



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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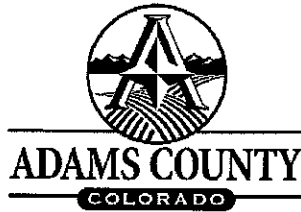
STUDY SESSION AGENDA
TUESDAY
January 22, 2019

ALL TIMES LISTED ON THIS AGENDA ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

10:30 A.M.	ATTENDEE(S):	Adam Burg / Eliza Schultz / Elisabeth Rosen
	ITEM:	State Lobbyists Update
11:45 A.M.	ATTENDEE(S):	Mike Holub / Kristin Sullivan / Doug Clark / Jen Rutter / Sean Braden
	ITEM:	Sustainability and Recycling Update
12:15 P.M.	ATTENDEE(S):	Raymond Gonzales
	ITEM:	Administrative Item Review / Commissioners Communication
12:45 P.M.	ATTENDEE(S):	Heidi Miller
	ITEM:	Executive Session Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e) for the Purpose of Receiving Legal Advice and Instructing Negotiators Regarding McKinney Claim
1:30 P.M.	ITEM:	VoteCast Training

(AND SUCH OTHER MATTERS OF PUBLIC BUSINESS WHICH MAY ARISE)

AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



STUDY SESSION AGENDA ITEM

DATE:	January 22, 2019
SUBJECT:	Recycling and Sustainability Update
FROM:	Mike Holub, Director of Facilities & Fleet Management Kristin Sullivan, Director of Community & Economic Development Doug Clark, Deputy Director of Community & Economic Development Sean Braden, Manager of Planning, Design & Construction Jen Rutter, Environmental Program Manager
AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:	Facilities & Fleet Management, Community & Economic Development
ATTENDEES:	Mike Holub, Kristin Sullivan, Doug Clark, Jen Rutter, Sean Braden
PURPOSE OF ITEM:	Update the BOCC on the sustainability successes in each Department and changes to the recycling and chemical collection program for residents.
STAFF RECOMMENDATION:	The Board approves the staff to move forward with the initiatives outlined in the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan and planned recycling and chemical collection events and programs for 2019.

BACKGROUND:

Adopted in April 2015, the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan outlined four Cornerstones: 1) Responsible and Innovative Regional Leadership; 2) Waste Management and Reduction; 3) Conservation of Energy and Resources; and 4) Respect for Adams County’s Heritage. Each Cornerstone is divided into multiple goals, each with an identified “Potential Partner” Department. A committee of stakeholders from these “Partner” departments has been assembled and collected data on the progress that has been made thus far. Next steps include determining which goals to focus on in the near term, as well as long-term.

One of the goals within the 2030 Plan focuses on ensuring that Adams County residents have access to affordable recycling, including non-traditional materials, such as paint, electronics, and household hazardous waste. The County has provided household chemical collection services since 2001 in the form of one-day drop-off events. In 2016, one-day collection events were added for hard-to-recycle items, specifically electronics and paint. A permanent household hazardous waste collection and recycling facility was contemplated and recommended by the 2030 Plan, so a pilot program will be held in 2019 to assess cost and participation. The electronics and paint collection events continue to be in high demand, so those events will continue in 2019.

AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS OR OTHER OFFICES INVOLVED:

People & Culture

Public Works
Parks & Open Space
Information Technology & Innovation
Finance

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan
Staff Memo on Recycling & Collection Programs
PowerPoint Presentation

FISCAL IMPACT:

Please check if there is no fiscal impact . If there is fiscal impact, please fully complete the section below.

Fund:

Cost Center:

	Object Account	Subledger	Amount
Current Budgeted Revenue:			
Additional Revenue not included in Current Budget:			
Total Revenues:			

	Object Account	Subledger	Amount
Current Budgeted Operating Expenditure:			
Add'l Operating Expenditure not included in Current Budget:			
Current Budgeted Capital Expenditure:			
Add'l Capital Expenditure not included in Current Budget:			
Total Expenditures:			

New FTEs requested: YES NO

Future Amendment Needed: YES NO


Additional Note:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

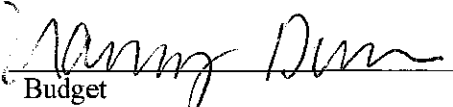
Raymond H. Gonzales, County Manager

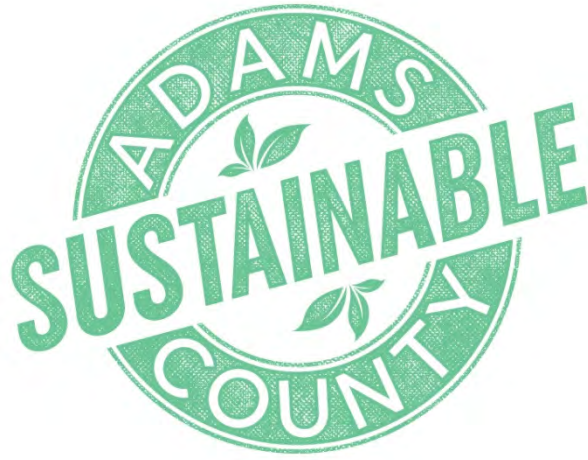

Bryan Ostler, Deputy County Manager

Alisha Reis, Deputy County Manager


Patti Duncan, Deputy County Manager

APPROVAL OF FISCAL IMPACT:


Budget



Sustainable Adams County
2030 Plan

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Acknowledgements & Contributors

The completion of the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan would not be possible without the contribution and input of several individuals, including those listed below:

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Executive Summary

The need to integrate a philosophy of sustainability into the operations of local government and business is being recognized across the country as paramount. By using a triple bottom line approach, which places equal value on environmental protection, social responsibility, and good fiscal management, organizations are able to make decisions and take actions that are good for the planet, good for the community, and good for the organizational budget. Adams County, in order to maintain a competitive advantage in the region and ensure the longevity of environmental, social, and financial resources for future generations, has made a commitment to develop and implement this Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan, which will guide decision making and project development over the coming years. The county is committed to providing a high level of service and value to taxpayers while ensuring the health and well being of citizens, employees, and the natural environment. Given the projected growth of Adams County and the Denver Metro Region, integrating sustainability and conservation of resources into government practices will emerge as a crucial element in supporting smart growth that allows future generations to enjoy the same level of resources and comfort as current populations.

Introduction to Sustainable Adams 2030 County Plan

In April of 2010 the Adams County Board of County Commissioners passed the ‘Resolution to Approve Adams County Sustainability’, the initial guiding document for the Sustainability Program. The driving mission of the Adams County sustainability program, now called Sustainable Adams County, is to ensure that Adams County stays committed to a sustainable future for its citizens and the environmental wellbeing of the county as a whole. The vision of the Sustainable Adams County program is to establish a balance between the financial, community, and environmental health of the county, while providing opportunities for citizens and employees to engage, learn, and have fun. Since the initial Board resolution in 2010 several initiatives have been implemented and one-year plans were developed to guide the continued focus on sustainability within the county. In an effort to ensure that the principles of social, environmental, and fiscal sustainability remain at the core of the county’s governing and the county remains resilient in changing environmental, economic, and social circumstances, the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan now exists to guide efforts and create a roadmap for the coming years.

The following Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan (herein after referred to as ‘the plan’ or ‘the 2030 plan’) identifies four cornerstones of sustainability and sixteen goals that are integral to ensuring the long term environmental, social and fiscal sustainability of Adams County. The Sustainable Adams County program will be responsible for coordinating and supporting efforts at the county administration level, while various actions to meet the target goals may fall under specific departments or divisions such as Facilities, Planning & Development, Transportation, Neighborhood Services, Fleet Services, and others.

