

Sustainability Advisory Board

Agenda

February 15, 2023

**DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER, THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD
FULLY REMOTE**

6:30 PM

Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comments remotely; however, the in-person meeting may continue even if technology issues prevent remote participation.

- You can call in to +1 408 638 0968 or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free)
Meeting ID #829 8194 5389
Meeting Password # 741017
- You can log in via your computer. Please visit the City's website here to link to the meeting: www.louisvilleco.gov/sustainabilityboard.

The Board will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also email comments to the Board prior to the meeting at KBetzold@LouisvilleCO.gov.

- I. Call to Order
 - Tiffany is February secretary.
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (3 minutes per comment)
- VI. Staff Updates (15 minutes)
- VII. Discussion Item: Open Space Tax Task Force – LSAB Appointment (10 minutes)

Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, taped material, or special transportation, should contact the City Clerk's Office at 303 335-4536 or MeredythM@LouisvilleCO.gov. A forty-eight-hour notice is requested.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión, por favor llame a la Ciudad al 303.335.4536 o 303.335.4574.

- Staff Update
- Public Comment (2 minutes per comment)
- LSAB Discussion and Appointment

VIII. Discussion Item: LSAB Decision Making Process and Expectations (15 min)

- Chair Update
- Public Comment (2 minutes per comment)
- LSAB Discussion

IX. Discussion Item: Bag Tax Funded Waste Reduction Programs (30 minutes)

- Staff Update
- Public Comment (2 minutes per comment)
- LSAB Discussion

X. Discussion Item: Spring Cleaning Event (10 minutes)

- Chair Update
- Public Comment (2 minutes per comment)
- LSAB Discussion

XI. Sub-Committee and Board Member Updates

XII. Administrative Tasks

- Dan to write March Sustainability Spotlight, due Feb. 15
- Josh is March secretary

XIII. Discussion Items for Next Meeting

- Community Decarbonization Plan introduction (Partners in Energy)
- E-bike Pilot Program Feedback
- Earth Day Promotions

XIV. Adjourn

Sustainability Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023
Fully Remote (Due to Inclement Weather)
6:30 PM

Call to Order – Chairperson Todd Budin called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Roll Call was taken and the following members were present:

Board Members Present: Todd Budin, Megan Ottesen, John Cowley, Josh Cooperman, Dan Mellish and Lev Szentkiralyi, Tiffany Boyd

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Kayla Betzold, Emily Hogan

Approval of Agenda –

Dan moved to approve the agenda; Tiffany seconded the motion. The agenda was approved by all members.

Approval of Meeting Minutes –

Josh moved to approve last meeting's minutes; Tiffany seconded the motion. The minutes from the December 14, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

Approval of 2023 Agenda Posting Locations –

Tiffany moved to approve the 2023 agenda posting locations; Dan seconded the motion. The agenda posting locations were approved by all members.

City of Louisville

The board welcomed new member, John Cowley.

Public Comments –

RJ Harrington: RJ spoke about air quality on the Front Range and its relation to local fracking sites. He suggested that LSAB advocate for City Council to add an item to their work plan related to policy preventing approval of future fracking permits.

Staff Update –

Todd explained to the new LSAB member that, to optimize time, board members have agreed to read updates ahead of time and to only ask questions.

Todd asked if the energy code passed on 12/20 reflected the letter of support written by LSAB. Kayla explained that, yes the Council adopted the recommendations in the letter of support, written by Lev. The new policy creates an all-electric standard for space and water heating and performance standards for specific building types. Other building types are required to abide by IECC 2021 energy code. The vote was unanimous.

Kayla noted that City Council added various sustainability-related priorities to their 2023 work plan including the Internal Decarbonization Plan, which has been consolidated into one high-priority item along with the Community Decarbonization Plan provided by Xcel Energy, gas station moratorium as a medium-priority item, dark sky lighting ordinance as a low-priority item, and electrification of lawn equipment as a low-priority item. John questioned delaying the phasing out of gas-powered lawn equipment until spring, since prioritizing this item now would have greater influence this year. Kayla confirmed that the sustainability operating budget has \$10,000 for lawn equipment electrification rebates and we're moving forward with an incentive program, but we're delaying the policy initiative until the second part of the year because of budgetary considerations and because City of Boulder is also moving forward with a similar initiative and the City would like to learn from their approach.

