 Very Walkable Most errands can be accomplished on foot	25 – 49 Car-Dependent Most errands require a car
	0 – 24 Car-Dependent Almost all errands require a car

TRANSPORTATION

Should the city enhance walkability?



Louisville Sustainability Survey, 2015

TRANSPORTATION GOAL

TRANSPORT

Encourage environmentally sustainable transportation choices and infrastructure, and support healthy lifestyles

TRANSPORTATION

INTERNAL

TARGET 1

Develop balanced system that serves the entire City for users of all ages and ability levels

STRATEGY 1

Adopt Transportation Master Plan that identifies alternative means so citizens of all ages can safely and comfortably walk or ride a bike

STRATEGY 2

Invest in bicycle, pedestrian and transit options which provide safe, pleasant non-vehicle means of accessing schools, commercial areas, recreational facilities and municipal locations

INTERNAL

TARGET 2

Reduce SOV and GHG emissions and cost impact for City Staff

STRATEGY 1

Offer incentives to City Staff such as: bus/carpool/vanpool subsidies, Bike-to-Work incentives, bike parking and shower facilities

STRATEGY 2

Develop transportation solutions with neighboring communities to establish efficient connections in regional transit



TRANSPORTATION

EXTERNAL

TARGET 1

Support residents and business telecommunicating efforts

STRATEGY 1

Support upgrading of communication infrastructure that would improve internet speeds

EXTERNAL

TARGET 2

Reduce SOV and GHG emissions

STRATEGY 1

Explore programs to fund and implement RTD EcoPass for City residents and employees

STRATEGY 2

Develop bike maps and way finding signage

STRATEGY 3

Incentivize businesses to include electric vehicle charging stations

STRATEGY 4

Promote and use Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) sustainability services for businesses, and collaborate on a green business recognition program.

EXTERNAL

TARGET 3

Incorporate smart growth principles and walkable communities into future land use decisions

STRATEGY 1

Adopt programs to improve ease-of-use for the first and final mile of commuter pathways

STRATEGY 2

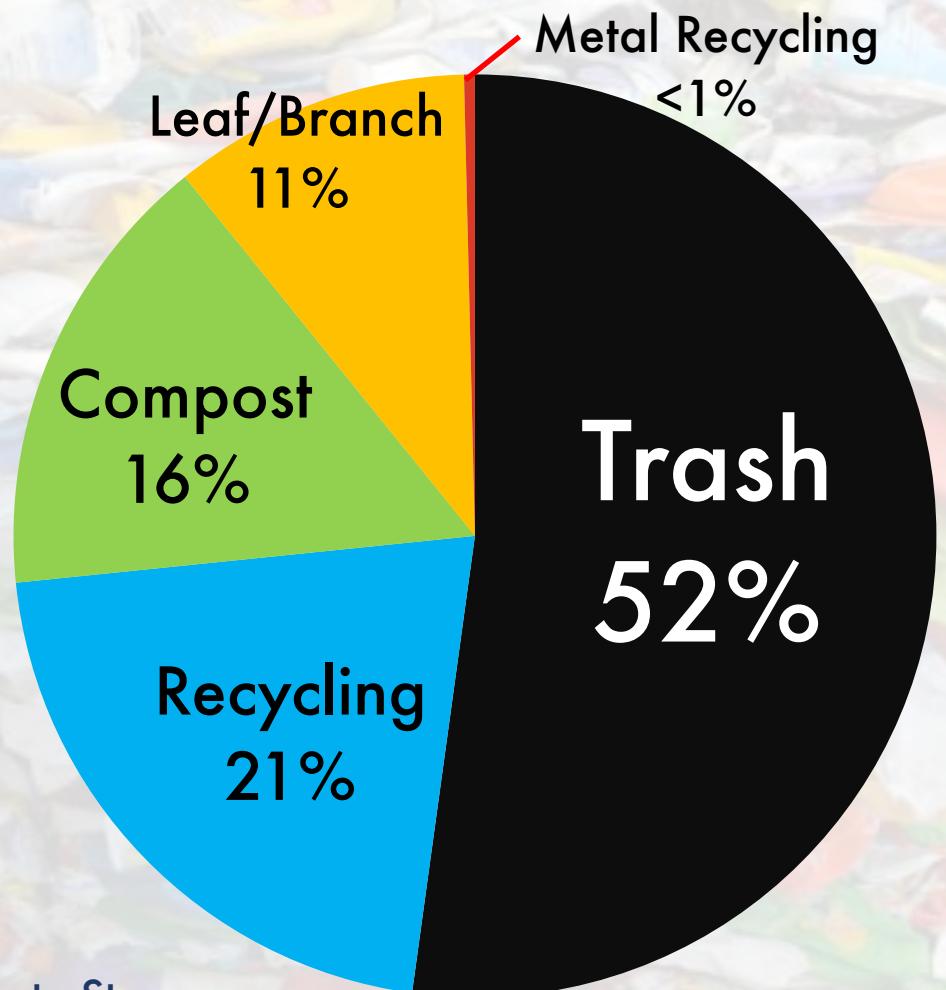
Improve walkability through cross-walks and safe school routes with BVSD partnerships