The cornerstones and goals laid forth in the 2030 plan were developed through in-depth research and conversations with department directors, county administration, and staff members involved in the Adams County Green Team. The following goals are achievable and many can be measured quantitatively; baseline data for the goal measurement is gathered from the year 2012, unless otherwise noted. Achievements towards goals laid forth in the plan will be measured and evaluated every other year, and the entirety of the plan will be re-evaluated in 2020 to determine any need for revision or alterations necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of Adams County.



The following sections of this document will provide a description of each cornerstone of sustainability that the county has identified: Responsible and Innovative Regional Leadership; Waste Management and Reduction; Conservation of Energy and Resources; and, Respect for Adams County’s Heritage. The need to take action in each focus area as well as target actions and projects that will provide for successful attainment of the plan goals will be enumerated in the corresponding sections of the plan. The Appendices to this document include lists of potential partner agencies and departments, and baseline data and 2030 target goal data.

Cornerstone	Goals
I. Responsible and Innovative Regional Leadership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Serve as a regional leader for sustainability 2) Cultivate a working environment that encourages teamwork, collaboration, and holistic wellness to ensure that county government is efficient, sustainable, and responsive to citizen needs 3) Create sustainable neighborhoods in Adams County and promote the health and wellness of Adams County citizens through opportunities for citizen engagement and access to valuable environmental, health, social, and wellness resources
II. Waste Management and Reduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill through county operations by 30% 2) Ensure that all Adams County residents have access to recycling
III. Conservation of Energy and Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reduce the amount of energy consumed from non-renewable sources by county buildings per square foot by 25% 2) Support policies and provide incentives to reduce energy consumed from non-renewable resources by residential and commercial buildings throughout the county 3) Reduce the use of potable water at county buildings and parks by 30% 4) Support policies and provide incentives to reduce water used by residential and commercial buildings throughout the county 5) Reduce fuel consumption from traditional resources in county fleet operations by 30% through increased efficiency and use of alternative fuels 6) Reduce vehicle miles traveled by employees for work purposes by 10% 7) Increase number of residents with access to multi-modal transportation options within ¼ mile of their residence by 30% 8) Increase number of total online revenue transactions for county services by 200%
IV. Respect for Adams County’s Heritage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Maintain the conservation of acres of high quality agricultural lands 2) To protect water quantity and quality, increase the number of publically accessible acres conserved with reservoirs or within water corridors by 10% 3) Increase residents’ access to fresh foods and support a sustainable local economy and new economic opportunities through the support and promotion of farmers markets, farm stands, and community gardens

Cornerstone I: Responsible and Innovative Regional Leadership

Adams County will experience significant population and development growth over the coming years as the Denver Metro region as a whole grows. Adams County population is projected to grow to almost 770,000 people by the year 2040 (Colorado Department of Local Affairs), which is more than a 70% increase over the 2010 population. In order to ensure that planning for this growth occurs in as efficient and sustainable manner as possible, the county must incorporate responsible and innovative leadership into its governing. Considerations for future land use planning, economic and business development opportunities, and employee engagement must be made to additionally ensure that the county maintains a competitive advantage for attracting new business and development growth that locates in the Denver metro region. The county aims to lead the municipalities, governments, and other public institutions within and surrounding Adams County in incorporating principles of sustainability into governing and leadership. Doing so will provide a greater quality of life and level of service for county residents, while ensuring that the county remains fiscally responsible and maintains access to valued environmental and cultural resources for future generations of residents.

Adams County has identified three goals within the 2030 plan that are critical to providing responsible and innovative regional leadership. Several target actions have been identified that will advance achievement of these goals, and those are enumerated below. The lists of actions associated with each goal, however, are by no means exhaustive and in the spirit of innovative leadership the county looks forward to continuing to identify and develop new projects and programs that will better serve the citizens and businesses of Adams County.

Goal 1.1: Serve as a regional leader for sustainability

In order to support the long term fiscal, environmental, and social sustainability of Adams County and the greater Denver region, the county will take on a leadership role in developing relationships and networks that support sustainability projects and initiatives within county government and local municipalities, non-profits, and businesses. In doing so, the county will increase its competitive advantage as a location that is 'open for business' and supportive of innovative and sustainable development. The county will provide opportunities for engagement and mutually beneficial collaboration across multiple sectors to support the advancement of sustainability initiatives and goals. Likewise, the county will raise awareness of sustainability initiatives and projects occurring within the county on a statewide and national level.

Some target actions that have been identified to support the achievement of this goal are:

- 1.1.a: Develop the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan, which is intended to supplement and support existing County Comprehensive, Master, and Framework plans.***
- 1.1.b: Initiate and lead an Adams County Regional Sustainability Network to connect municipalities, school districts, and large non-profits that are interested in sustainability and provide space for collaboration and resource sharing.***
- 1.1.c: Initiate and support the development of an Adams County Business Sustainability Network, to connect businesses in Adams County that are interested in learning about, pursuing, and achieving sustainability initiatives.***
- 1.1.d: Brand Adams County as a regional leader in sustainability and as a government that supports the development of environmentally and socially responsible businesses and neighborhoods. Provide regular outreach and access to information on Sustainable Adams County initiatives through visual communications, website, and social media.***

Goal 1.2: Cultivate a working environment that encourages teamwork, collaboration, and holistic wellness to ensure that county government is efficient, sustainable, and responsive to citizen needs.

Increasingly, companies, governments, and nonprofit organizations are recognizing and reaping the benefits of promoting a culture of wellness and collaboration in the workplace. Studies show that employees that participate in workplace wellness programs and other teambuilding and workplace engagement activities have lower healthcare costs, reduced absenteeism, higher employee productivity, reduced number of injuries and related workers compensation costs, and increased levels of workplace morale and loyalty (Society for Human Resource Management). In an effort to make the highest and best use of tax payer dollars, provide an excellent level of service to citizens, and create a culture of health and collaboration in the workplace, Adams County is committed to innovating and supporting workplace wellness and engagement activities. A healthy and productive workforce is a sustainable one in both the fiscal and social sense, and Adams County recognizes this fact.

Some target actions that support the development and longevity of a healthy, productive, and engaged workforce include:

- 1.2.a: Actively recruit and engage County staff to be a part of the Green Team and other employee engagement groups.*
- 1.2.b: Support the continued development of a healthy and efficient workforce through partnership and innovation with the Wellness Program and exploring emerging trends in wellness and employee engagement.*
- 1.2.c: Offer opportunities for training, learning, and engagement across all sectors of county government, including but not limited to language development programs, environmental awareness programs, and others.*

Goal 1.3: Create sustainable neighborhoods in Adams County and promote the health and wellness of Adams County citizens through opportunities for citizen engagement and access to valuable environmental, health, social, and wellness resources

Adams County strives to provide the highest possible quality of life for citizens, including ample opportunity to engage with their government, invest in their communities and neighborhoods, and participate in activities that will improve their health, wellness, and lifelong learning and citizenship. By providing ample opportunity for citizens to participate in planning and developing their neighborhoods and communities and offer input to Adams County, the county can ensure that it is continually aware of and responsive to the needs and concerns of citizens and communities. Across the country and locally, citizen groups are participating in efforts to revitalize and improve their neighborhoods and in doing so become more invested in, and feel greater responsibility towards, their communities.

Some target actions that support sustainable neighborhoods in Adams County are:

- 1.3.a: Create a sustainable neighborhoods network within unincorporated Adams County, offering space for community engagement, input, and buy-in.*
- 1.3.b: Investigate the feasibility and applicability of a citizen Sustainability Council.*

1.3.c: Provide regular opportunities for citizens to learn about and engage in sustainability initiatives through outreach and education events and neighborhood projects.