Josh questioned why volunteers are not being permitted to drain oil and gas from equipment during the Spring Cleaning Event. Kayla explained that it's a matter of liability. The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) is collaborating with Ace Hardware, which has agreed to have Ace staff on site to do this work. Todd mentioned that we should offer some recognition of Ace as a sponsor (marketing materials, etc.) and that Home Depot is also included in the voucher program this year, which will increase exposure. Kayla asked Todd to explain the event to new member John. Todd noted that this event has grown out of the fact that the region is out of compliance with air quality standards and the program offers residents vouchers for replacing gas-powered lawn equipment with electric versions. Kayla added that electronics recycling occurs on site and that gas and oil from lawn equipment will be recycled as hazardous waste with Boulder County and then the scrap metal is recycled through Eco-Cycle. This way, residents conveniently receive their vouchers on site.

Todd suggested moving officer elections to administrative tasks to allow for guest speakers to take the floor on community solar partnerships.

Discussion Item – US Solar Community Solar Partnership

Kayla introduced guest speaker, Tim Hilgert, and renewable energy options for the Louisville community, including community solar. She explained that Tim approached the City about their community solar project, which is a residential solar subscription program. US Solar, because of its size, is able to help meet the City's needs, however US Solar is not offering additional incentives for those impacted by Marshall Fire, low income residents, or commercial subscriptions. These types of subscriptions are offered by SunShare and between these two companies, the City is able to provide options for community solar subscriptions to all audiences in Louisville.

Todd asked if anyone is unclear about this initiative and reminded the board that creating these partnerships were part of LSAB's work plan.

Tim from US Solar explained that the greatest hurdle to community solar is that most people do not know that the program exists, so one of US Solar's key

priorities will be to market these alternatives to rooftop solar. They are not seeking a binding contract and their aim is to create a partnership where the individual subscriber, the City, and US Solar all benefit – a program build with guaranteed savings – subscribers pay US Solar for their energy use at a guaranteed rate for kWh (shifting from Xcel to a solar developer). There is not a large savings (in addition to 5% savings from Xcel monthly credit, they receive \$100 Amazon e-gift card or bill credit with US Solar). Additionally, US Solar also agrees to give \$50-\$100 to a local organization per resident who subscribes. US Solar doesn't want this to be exclusive and they support a diverse energy portfolio.

US Solar has unique contributions they can make – they are one of a few developers that take the process from start to finish – finding land, securing permits, owning and maintaining solar garden, handling customer enrollment and management (billing, etc., which is done in partnership with Xcel) – and their gardens are native-habitat-friendly and pollinator-friendly. They also offer subscribers the ability to own their spot in the garden for the entire life of the garden if they want to (20 years is life, generally), but the subscriber can always cancel their subscription without fees with 60 days notice. As part of its customer management, US Solar will take care of creating a landing page for the City website.

Lev asked about the company's capacity to meet the needs of Louisville's growing population in regards to infrastructure, size of staff, experience, etc. Tim responded that US Solar is the largest provider in MN and they have a 110 megawatt project with 150 megawatts in total in production now. They have capacity for 3,000 subscribers and have a large commercial program as well (for example, with Wells Fargo). US Solar has won 49% of the projects allocated under this program to outside partnerships by Xcel Energy. They are building 14 gardens in CO, which are either 2-5 megawatt projects and their projects won so far from Xcel consist of 35 to 40 megawatts in total. US Solar has lots of capacity and lots of customers and has the infrastructure, experience and ability to meet Louisville's needs.

Public Comment

RJ Harrington: RJ commented that he helped to write the community solar language that became law and is excited about the ability of US Solar to scale up to meet Louisville's needs and customer management abilities. He questioned if the City was still planning to partner with Boulder County and Solar United Neighbors.

Kayla noted that solar co-ops are different from solar gardens and the board will discuss Solar United Neighbors at a future meeting.

LSAB Discussion

Tiffany asked about US Solar's land use policy (soil health, carbon sequestration) and how the bidding process works with Xcel for these projects. Tim answered that soil health is one of the main reasons for replanting pollinator-friendly habitat. He didn't give specifics, but said US Solar has an internal GIS team that maps out land for long-term leases. Bidding has to do with understanding what Xcel's ambitions are and where they want to allocate the megawatt projects to be awarded and US Solar's development team identifies what proposal would best meet Xcel's and community's priorities.