WASTE

INTRODUCTION

The City of Louisville is committed to developing policies, programs and infrastructure that will help residents and businesses with sensible resource management. This includes recycling difficult materials, increased access to composting capabilities, seasonal leaf and branch drops, and the safe management of hazardous materials.

What does Louisville throw away?



2015 Louisville Waste Stream

WASTE GOAL

WASTE

Achieve zero waste and manage resources responsibly and effectively.

INTERNAL

TARGET 1

Reduce production and increase landfill diversion of waste products

STRATEGY 1

Expand recycling programs to include hard to recycle materials (E.G. electronics and pharmaceuticals)

STRATEGY 2

Install triple-bin (recyclables, compostable, trash) waste collection at City facilities and parks as applicable

STRATEGY 3

Establish City purchasing guidelines that consider impact from product life-cycles.

EXTERNAL

TARGET 1

Develop educational programs to reduce business and residential waste

STRATEGY 1

Partner with local retailers to reduce the use of non-recyclable, non-compostable, and non-reusable containers

STRATEGY 2

Increase awareness through City's online sources regarding options for hard to recycle materials.

STRATEGY 3

Encourage Home Owner Associations to offer the same level of waste services (e.g. compost) as the community

STRATEGY 4

Promote and use Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) sustainability services for businesses, and collaborate on a green business recognition program.

WASTE

EXTERNAL

TARGET 2

Adopt financial incentives for waste reduction by residents and businesses

STRATEGY 1

Promote recyclable substitutes/replacements for single-use, throw-away items, such as plastic bags, foam clamshell food containers, disposable plastic water bottles, etc.

STRATEGY 2

Promote markets for city-wide generated recyclables and compost

STRATEGY 3

Encourage use of County Hazardous Materials Management Facility through the no co-pay program

EXTERNAL

TARGET 3

Divert commercial waste disposal

STRATEGY 1

Support commercial food composting

STRATEGY 2

Provide free waste audits for businesses and support zero waste implementation by promoting services of Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) program



LOCAL FOOD & AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION

Louisville residents are very vocal in expressing support for local food production and shopping options that include local produce. This plan section identifies actions that the city and community can work on to advance local food production and live reliably.

Louisville Community Garden 2016



LOCAL FOOD & AGRICULTURE GOAL

FOOD

Ensure a sustainable, safe and healthy food supply that is accessible to all.

LOCAL FOOD & AGRICULTURE

EXTERNAL

TARGET 1

Develop system of City supported community gardens

STRATEGY 1

Encourage additional Community Garden locations throughout Louisville

STRATEGY 2

Conduct workshops for community gardening

EXTERNAL

TARGET 2

Develop citizen-based food sales program

STRATEGY 1

Allow citizens to sell locally produced items such as eggs, honey and produce.

STRATEGY 2

Provide resource information about local food economy

STRATEGY 3

Track Community Supported Agriculture participation



2016 Community Garden Events

REFERENCES

This plan incorporates elements from federal, state and county legislative agendas as well as existing city initiatives. Our intention is to keep pace with the most up-to-date practices. Sources include but not limited to the following:

Federal Guidance:

Executive Order 13693 (2015) – Planning for sustainability in the next decade. https://www.fedcenter.gov/Announcements/index.cfm?id=27438&pge_prg_id=39297

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – increase innovative and alternative energy technologies <https://www.whitehouse.gov/recovery/about>

County Guidance:

Comprehensive Plan – Guides decisions on future land uses in a coordinated and responsible manner. BoulderCounty.org/property/build/pages/bccp.aspx

Environmental Sustainability Plan (2012) – County-wide guidelines for sustainability practices. www.BoulderCountySustainability.org

City Guidance:

Master Plan – Comprehensive plan helps guide decisions on future land uses in a coordinated and responsible manner. <http://www.louisvilleco.gov/home/showdocument?id=358>

LSAB Guidance:

Baseline Energy Study (2014) – Comprehensive assessment of the City’s energy needs. <http://www.louisvilleco.gov/home/showdocument?id=2140>

Public Workshops (2015) – Feedback gathered by LSAB through public forums. Community members could directly ask Board members questions and vote on topics of interest.