Cornerstone II: Waste Management and Reduction

Waste management and waste reduction are widely regarded as important factors to consider in any sustainability plan or initiative. On average, Americans generate approximately 4.38 pounds of waste per person per day. After accounting for national recycling and composting averages, each citizen produces approximately 2.9 pounds of municipal solid waste per day that is delivered to landfills. The State of Colorado's recycling rate, at 11%, is much lower than the national average of 34.5% (Environmental Protection Agency). Adams County is home to multiple landfills and recycling centers, as well as some small businesses that are focused on resource reuse and conservation. The landfills in the county have a significant impact on air, water, and soil quality and there is great potential to mitigate some of these negative impacts through concerted action.

Adams County aims to improve its environmental impact by reducing the amount of waste it sends to the landfill through county operations as well as provide greater opportunities for citizens and businesses to reduce their waste streams. The benefits of these efforts will be apparent through reduced resource consumption from virgin materials, reduced cost of waste removal (due to the fact that recycling removal is generally priced more affordably than waste removal), support for local companies that are in the business of waste reduction and resource reuse/recovery, and improved land, air, and water quality and conservation.

As Adams County achieves greater waste reduction and provides greater opportunities for recycling and waste reduction to residents, the county may begin to identify additional target actions that will further lead to a reduction in waste and its associated environmental impact.

Goal 2.1: Reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill through county operations by 30%

There are several environmental benefits associated with higher levels of waste reduction. The majority of the nation's waste ends up in landfills; nationally, 18% of methane (CH₄) emissions, which are widely considered linked to climate change, are produced from these landfills. Additionally, 42% of greenhouse gas emissions are associated with the energy used to produce, process, transport, and dispose of the goods and food we consume (Environmental Protection Agency). By increasing recycling, composting, and other diversion efforts, Adams County can reduce its environmental impact, while also supporting the developing market for recycled and repurposed goods, for which there are existing businesses in the county. Minimizing waste is a sound fiscal decision for Adams County as well; tipping fees on recycling are traditionally lower than for trash, and making sustainable purchasing decisions likely will lead to less waste being produced overall.

There are clearly several sound environmental, fiscal, and economic development justifications for reducing waste in county operations. By applying product life-cycle costs to purchasing decisions, the county can ensure that it invests wisely in sustainably produced high-quality products that will reduce the county's waste stream through long life and reuse potential. In addition to developing policies and infrastructures that support waste reduction, equally important is developing effective communication and messaging regarding the importance of waste reduction to all staff and building users. Some of the target actions and policies that the county can peruse to support waste reduction include:

- 2.1.a: Provide recycling opportunities, education, and outreach in all county facilities.*
- 2.1.b: Promote the use of sustainable event and net zero waste event strategies for Parks Department, Conference Center, and all other county event facilities.*
- 2.1.c: Develop purchasing and RFP guidelines regarding recyclable and compostable products, products made from recycled materials, and sustainability expectations for vendors.*
- 2.1.d: Investigate opportunities to reduce county waste through alternative waste disposal (i.e. composting, cardboard baling) and purchasing policies.*

Goal 2.2: Ensure that all Adams County residents have access to affordable recycling

Adams County is committed to not only reducing its own environmental impact, but also providing resources and opportunities for citizens and businesses in the county to likewise make healthier and more environmentally conscious choices. Results from the Quality of Life survey of county residents in 2014 showed that while 62% of residents living in incorporated areas of the county rated the availability of recycling services as ‘good’ or ‘excellent’, only 34% of residents living in unincorporated areas of the county rated the availability of these services so highly (Adams County 2014 Quality of Life Survey). There is a great opportunity to improve the availability and level of recycling services, in particular for unincorporated residents that do not living in municipalities that may make these services more available. For this reason the county would like to ensure that all residents have convenient and affordable access to recycling resources that cover both traditional materials (paper, aluminum, glass, plastics #1-7) as well as non-traditional materials that may otherwise contaminate landfills (batteries, paint, electronics, other household hazardous waste, etc). A long-term strategy that includes the development of a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility, as well as regular and effective communications regarding recycling options, will be crucial to achieving this goal.

Some strategies and target actions identified as important to providing recycling access to all Adams County residents include:

- 2.2.a: Work with municipalities to provide affordable access to recycling and recycling drop off facilities to 80% of all county residents.*
- 2.2.b: Provide outreach and educational materials and events regarding waste reduction and recycling, including at Adams County Fair and Earth Day events.*
- 2.2.c: Explore opportunities to incentivize a reduction in waste and an increase in recycling for all county residents and businesses.*
- 2.2.d: Explore the feasibility of developing a county-run HHW facility that will provide recycling services to residents and business owners in Adams County.*

Cornerstone III: Conservation of Energy and Natural Resources

Conservation of energy and natural resources, supporting renewable energy initiatives, and investing in technologies that allow for the development and use of clean energy resources are crucial to ensuring a reduced environmental impact of any organization. Actions that relate directly to conservation of energy and natural resources are often associated with the term sustainability, and with good reason; reducing energy use and the consumption of natural resources is a ‘win’ on several fronts. Adams County has already begun investing in energy efficient technologies in several buildings, including building to a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standard at the County Government Center and water and lighting efficiency upgrades at the County Detention Center. As the county continues to



invest in efficient energy technology and explore new and emergent options related to energy and resource conservation, the county will reduce its overall consumption of resources. Consuming fewer non-renewable resources such as coal, oil, and natural gas will lead to improved air, water, and land quality. In addition, the county will hedge rising energy costs by focusing on more renewable technologies that have relatively stable cost projects.

Financial considerations must come in to play when considering renewable and emergent technologies, but there are many indications that as technologies improve renewable resources such as solar and wind energy will continue to come down in cost, becoming more affordable, especially when considering environmental full-cost accounting and life cycle costs of non-renewable resources. Because of the projected population growth in Adams County over the coming years, as well as the abundant natural renewable resources in our region and the geographical proximity of several renewable energy research and development firms, Adams County has great potential to be a regional leader in supporting and integrating energy and resource conservation into county operations and residential and business opportunities.

Goal 3.1: Reduce the amount of energy consumed from non-renewable resources by county buildings per square foot by 25%

Over the past several years Adams County has begun to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that have an impact on resource consumption. By investing further in these technologies the county can continue to reduce its environmental impact while supporting locally produced and sold energy resources. A significant amount of energy, approximately 40% of total consumption in the United States, is used in the residential and commercial building sector (US Energy Information Association). In 2012 Adams County buildings emitted approximately 17,196 Metric Tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, the common method of measuring greenhouse gases (EnergyCap). The potential to reduce this impact through integrating efficient technologies and supporting smart and sustainable design in new county buildings is immense. Research shows that the potential for renewable energy capture within Adams County is impressive: there is significant wind energy potential in the eastern portion of Adams County, and significant solar potential across the whole of Adams County (Connecting Colorado's Renewable Resources to the Markets).

Adams County has made a commitment to support the development of one community solar garden that will power several county facilities, and the potential to explore further projects such as this is great. In addition to developing and implementing projects and policies related to energy efficiency and renewable energy development, an extensive and engaging employee education and awareness campaign regarding energy use and resources will be crucial to achieving a reduction in resource consumption.