John said that Louisville only has 72 resident subscribers for area solar gardens and he asked how many homeowners could fit into the US Solar plan for the CO region and when will these gardens become available. Tim answered that US Solar is in the permitting and construction process currently for nine projects (including one in Weld County, one in Larimer County, and six in Arapahoe County around brownfields and a Superfund Site). The company is currently enrolling for summer 2023 for existing projects that are expected to be completed by then. He said there are roughly 5,000 residential subscriptions available now for existing projects (under construction or in planning) for the 35-40 megawatts the CO gardens will produce. He added that commercial subscriptions are a different side of their initiative.

Josh asked how WindSource relates to US Solar renewable subscriptions. Tim answered that this is a very different structure and it's a separate line item on the

Xcel bill. A customer pays an additional fee to become a WindSource subscriber, where as with community solar, the subscriber receives a credit from Xcel Energy on their utility bill and then the subscriber pays 95% of that amount as a monthly fee to US Solar at a guaranteed rate. The subscriber receives a monthly savings based on the production of the garden and the amount of solar directly put onto the grid and the subscription size depends on individual usage. The bill credit doesn't have to do with the market rate and it's only based on the production of the garden.

Megan asked if the credits are pegged to Xcel's market rates. Tim answered that one's subscription payment depends on the amount of your credit (95% of the credit is paid to US Solar) so if someone's Xcel bill is \$200 and the credit from Xcel is \$100, then the subscriber pays US Solar \$95, pays Xcel the remaining \$100 and saves \$5 on the bill. The payment to US Solar is guaranteed to be 5% lower than the Xcel credit. The bill credit does not depend on market rates, but on the amount of solar produced at the garden and put onto the grid. Lev said he was still unclear about the bill credit and market rates. Tim said that each year Xcel adjusts its bill credit rates and US Solar adjusts their subscription rate accordingly to mirror the changes Xcel makes, which guarantees the 5% savings rate.

Todd asked for a motion in regards to the US Solar partnership. Lev asked if the board could discuss the item without the vendor present. Tim thanked the board for their time and left the virtual meeting. Lev asked if the board would like to hear from other vendors before voting to approve the partnership with US Solar. Todd explained that Kayla has done a lot of background research on possible partnerships and US Solar is a vendor capable of handling all of the components of the service, including program administration and management, customer service, data collection, etc.

John asked what the benefits of this partnership are to the City and why US Solar doesn't approach Louisville on its own. Kayla explained that customers can join any community solar program on their own and the partnership is to provide residents with an option for community solar with a company that has the

capacity for many subscribers and ability to provide program management and customer service.

Lev expressed concern about making decisions with limited information and with a proposal from only one vendor. For example, with regard to Tiffany's question about land management, Lev said that Tim reiterated US Solar's commitment to native habitats and pollinators and that there is a GIS team in place, but did not specifically answer the question about land management practices. He added that LSAB is being asked to make a substantive decision with limited information. Todd asked for a motion in regards to the US Solar partnership. Dan moved to support the partnership with US Solar, Josh seconded, and the motion passed 6-0-1 with Lev abstaining.

Discussion Item – Sustainability Film Series

Kayla said that the City is partnering with Lafayette, Superior and Broomfield again this year for the Sustainability Film Series and the Louisville film will be held on May 18. She asked for recommendations for films to be emailed to her.

Sub-Committee and Board Member Updates –

Todd stated that, due to time, the board would skip this item.

Administrative Tasks –

Discussion Item – Officer Election

Kayla noted that the board has two roles – Chairperson and Secretary, which is a rotating role. The Chair is elected for a one year term. Kayla invited members interested in serving as Chair an opportunity to speak to the board. Dan nominated Todd. Todd briefly explained what his aims are (concise, organized meetings, etc.) and what he brings to the board.

Public Comment

RJ Harrington: RJ expressed his support of Todd's nomination, emphasizing his capacity to accept constructive feedback. He said that adding public comment to

discussion items of meetings is an example of how Todd took feedback and implemented it.

LSAB Discussion

Tiffany moved to approve Todd's reelection as Chair and Dan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Todd reminded the board that Kayla is writing the Sustainability Spotlight for February and Dan will write the March spotlight, due February 15.

Discussion Items for Next Meeting –

Kayla said that the February meeting will include an introduction to the Community Decarbonization Plan and a review of bag tax funded waste reduction programs.

Adjourn –

Tiffany moved to adjourn the meeting and Megan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Memorandum

To: Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board
From: Kayla Betzold, Sustainability Coordinator
Date: February 15, 2023
Re: Staff Updates

Internal Decarbonization Plan

- The McKinstry/City of Louisville team has completed audits on the Recreation Center, Public Library, Police Services, water treatment plants, and wastewater treatment plant.
- The team will be presenting preliminary results to City Council on April 4.