Sustainability Survey (2015) – Feedback gathered by LSAB through city-wide mailer. The survey targeted specific concerns in sustainability.

REFERENCES

LEED Certification

LEED is a rating system to evaluate environmental performance. There is not one single pathway to a LEED certification level.

LEED Certification Levels:

- Certified 40 – 49 points
- Silver 50 – 59 points
- Gold 60 – 79 points
- Platinum 80 – 110 points



Areas to obtain points: Sustainable sites, energy & atmosphere, materials & resources, innovation & design process

<http://www.concretethinker.com/solutions/LEED-Certification.aspx>

Energy Star

US Environmental Protection Agency program that helps businesses and individuals save money and protect our climate through superior energy efficiency.

<https://www.energystar.gov/products?s=mega>



APPENDIX

Here are some common terms used in the field of sustainable management. Not all of the terms are used in this action plan, but are often used by board members to describe focus areas and to evaluate metrics.

Alternative Energy – Established sources of energy (electricity) production which have minimal environmental impacts compared to traditional sources such as fossil fuels.

Best Management Practices – Effective and practical methods for preventing or reducing negative impacts.

Biodegradable – Substances that will breakdown and return naturally to an ecosystem without processing.

Brownfields – Abandoned, idled or under-utilized industrial or commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

Carbon Emissions – Polluting carbon substances, such as carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide released into the atmosphere. Also referred to as greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

Carbon Footprint – A measure of impact on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced and measured in units of carbon dioxide.

Climate Change – Implies dramatic shift in climactic conditions

Compact Fluorescent Lamps - Small fluorescent lights which have greater efficiency compared to traditional incandescent lamps.

Composting – Controlled biological decomposition of organic material in the presence of air. Various approaches include: mechanical mixing, aerated piles, and vermicompost.

APPENDIX

Cost-Benefit Analysis – An economic method for assessing costs and benefits of achieving alternative standards compared to the current methods.

Embodied Energy – Energy consumed by the complete process associated with the life cycle of a product or building.

Energy Star – International standard for energy efficient consumer products

Energy Efficiency – refers to the reduction of energy consumption for a given service

Global Warming – Describes a gradual increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans.

Greenbelt – policy or land use designation used in planning to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or neighboring urban areas

Greenhouse Gases – Gases [e.g. Carbon Monoxide, chlorofluorocarbons] that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation

Greywater – Relatively clean waste water from baths, sinks, washing machines and other household uses.

Green Washing – When an organization makes claims through advertising or marketing making claims about environmental policies without practicing such policies.

Habitat – Ecological or environmental area inhabited by a particular species of animal, plant or other organism.

Hazardous Waste – Waste that poses substantial or potential threats to public health or the environment.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) – Green building certification program that recognizes strategies to improve construction, operation and maintenance of buildings in a sustainable manner.

APPENDIX

Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) – Light bulbs that use less electricity over their lifetime compared to traditional Compact Fluorescent bulbs.

Life Cycle Analysis – technique to assess environmental impacts associated with all stages of a products life from raw materials, processing, distribution and use.

Regional Transportation District (RTD) – Denver-Boulder area regional mass transportation

Renewable Energy Certificates – Also known as Energy Credits, are tradable, non-tangible energy commodities that represent proof that 1 megawatt-hour of electricity was generated from renewable sources.

Smart Growth – Development approach that encourages a mix of building types and uses, diverse housing and transportation options, development within existing neighborhoods

Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) – a vehicle designed to accommodate more than one person, but being used to transport only one person

US Green Buildings Council (USGBC) – Non-profit organization that promotes sustainability in building design, construction and operation. Certification program known as LEED.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) – organic compounds that easily become vapors or gases which can irritate or harm people.

Walk Score – Public access walkability index that assigns a walkability score to any address in the United States. Highly used in real estate applications.

Zero Waste – Philosophy that encourages the redesign of resource life cycles so that all products are reused.



COLORADO • SINCE 1878