The county has many options and resources available to define actions that will achieve a 25% reduction in energy consumption per square foot in county buildings by 2030, including:

- 3.1.a: Implement energy efficiency upgrades and related policies in new and existing county buildings, and install and utilize renewable energy technologies wherever applicable.***
- 3.1.b: Partner with energy saving companies (ESCOs) the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), the Aurora Campus for Renewable Energy (ACRE), and other local resources regarding emergent technology and innovations to improve efficiencies.***
- 3.1.c: Improve energy efficiency through policy development and enforcement and employee education and engagement.***

3.1.d: Aspire to a LEED Gold building standard in all new county buildings and building retrofits.

Goal 3.2: Support policies and provide incentives to reduce energy consumed from non-renewable resources by residential and commercial buildings throughout the county

Adams County is committed to reducing not only its own environmental impact through resource consumption and efficiency, but is also committed to supporting and assisting residents and business owners in the county who desire to reduce their impact and benefit from the associated savings and improved environmental quality. By providing information and supporting policies and incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy, the county can encourage development and adoption of these technologies and support the growth of an environmentally friendly and locally sourced clean energy economy. The county may even have opportunities through the Workforce Business Center and partnerships with higher education institutes and economic development organizations to support development and training surrounding 'green industry' jobs in the solar installation and manufacturing, land conservation, energy efficiency, and other fields.

Adams County has many opportunities to explore when supporting reduced energy consumption in residential and business sectors of the county. Some target actions that the county may consider include:

- 3.2.a: Explore opportunities for creative financing mechanisms for renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades (e.g. Property Assessed Clean Energy).*
- 3.2.b: Create zoning and planning policies and development and design codes that support energy efficiency, solar, and other renewable technologies.*
- 3.2.c: Provide opportunities for residents to access resources and information on energy savings rebate programs, renewable energy technologies, and other sustainability resources.*
- 3.2.d: Become a Solar-Friendly Community as recognized by the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association.*

Goal 3.3: Reduce the use of potable water at county buildings and parks by 30%

Water conservation and water quality are important issues for the State of Colorado, and Adams County is no exception. With a large amount of land devoted to agricultural uses and industry, protecting water resources and quality for future population and commercial needs is crucial. As snowpack declines, temperatures warm, and population (and therefore demand) grows in Colorado, many surveys show that Colorado residents are concerned about future water resources and support some sort of policy measures aimed at water conservation (Colorado WaterWise). Through integrating improved conservation technologies, effective education and outreach, and targeted actions to reduce water consumption, Adams County has the potential to make great impacts in water conservation and water resource protection. This will allow for higher water quality and quantity in the county, as well as reduced cost to the county as demand and usage lowers.

Some actions that the county may take directly that will have a positive impact on water conservation include, but are not limited to those listed below. As technologies relating to building use and water measurement and conservation improve, Adams County may have further opportunities to initiate projects relating to water conservation.

- 3.3.a: Install water conservation technologies and institute water conservation policies across County facilities.*

3.3.b: *Integrate water conservation technologies into all new county buildings and landscapes, as well as all remodel and retrofit projects.*

3.3.c: *Determine water needs and usage at county-run golf course and reduce, if possible.*

3.3.d: *Provide outreach and education to staff and public on water use and conservation.*

Goal 3.4: Support policies and provide incentives to reduce water consumption by residential and commercial buildings throughout the county

As a responsible and innovative regional government Adams County has the opportunity to provide its residents and business owners with information, incentives, and support that will reduce their own consumption of our valuable water resources. Supporting such actions will lead to greater water quality and quantity in the county and therefore a higher quality of life for residents, and will also reduce the cost of living and doing business in Adams County. There are several groups and organizations that focus on water conservation, education, and outreach through whom Adams County has the opportunity to collaborate and provide support. Colorado residents value their precious water resources, and as such likely would place great value on opportunities to learn about and reduce their own water consumption.

Adams County can assist residents and business owners in implementing projects to reduce their water consumption and improve water quality in a variety of ways. Target actions that the county may explore to incentivize and support water conservation include:

3.4.a: *Evaluate opportunities for partnership to bring water conservation practices and outreach to Adams County (through organizations such as Colorado WaterWise, Colorado Net Zero Water Initiative, and others).*

3.4.b: *Engage in education and outreach measures regarding water conservation methods (i.e. drought resistant landscaping, optimum watering schedules, low-flow fixtures, smart irrigation sensors, etc.).*

3.4.c: *Explore creative financing mechanisms for home and business owners to reduce water consumption through water efficiency upgrades (e.g. Property Assessed Clean Energy).*

3.4.d: *Revise development and design codes to encourage drought tolerant landscaping, xeriscaping, and water conservation.*

Goal 3.5: Reduce fuel consumption from traditional resources consumed by county fleet operations by 30% through increased efficiency and use of alternative fuels

The county's vehicle fleet operation is a necessary function of county government that has the potential to have great impact in reducing resource consumption and the county's overall carbon emissions and environmental impact. In 2014 Adams County installed its first electric vehicle charging station with infrastructure to build more when appropriate. This station is available for public use and its installation and the county's purchase of its first electric vehicle was supported by the Regional Air Quality Council. The county will see an immediate reduction in traditional fuel (gasoline and diesel) usage from this initiative and corresponding efforts to optimize the county vehicle fleet to focus on efficiency. The county looks forward to continuing to pursue optimization in its fleet through technology and efficiency innovations, as well as developing policies and procedures that will lead to reduced fuel consumption county-wide. The multitude of reasons to support achievement of this goal include reduced greenhouse gas emissions and corresponding improved air quality in the county, as well as supporting energy independence and supporting fleet operations that are resilient to environmental and economic pressures. Equally important to the

long-term sustainability of the county are the financial savings that the county will realize by pursuing greater fuel economy and great fleet efficiency

Adams County has already made noticeable progress in reducing fuel consumption and creating a more efficient fleet process. Some further actions the county may take to achieve reduced traditional fuel consumption include:

3.5.a: Develop and implement a policy regarding telecommuting and web and conference-call based meetings.

3.5.b: Develop and implement a fleet policy focusing on miles per gallon (MPG) reductions and use of GPS in fleets and an alternative-fuel vehicle fleet policy.

3.5.c: Optimize pool vehicle and fleet size and efficiency.

Goal 3.6: Reduce vehicle miles traveled by employees for work purposes by 10%

Adams County will provide employees with opportunities to reduce their environmental impact and save on commuting costs by supporting efforts and providing incentives to reduce the need to commute in single occupancy vehicles and provide accessible alternative transportation options. For measurement and achievement of this goal the county defines employee travel for work purposes as any use of a county fleet vehicle, miles driven to and from work, and any mileage reported via mileage reimbursement forms. By supporting and providing incentives to employees for carpooling, taking public transportation, and using other alternative methods to commute to work, as well as providing opportunities for telecommuting and participating in web and conference call based meetings, Adams County can further support improvements in air quality and worker satisfaction.

Some actions the county may consider to support and incentivize a reduction in vehicle miles traveled for work purposes include:

3.6.a: Promote flexible work schedules (9/80 and 4/10), telecommuting, and video conferencing/virtual meetings.

3.6.b: Develop a functional bike map of Adams County, including municipal trails and regional bike paths.

3.6.c: Partner with Regional Transportation District (RTD), Smart Commute Metro North, Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and others to offer EcoPasses/FlexPasses and other incentives and supportive infrastructure for County employees to use public transit and carpools.