Marshall Fire Recovery

- Out of 235 rebuilding permits submitted or approved, 61% have opted for IECC 2021 or IECC 2021 + RC Appendix.
- 60 residents have filed applications with Xcel Energy – 9 IECC 2021, 6 EnergyStar 3.2, 22 EnergyStar NextGen, 20 Zero Energy Ready Homes, and 3 Passive House. 6 residents have filed applications with the Colorado Energy Office for the electrification incentive.
- The City is planning a series of fire resiliency workshops in 2023 – visit www.LouisvilleCO.gov/ResilientLouisville for more information.

Dark Sky Lighting

- The Sustainability division is working with Economic Vitality and Planning to develop a dark sky lighting ordinance, which is scheduled for Council in late spring.
- Visit <https://www.engagelouisvilleco.org/darksky> to learn more about the project and to complete a resident feedback survey by March 1, 2023.

Resource Central Programs

- The City is partnering again with Resource Central to provide water conservation programming.



City of Louisville

City Manager's Office

- The Lawn Replacement Program offers residents up to \$500 to remove grass and install low-water plants. Learn more at <https://resourcecentral.org/lawn/>. The deadline to apply for this program is March 15.
- The Garden in a Box program offers professionally designed, waterwise gardens made for Colorado yards and gardens are available starting on March 1. Residents receive a \$25 discount. Learn more at <https://resourcecentral.org/gardens/>.
- Free, online Waterwise Yard Seminars will be hosted by Resource Central and partner organizations throughout 2023 to educate residents about low-water landscaping. Find out more at <https://resourcecentral.org/seminars/>.

Disposable Bag Tax

- Staff will be presenting the proposed bag tax funded waste reduction programs to the Finance Committee (2/16) and Economic Vitality Committee (2/17) and City Council in March (3/14).

Louisville/Lafayette E-Bike Pilot Program

- The City is collaborating with Lafayette on an e-bike rebate pilot program. A variety of local bike retailers are participating in the project.
- Rebate amounts and project details will be presented for LSAB feedback at the March meeting.

Events

- The virtual Sustainability Film Series will be hosted by Louisville, Lafayette, Superior and Broomfield and will be held April – July 2023 on the third Thursday of each month. Louisville's film will be held on Thursday, May 18.
- The Spring Cleaning Event will be held at Ascent Church on Saturday, April 29 from 9a-12p.
 - Volunteer sign up here - <https://bit.ly/2023SpringCleaningVolunteering>
 - All Louisville residents participating in HHW, electronics or lawn equipment recycling must register using this link - <https://bit.ly/2023SpringCleaningEvent>

Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board

- The rotating secretary schedule for LSAB is listed below.
- Each month's secretary will be listed on the meeting agenda, included in the packet.

Month	Secretary
January	Lev
February	Tiffany
March	Josh



City of Louisville

City Manager's Office

April	John
May	Dan
June	Megan
July	Lev
August	Tiffany
September	Josh
October	John
November	Dan
December	Megan

Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board February 2023

Kayla Betzold
Sustainability Coordinator

Discussion Item: Open Space Tax Task Force

LSAB Member Appointment

Overview

- The Open Space tax (0.25% sales tax) is sun setting at the end of 2023.
- A task force is being created by city council with representatives from PPLAB, OSAB and LSAB, along with the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.
- The goal of the task force is to discuss and recommend proposed ballot language for the tax renewal in Nov.
- Meetings will take place biweekly on Mondays from 4-6p, late Feb. – mid-May

Public comment (2 minutes/each)

LSAB Discussion

- Nominate and Approve Representative –
 - Motion
 - Seconded motion
 - LSAB vote
 - Record vote

Discussion Item: LSAB Decision Making Process & Expectations

Overview

Chair to provide the board with an overview of topic.

- Amount of time board has each year to discuss and make progress on projects
- Meeting decision making process
- Preparation expectations

Public comment (2 minutes/each)

LSAB Discussion

- Questions and comments

Bag Tax Funded Waste Reduction Programs

Kayla Betzold
Sustainability Coordinator

Program 1: Bulk Supply of Reusable Bags

Objective: A bulk supply of reusable bags provides support to the business owner and customers and reduces the number of disposable bags distributed in the community.