Goal 3.7: Increase number of residents with access to multi-modal transportation options, including on/off road bike routes, sidewalks, and alternative transportation within ¼ mile of their residence by 30%

Adams County has an incredible opportunity over the coming years to improve and expand upon infrastructure that supports the use of public transportation and other alternative transportation methods, and it will be continuously important to provide and increase this appropriate infrastructure for alternative transportation options as the county population grows. Providing affordable and accessible public transportation and alternative transportation options will reduce the cost of living and improve air quality and fitness among residents, effectively improving the quality of life in Adams County. The current Adams County transportation plan already outlines a focus on multi-modal transit options for residents, and the development of the FasTracks Corridors

by RTD will continue to increase the number and proximity of alternative transit opportunities for many residents and individuals who work or do business in Adams County. At least 55% of Adams County residents have indicated that they would be likely to use the RTD FasTracks services at least once a month if not more often (Adams County 2014 Quality of Life Survey). Comprehensive and integrated signage, educational, and outreach campaigns will further encourage residents and workers in Adams County to seek out and utilize alternative transportation methods that will lead to reduced road congestion and improved air quality and quality of life in the county.

Some specific actions that the county intends to explore to improve access to and availability of alternative transportation methods include but are not limited to:

- 3.7.a: Support the implementation of sustainability and multi-modal elements outlined in the Adams County Transportation Plan, with a specific focus on pedestrian and bike facilities, multi-modal options, and transit-oriented development.*
- 3.7.b: Work with RTD to increase alternative transit options in Adams County.*
- 3.7.c: Promote non-vehicular transportation methods through better access, signage, and education.*

Goal 3.8: Increase the number of total online revenue transactions for county services by 200% to support a reduction in vehicles miles traveled by citizens

Adams County currently accepts online payments for a limited number of transactions necessary for doing business with the county. By increasing the number and availability of county business transactions that can be conducted online, the county will assist residents in reducing their own cost and environmental impact related to traveling to conduct county business. Additionally, the county will save on costs related to printing and storing excessive paperwork associated with current paper transactions that can be moved online. By providing more services online, the county becomes more accessible to residents and business owners, effectively improving customer service while reducing the cost and time associated with doing business with Adams County by providing certain services 24-hours a day.

In order to improve accessibility of online transactions, Adams County will consider taking the following steps:

- 3.8.a: Support implementation and use of online transaction processes for County business, including but not limited to vehicle registrations, stormwater management fees, building permits, etc.*
- 3.8.b: Evaluate and consider installing payment kiosks in high revenue traffic areas such as the Clerk and Recorder's office.*

Cornerstone IV: Respect for Adams County's Heritage

Adams County has a unique cultural heritage that must be acknowledged and respected, especially as the county experiences population growth and development pressures. Annual events such as the Adams County Fair highlight the impressive agricultural history of the county and reinforce the importance of maintaining and respecting this history. The parks, open spaces, and trail systems within the county afford residents and visitors the opportunity to experience and interact with nature and the abundant biological diversity found in the region. Adams County residents have indicated through several quality of life surveys that the parks and open space system in the county are a valued resource,

one that should be protected and conserved—39% of residents listed the open spaces, parks, and trails systems among the five most important services provided by the county (Adams County 2014 Quality of Life Survey).

By pursuing land conservation policies, promoting the agricultural and natural history of Adams County, and protecting delicate and valued ecosystems, Adams County can ensure a high quality of life for residents. Abundant recreational opportunities and chances for life-long learning will be maintained by the county. The county recognizes the valuable ecosystem services provided by natural spaces, watersheds, and native landscapes, and will strive to make smart development decisions to protect biologically important areas as the county grows.

Protecting the county’s agricultural heritage and sensitive lands may also provide benefits in the case of extreme weather or other natural events. By protecting a local food source and conserving lands that are high-functioning natural systems, the county will remain resilient in the case of a natural disaster or calamity. Resiliency is increasingly recognized as a critical element of sustainability, and the county aims to ensure that it is prepared for and protected against any negative consequences of a disaster, natural or otherwise.

Goal 4.1: Maintain the conservation of acres of high quality agricultural lands to preserve the county’s agricultural economic base, increase acres of green infrastructure and areas protected from development, protect biodiversity and open spaces, and ensure the continued availability of locally grown foods

Given the projected growth in population and likely related development of infrastructure in the county over the next several years, efforts must be made to conserve the biological diversity and natural resources of the region. The county currently purchases development rights on sensitive agricultural lands and in riparian corridors to ensure these ecosystems are maintained in their natural state over the coming years. This practice should be continued and expanded where applicable.

Adams County’s abundant and beautiful natural resources should be protected and conserved to every reasonable extent possible. Some actions that the county may take to continue to support land conservation include:

4.1.a: *Continue to purchase development rights to sensitive agricultural lands on riparian corridors and in other biologically important zones.*

4.1.b: *Support the implementation of the Adams County Open Space, Parks, and Trail Master Plan and the Adams County Fairgrounds Master Plan.*

Goal 4.2: To protect water quantity and quality, increase the number of publically accessible acres conserved with reservoirs or within water corridors by 10%

The ability of Adams County to ensure a long-term and high quality water supply for residents and businesses into the future hinges upon the county’s ability to protect watersheds and the lands surrounding water corridors. Residents of Adams County place a high value on the protection of and public access to these lands. Ensuring that protected lands that include reservoirs and water corridors remain publically accessible will provide opportunities for future generations to engage with and learn about the natural resources and biodiversity of the region, in the hopes that this will

inspire a conservation ethos among future residents. The water retention and water purification services provided by riparian buffers are well known by natural resource and water quality researchers, and Adams County will protect water quality for future generations by conserving and protecting the land surrounding our water resources.

In order to ensure that lands that include water resources continue to be protected and publically accessible into the future Adams County intends to explore opportunities to:

4.2.a: Target the purchase of development rights along riparian or waterway corridors.

4.2.b: Make improvements and additions to the trail systems along riparian corridors.

Goal 4.3: Increase residents' access to fresh foods and support a sustainable local economy and new economic opportunities through the support and promotion of farmers markets, farm stands, and community gardens

Adams County has a well-respected agricultural history that continues to be relevant in the abundance of small and mid-size farms that still operate in the county today. In order to provide increased economic opportunity to local farmers and business owners as well as connect residents and visitors to the agricultural resources in the county, Adams County should make efforts to support and promote local farms and farmers markets. By supporting the local food economy Adams is strengthening economic opportunities in the county while ensuring that the county and its residents remain resilient in the face of a food or environmental crises.

Adams County will help strengthen neighborhoods and connect people to a developing awareness about and interest in our food system and food-related health issues by supporting community and school garden initiatives. School and community gardens are known to have many positive impacts in terms of community capacity building and place-based and experiential education; these benefits include but are not limited to increased property values in neighborhoods with community gardens, active community involvement, financial benefits in terms of food costs saved for garden participants, and increased neighborhood surveillance and decreased crime (Gardening Matters). Supporting the development of school and community gardens will be a critical piece of creating more sustainable and healthy neighborhoods in Adams County.

In order to support our local food economy and offer opportunities for residents to engage in building and supporting a healthy food system, Adams County intends to explore the following actions:

4.3.a: Promote local farmers markets and farm stands.

4.3.b: Provide access to information and resources on urban gardening, season extension, food preservation, and winter growing and harvesting techniques via partnerships and outreach with the Extension network.

4.3.c: Support development of and education about community and school gardens at local schools, churches, and municipal buildings.

Conclusion

Adams County is embarking upon a period of great growth and development, and therefore is presented with the challenge and opportunity to ensure that this growth and development occurs in a responsible and sustainable fashion. Moving forward, the county will consider the social, environmental, and fiscal impact of all decisions and simultaneously emerge as a leader in sustainability, service delivery, and civic and social responsibility. The opportunity to make impactful and meaningful decisions and processes an integral part of county governing is great and Adams County is fully invested in doing so. As the county embarks on the various initiatives and actions identified in the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan, engaging citizens, organizations, and businesses across the county and region will provide great opportunity for every individual and group to contribute to positive change. The successful achievement of the goals laid out in this document will be accomplished through collaboration, thoughtful decision-making, and creativity and innovation. Driven by the desire to provide the greatest quality of life and level of service to citizens, we are Sustainable Adams County.

Appendix A: Sustainable Adams County 2030 Goals Performance Measurements

2030 Goal Performance Measurements		
Goal	Baseline Measure (Year)	2030 Goal
1.1 Serve as a regional leader for sustainability	No action (2012)	Be recognized as a regional leader; convene a regional sustainability network; support a business sustainability network; brand Sustainable Adams County (2030)
1.2 Cultivate a working environment that encourages teamwork, collaboration, and holistic wellness to ensure that County government is efficient, sustainable, and responsive to citizen needs	No data (2012). Number of employee trainings and wellness opportunities offered on an annual basis. Number of employees participating in trainings and wellness opportunities on an annual basis. Number of workplace trainings offered on an annual basis through Workforce Business Center, and number of public participants.	At least 30% of Adams County employees participate in multiple Wellness Initiatives annually; quarterly 'green bag' lunch and learn educational events (2030)
1.3 Create sustainable neighborhoods in Adams County and promote the health and wellness of Adams County citizens through opportunities for citizen engagement and access to valuable environmental, health, social, and wellness resources	No action (2012); <i>Quality of Life survey indicators</i> : Percent of residents indicating they had the opportunity to participate in community matters (2012): 51%; Percent of residents rating Adams County 'good' or 'excellent' at welcoming resident involvement (2012): 39%; Percent of residents rating Adams County as 'good' or 'excellent' at being responsive to citizen needs (2012): 46%	Adams County supports multiple sustainable neighborhood organizations; Adams County provides annual education and outreach initiatives related to sustainable neighborhoods. Maintain or improve on <i>Quality of Life Survey</i> indicators
2.1 Reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill through county operations by 30%	Tons of waste sent to landfill (2014): 1,050 tons County-wide diversion (recycling) rate (2014): 14.45%	Tons of waste sent to the landfill through county operations (2030): 735 tons County-wide waste diversion rate (2030): above national average (34.5%)
2.2 Ensure that all Adams County residents have access to affordable recycling	No action (2012); <i>Quality of Life Survey</i> indicators: Percent of residents rating availability of recycling services as 'good' or 'excellent' (2012): 49%	Opportunities for recycling at county-run facilities and buildings; annual outreach events on recycling; annual outreach publications on recycling; increased positive <i>Quality of Life Survey</i> responses regarding availability of recycling services
3.1 Reduce the amount of energy consumed from non-renewable source by county buildings per square foot by 25%	2012 energy consumption in county buildings per square foot: .728 Therms per square foot; 12.207 kWh per square foot	2030 energy consumption in county buildings per square foot: .546 Therms per square foot; 9.155 kWh per squarefoot
3.2 Support policies and provide incentives to reduce energy consumed from non-renewable resources by residential and commercial buildings throughout the County	No action (2012)	Support PACE policies in Adams County; gain recognition as a Solar-friendly Community; create map and list of alternative energy projects and resources in Adams County
3.3 Reduce the use of potable water at county facilities and parks by 30%	Gallons of potable water consumed in county buildings (2012): 79,725 KGal	Gallons of potable water consumer in county buildings (2030): 55,807 KGal
3.4 Support policies and provide incentives to reduce water used by residential and commercial buildings throughout the County	No action (2012)	Support PACE policies in Adams County; implement development design codes that support, incentivize, and favor water conservation (2030)
3.5 Reduce fuel consumption from traditional resources consumed by County fleet operations by 30% through increased efficiency and use of alternative fuels	Gallons of diesel used by County fleet (2012): 235,785; Gallons of gasoline used by County fleet (2012): 270,628	Gallons of diesel used by County fleet (2030): 165,050; Gallons of gasoline used by County fleet (2030): 189,440
3.6 Reduce vehicle miles traveled by employees for work purposes by 10%	Vehicle miles traveled for work purposes (2012): 8,791,353.8	VMT for work purposes (2030): 7,912,218.4
3.7 Increase number of residents with access to multi modal transportation options, including on/off road bike routes, sidewalks, and alternative transportation within ¼ mile of their residence by 30%	Number of residential parcels with access to the following within ¼ mile of their residence (2014): Bus routes: 72,511; Sidewalks: 27,718; Bike Trails: 106,635	30% increase in residential parcels with access to the following within ¼ mile (2030): Bus routes: 94,264; Sidewalks: 36,033; Bike Trails: 138,625



3.8 Increase number of total online revenue transactions for County services by 200% to support a reduction in vehicle miles traveled by citizens	Sum of online revenue transactions (2012): 351,976	Sum of online revenue transactions (2030): 703,952
4.1 Maintain conservation of acres of high quality agricultural lands	Total number of acres in conservation (2012): 13,712	Total number of acres conserved (2030): greater than or equal to 13,712
4.2 To protect water quantity and quality, increase the number of publically accessible acres conserved with reservoirs or within water corridors by 10%	Total number of publically accessible acres in riparian corridors (2012): 7,623	Total number of publically accessible acres in riparian corridors (2030): 8,385
4.3 Increase residents' access to fresh foods and support a sustainable local economy and new economic opportunities through the support and promotion of farmers markets, farm stands, and community gardens	Number of County-supported community gardens (2012): 1; number of county-wide farmers markets (2012): 0	Number of County-supported community/school gardens (2030): 5; number of county-wide farmers markets: greater than 0

Appendix B: Sustainable Adams County 2030 Goals Partners and Progress

2030 Goals Partners and Progress		
Goal	Potential Partners	Progress
1.1 Serve as a regional leader for sustainability <i>a) Develop the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Master Plan and implement elements</i> <i>b) Create and lead an Adams County Regional Sustainability Network</i> <i>c) Create and support an Adams County Business Sustainability Network</i> <i>d) Brand projects and initiatives related to Sustainable Adams County</i>	a) Adams County Directors, staff, Board of Commissioners b) Municipalities, school districts, and non-profit institutions in Adams County c) Adams County Economic Development, local chambers of commerce, B-Lab d) Public Information Office, Facilities	a) In process (on-going) b) Started c) Research phase d) In process (on-going)
1.2 Cultivate a working environment that encourages teamwork, collaboration, and holistic wellness to ensure that County government is efficient, sustainable, and responsive to citizen needs <i>a) Actively recruit and engage County staff to be a part of the Green Team and other employee groups</i> <i>b) Support the continued development of a healthy and efficient workforce through partnership and innovation with the Wellness Program and exploring emerging trends in wellness and employee engagement</i> <i>c) Offer opportunities for training, learning, and engagement across all sectors of County government, including but not limited to language development programs, environmental awareness programs, and others</i>	a) All staff, managers, and directors b) Human Resources and Wellness staff, all staff c) Human Resources staff, all staff	a) In process (on-going) b) In process (on-going) c) In process (on-going)
1.3 Create sustainable neighborhoods in Adams County and promote the health and wellness of Adams County citizens through opportunities for citizen engagement and access to valuable environmental, health, social, and wellness resources <i>a) Create a sustainable neighborhoods network within unincorporated Adams County, offering space for community</i>	a) Neighborhood Services, Community Development, Planning & Development, Economic Development b) Neighborhood Services, Community Development, Planning & Development, Economic Development, Public Information	a) Not started b) Not started c) In process (on-going)