Applicable Business Sectors	All – Food, Vendor, Retail, Service, Grocery
Program Value (\$500)	~250 reusable bags
Staff Impact	Medium
Environmental Impact	Low



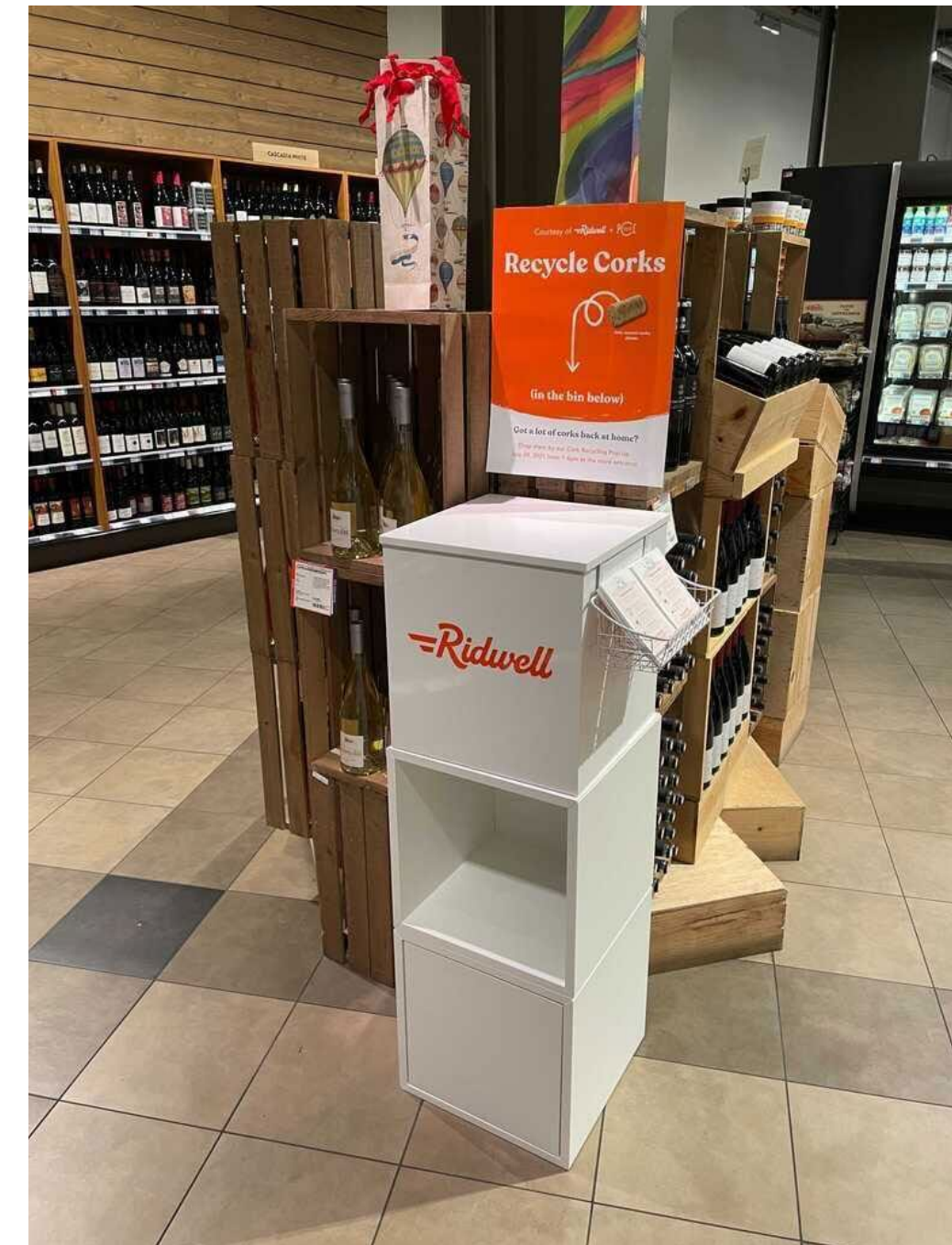
Overall: This is an option for businesses that do not want to participate in more extensive waste reduction programs, but would like an alternative to disposable bags when necessary.

Program 2: Six Month Subscription for Hard-to-Recycle Pick Up Services

Objective: A Hard-to-Recycle pickup service allows a business to collect plastic film, batteries, light bulbs, and clothing from employees and residents, which are picked up biweekly – reducing the amount of these items in local landfills. Additionally, the company is offering each participating business a select category for drop off, tied to the business type (pet store – dog collars, liquor store – corks)

Applicable Business Sectors	Retail, Service, Grocery
Program Value (\$500)	Six month subscription to biweekly pickup service
Staff Impact	Low
Environmental Impact	High

Overall: This is an option for businesses want to take an extra step towards waste reduction, but do not want to administer the waste reduction program themselves.