<p><i>engagement, input, and buy-in</i></p> <p>b) Investigate the feasibility and applicability of a citizen Sustainability Council</p> <p>c) Provide regular opportunities for citizens to learn about and engage in sustainability initiatives through outreach and education events and neighborhood projects</p>	<p>Office</p> <p>c) Neighborhood Services, Community Development, Economic Development, Public Information Office</p>	
<p>2.1 Reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill through county operations by 30%</p> <p>a) Provide recycling opportunities and education in all county facilities</p> <p>b) Promote the use of sustainable event and new zero waste event strategies for Parks Department, Conference Center, and all other county events</p> <p>c) Develop purchasing and RFP guidelines regarding recyclable and compostable products, products made from recycled materials, and sustainability expectations for vendors</p> <p>d) Investigate opportunities to reduce county waste through alternative waste disposal (i.e. composting, cardboard baling) and purchasing policies</p>	<p>a) Facilities, all managers and staff, Public Information Office</p> <p>b) Parks and Open Spaces, Conference Center, Facilities, Purchasing</p> <p>c) Purchasing, Finance</p> <p>d) Facilities, Detention Center</p>	<p>a) In process (on-going)</p> <p>b) Not started</p> <p>c) Research</p> <p>d) Research</p>
<p>2.2 Ensure that all Adams County residents have access to affordable recycling</p> <p>a) Work with municipalities to provide affordable access to recycling and recycling drop off facilities to 80% of all County residents</p> <p>b) Provide outreach and educational materials and events regarding waste reduction and recycling, including at Adams County Fair and Earth Day events</p> <p>c) Explore opportunities to incentivize a reduction in waste and increase in recycling for all county residents and businesses</p> <p>d) Explore the feasibility of developing a county-run HHW facility that will provide free recycling services to residents and business owners in Adams County</p>	<p>a) Municipalities in Adams County, waste contractors in Adams County</p> <p>b) County Fair staff, Public Information Office, county waste contractor</p> <p>c) County Law Department, Board of County Commissioners</p> <p>d) Tri-County Health Department, County Planning Department, Board of County Commissioners, Facilities</p>	<p>a) Not started</p> <p>b) In process (on-going)</p> <p>c) Not started</p> <p>d) Research</p>
<p>3.1 Reduce the amount of energy consumed from non-renewable sources in county buildings per square foot by 25%</p> <p>a) Implement energy efficiency upgrades and policies in new and existing county buildings, and install and utilize renewable energy technologies wherever applicable</p> <p>b) Partner with energy saving companies (ESCOs) the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), the Aurora Campus for Renewable Energy (ACRE), and other local resources regarding emergent technology and innovations to improve efficiencies</p> <p>c) Improve energy efficiency through policy development and enforcement and employee education and engagement</p> <p>d) Aspire to a LEED Gold building standard in all new county buildings and building retrofits</p>	<p>a) Facilities, Purchasing</p> <p>b) NREL, ACRES, ESCOs, Facilities, Finance</p> <p>c) Facilities, Board of County Commissioners, Planning & Development</p> <p>d) Facilities, Board of County Commissioners</p>	<p>a) In process (on-going)</p> <p>b) Not started</p> <p>c) Not started</p> <p>d) In process (on-going)</p>
<p>3.2 Support policies and provide incentives to reduce energy consumed from non-renewable resources by residential and commercial buildings throughout the County</p> <p>a) Explore opportunities for creative financing mechanisms for renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades (e.g. Property</p>	<p>a) Treasurer's Office, Board of County Commissioners, Finance</p> <p>b) Planning & Development</p> <p>c) Planning & Development, Public Information Office, Business Solutions Group</p>	<p>a) Research</p> <p>b) Not started</p> <p>c) Not started</p> <p>d) Not started</p>

<p><i>Assessed Clean Energy)</i></p> <p>b) <i>Create zoning and planning policies and development and design codes that support energy efficiency, solar, and other renewable technologies</i></p> <p>c) <i>Provide opportunities for residents to access resources and information on energy savings rebate programs, renewable energy technologies, and other sustainability resources</i></p> <p>d) <i>Become a Solar-Friendly Community as recognized by the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association</i></p>	<p>d) Planning & Development, Public Information Office, Board of County Commissioners</p>	
<p>3.3 Reduce the use of potable water at county facilities and parks by 30%</p> <p>a) <i>Install water conservation technologies and institute water conservation policies across County facilities</i></p> <p>b) <i>Integrate water conservation technologies into all new county buildings and landscapes, as well as all remodel and retrofit projects</i></p> <p>c) <i>Determine water needs and usage at county-run golf course and reduce if possible</i></p> <p>d) <i>Provide outreach and education to staff and public on water usage and conservation</i></p>	<p>a) Facilities, Finance, Parks & Open Spaces</p> <p>b) Facilities, Finance, CSU Extension</p> <p>c) Neighborhood Services, CSU Extension, Parks & Open Spaces, outside agencies</p> <p>d) Facilities, Public Information Office, CSU Extension</p>	<p>a) In process (on-going)</p> <p>b) Not started</p> <p>c) Not started</p> <p>d) Not started</p>
<p>3.4 Support policies and provide incentives to reduce water used by residential and commercial buildings throughout the County</p> <p>a) <i>Evaluate opportunities for partnership to bring water conservation practices and outreach to Adams County</i></p> <p>b) <i>Engage in education and outreach measures regarding water conservation methods</i></p> <p>c) <i>Explore creative financing mechanisms for home and business owners to reduce water consumption through water efficiency upgrades (e.g. Property Assessed Clean Energy)</i></p> <p>d) <i>Revise development and design codes to encourage drought tolerant landscaping, xeriscaping, and water conservation</i></p>	<p>a) Outside agencies (Colorado WaterWise, Colorado NetZero Water Initiative, etc)</p> <p>b) Outside agencies, Public Information Office</p> <p>c) Treasurer's Office, Finance, Board of County Commissioners, Public Information Office</p> <p>d) Planning & Development, Neighborhood Services, Stormwater Management</p>	<p>a) Research</p> <p>b) Not started</p> <p>c) Research</p> <p>d) Not started</p>
<p>3.5 Reduce fuel consumption from traditional resources in County fleet operations by 30% through increased efficiency and use of alternative fuels</p> <p>a) <i>Develop and implement a policy regarding telecommuting and web and conference-call based meetings</i></p> <p>b) <i>Develop and implement a fleet policy focusing on miles per gallon (MPG) reductions and use of GPS in fleets and an alternative-fuel vehicle fleet policy</i></p> <p>c) <i>Optimize pool vehicle and fleet size and efficiency</i></p>	<p>a) Transportation, Information Technology, Human Resources, County Manager's Office, Board of County Commissioners</p> <p>b) Transportation & Fleet</p> <p>c) Transportation & Fleet, Finance, Facilities</p>	<p>a) In process</p> <p>b) Not started</p> <p>c) In process (on-going)</p>
<p>3.6 Reduce vehicle miles traveled by employees for work purposes by 10%</p> <p>a) <i>Promote flexible work schedules (9/80s and 4/10s), telecommuting, and video conferencing/virtual meetings</i></p> <p>b) <i>Develop a functional bike map of Adams County, including municipal trails regional bike paths</i></p> <p>c) <i>Partner with Regional Transportation District (RTD), Smart Commute Metro North, Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and others to offer EcoPasses/FlexPasses and other incentives and supportive infrastructure for County employees to</i></p>	<p>a) Transportation, Information Technology, Human Resources, County Manager's Office, Board of County Commissioners</p> <p>b) Planning & Development, Parks & Open Spaces, Business Solutions Group, municipalities in Adams County, Public Information Office</p> <p>c) RTD, DRCOG, regional transportation demand management organizations, Human</p>	<p>a) In process</p> <p>b) Not started</p> <p>c) In process (on-going)</p>