Program 3: Commercial Recycling and/or Composting Incentives



Objective: By incentive stacking on an existing Boulder County Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) program to provide businesses with recycling and/or composting incentives, the City may increase the commercial diversion rate from its current rate of 24%.

Applicable Business Sectors	Food, Service, Retail, Grocery
Program Value (\$500)	\$500 bag tax funding + existing \$150 PACE incentive – on average, would cover delivery and 2 - 4 months of commercial recycling services
Staff Impact	Medium
Environmental Impact	High

Overall: This is an option for businesses that would benefit from an additional incentive to begin waste diversion services, although businesses would need to formulate a plan to cover costs associated with long-term recycling, as there is a one-year service commitment.



Program 4: Reusable Takeout Restaurant Pilot



Objective: *DeliverZero is a company that provides reusable takeout programming to Denver and Boulder restaurants and residents. By transitioning restaurants from single-use takeout containers to reusable takeout containers, the City provides businesses with an opportunity to change takeout culture and reduce waste and emissions associated with decomposition of single-use containers.*

Applicable Business Sectors	Food
Program Value (\$500)	3 months of program participation – includes container purchase, stocking/cleaning, customer subsidy
Staff Impact	Medium
Environmental Impact	High



Overall: This is an innovative new program that could be funded through bag tax revenue. If funded, Louisville would become the first suburban community to introduce DeliverZero. As A1 Organics policy changes, PACE and others no longer recommend compostables as an alternative to single-use plastics/Styrofoam and reusable containers are a more sustainable alternative to all single-use options.

Program 5: Zero Waste Grants

Objective: Many businesses in Louisville have business-specific needs that may not be best suited by other program offerings. A business may consider how an incentive from the City can support a zero waste project, submit a proposal and budget, and if approved, receive funding to implement the project.

Applicable Business Sectors	All – Food, Vendor, Retail, Service, Grocery
Program Value (\$500)	\$500 towards project that promotes reusable products or reduces waste
Staff Impact	High
Environmental Impact	High

Project ideas:

- Reusable kitchenware (plates, glasses, silverware) for employee kitchens
- Durables for restaurant dining
- Reusable straws, napkins or reusable replacements for other disposables
- Reusable packaging, storage or transport containers
- Commercial dishwashing



Overall: This program options offers flexibility for businesses to decide how City funding can best support a transition from disposables to reusables and promote a zero waste environment.

Low-Income Programs (\$15,000 annually)



The Sustainability division is requesting that \$25,000 be allocated towards hard-to-recycle events at the manufactured home community (Parco Dello Zingaro) and/or affordable housing (Boulder County Housing Authority Kestrel) in collaboration with Eco-Cycle's Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM).

City of Boulder researched LMI barriers to large item recycling, which included:

- No access to vehicle/way to transport item
- Physical mobility limitations
- Recycling Costs

Description	Cost
Eco-Cycle staff time	\$1,000 - \$2,000
Eco-Cycle large item recycling costs at CHaRM	\$800 - \$2,000
Moving company to haul materials	\$1,000
Roll off for trash collection	\$300
Tire recycling	\$200
Propane tank recycling	\$200
TOTAL	\$3,500 - \$5,700

By bringing an event to the community and subsidizing the cost, the City removes barriers, reduces waste and beautifies the community.

Additional funding will be used for reusable bag purchasing for event giveaways.

Discussion Item: Bag Tax Funded Waste Reduction Programs



Public comment (2 minutes/each)

LSAB Discussion

- Questions and comments

Discussion Item: Spring Cleaning Event

Overview

Chair to provide the board with an overview of topic.

- Event scheduled for Saturday, April 29 from 9a-12p at Ascent Community Church.
- Residents can recycle HHW, electronics and gas-powered lawn equipment.
- More information about the event can be found at at www.louisvilleCO.gov/SpringCleaning
- Registration links can be found in Staff Updates

Public comment (2 minutes/each)

LSAB Discussion

- Ideas for advertising event – English/Spanish flyers and distribution

LSAB February 2023 Meeting

Sub-Committee and Board Member Updates

Administrative Tasks

- Dan to write March Sustainability Spotlight, due Feb. 15
- Josh is March secretary

Discussion Items for Next Meeting

- Community Decarbonization Plan introduction (Partners in Energy)
- E-bike Pilot Program Feedback
- Earth Day Promotions

Adjourn