<i>use public transit and carpools</i>	Resources, Finance, County Manger's Office, Board of County Commissioners	
3.7 Increase number of residents with access to multi modal transportation options, including on/off road bike routes, sidewalks, and alternative transportation within ¼ mile of their residence by 30% a) <i>Support the implementation of sustainability and multi-modal elements outlined in the Adams County Transportation Plan, with a specific focus on pedestrian and bike facilities, multi-modal options, and transit-oriented development</i> b) <i>Work with RTD to increase alternative transit options in Adams County</i> c) <i>Promote non-vehicular transportation method through better access, signage, and education</i>	a) Transportation, Planning & Development, Parks & Open Spaces, municipalities in Adams County b) Regional Transit District, Transportation, Planning & Development c) Transportation, Planning & Development, Public Information Office, Business Solutions Group	a) In process (on-going) b) In process (on-going) c) Not started
3.8 Increase number of total online revenue transactions for County services by 200% to support a reduction in vehicle miles traveled by citizens a) <i>Support implementation and use of online transaction processes for County business</i> b) <i>Install payment kiosks in high revenue traffic areas such as the Clerk and Recorder's office</i>	a) Information Technology, Public Information Office, Planning & Development, Neighborhood Services, Clerk & Recorders, other applicable departments b) Clerk & Recorders, Facilities, Information Technology	a) Not started b) Not started
4.1 Maintain conservation of acres of high quality agricultural lands a) <i>Continue to purchase development rights to sensitive agricultural lands on riparian corridors and in other biologically important zones</i> b) <i>Support the implementation of the Adams County Open Space, Parks, and Trail Master Plan and the Adams County Fairgrounds Master Plan</i>	a) Parks & Open Spaces, Finance, Board of County Commissioners b) Parks & Open Spaces	a) In process (on-going) b) In process (on-going)
4.2 To protect water quantity and quality, increase the number of publically accessible acres conserved with reservoirs or within water corridors by 10% a) <i>Target the purchase of development rights along riparian or waterway corridors</i> b) <i>Make improvements and additions to the trail systems along riparian corridors</i>	a) Planning & Development, Parks & Open Spaces, Board of County Commissioners b) Parks & Open Spaces, Planning & Development	a) In process (on-going) b) Not started
4.3 Increase residents' access to fresh foods and support a sustainable local economy and new economic opportunities through the support and promotion of farmers markets, farm stands, and community gardens a) <i>Promote local farmers markets and farm stands</i> b) <i>Provide access to information and resources on urban gardening, season extension, food preservation, and winter growing and harvesting techniques via partnerships and outreach with the Extension network</i> c) <i>Support development of and education about community gardens at local schools, churches, and municipal buildings</i>	a) Adams County Economic Development, local farm business owners, CSU Extension b) CSU Extension, Public Information Office c) County Manager's Office, Planning & Development, Neighborhood Services, local school districts, local community groups	a) Not started b) Not started c) Not started



Appendix C: Sustainable Adams County 2030 Goals Timeline

2030 Goals Partners and Progress		
Goal	Near Term Actions (0-24 months)	Mid-Term Actions (3-5 years)
1.1 Serve as a regional leader for sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Develop the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Master Plan and implement elements</i> b) <i>Create and lead an Adams County Regional Sustainability Network</i> c) <i>Brand projects and initiatives related to Sustainable Adams County</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) <i>Create and support an Adams County Business Sustainability Network</i>
1.2 Cultivate a working environment that encourages teamwork, collaboration, and holistic wellness to ensure that County government is efficient, sustainable, and responsive to citizen needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Actively recruit and engage County staff to be a part of the Green Team and other employee groups</i> b) <i>Support the continued development of a healthy and efficient workforce through partnership and innovation with the Wellness Program and exploring emerging trends in wellness and employee engagement</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) <i>Offer opportunities for training, learning, and engagement across all sectors of County government, including but not limited to language development programs, environmental awareness programs, and others</i>
1.3 Create sustainable neighborhoods in Adams County and promote the health and wellness of Adams County citizens through opportunities for citizen engagement and access to valuable environmental, health, social, and wellness resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Investigate the feasibility and applicability of a citizen Sustainability Council</i> b) <i>Provide regular opportunities for citizens to learn about and engage in sustainability initiatives through outreach and education events and neighborhood projects</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) <i>Create a sustainable neighborhoods network within unincorporated Adams County, offering space for community engagement, input, and buy-in</i>
2.1 Reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill through county operations by 30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Provide recycling opportunities and education in all county facilities</i> b) <i>Investigate opportunities to reduce county waste through alternative waste disposal (i.e. composting, cardboard baling) and purchasing policies</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) <i>Promote the use of sustainable event and net zero waste event strategies for Parks Department, Conference Center, and all other county events</i> d) <i>Develop purchasing and RFP guidelines regarding recyclable and compostable products, products made from recycled materials, and sustainability expectations for vendors</i>
2.2 Ensure that all Adams County residents have access to affordable recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Provide outreach and educational materials and events regarding waste reduction and recycling, including at Adams County Fair and Earth Day events</i> b) <i>Explore opportunities to incentivize a reduction in waste and increase in recycling for all county residents and businesses</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) <i>Work with municipalities to provide affordable access to recycling and recycling drop off facilities to 80% of all County residents</i> d) <i>Explore the feasibility of developing a county-run HHW facility that will provide free recycling services to residents and business owners in Adams County</i>
3.1 Reduce the amount of energy consumed from non-renewable sources in county buildings per square foot by 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Partner with energy saving companies (ESCOs) the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), the Aurora Campus for Renewable</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) <i>Implement energy efficiency upgrades and policies in new and existing county buildings, and install and utilize renewable energy technologies wherever applicable</i>



	<p><i>Energy (ACRE), and other local resources regarding emergent technology and innovations to improve efficiencies</i></p> <p>b) <i>Improve energy efficiency through policy development and enforcement and employee education and engagement</i></p>	<p>d) <i>Aspire to a LEED Gold building standard in all new county buildings and building retrofits</i></p>
3.2 Support policies and provide incentives to reduce energy consumed from non-renewable resources by residential and commercial buildings throughout the County	<p>a) <i>Explore opportunities for creative financing mechanisms for renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades (e.g. Property Assessed Clean Energy)</i></p> <p>b) <i>Create zoning and planning policies and development and design codes that support energy efficiency, solar, and other renewable technologies</i></p>	<p>c) <i>Provide opportunities for residents to access resources and information on energy savings rebate programs, renewable energy technologies, and other sustainability resources</i></p> <p>d) <i>Become a Solar-Friendly Community as recognized by the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association</i></p>
3.3 Reduce the use of potable water at county facilities and parks by 30%	<p>a) <i>Provide outreach and education to staff and public on water usage and conservation</i></p>	<p>b) <i>Integrate water conservation technologies into all new county buildings and landscapes, as well as all remodel and retrofit projects</i></p> <p>c) <i>Install water conservation technologies and institute water conservation policies across County facilities</i></p> <p>d) <i>Determine water needs and usage at county-run golf course and reduce if possible</i></p>
3.4 Support policies and provide incentives to reduce water used by residential and commercial buildings throughout the County	<p>a) <i>Evaluate opportunities for partnership to bring water conservation practices and outreach to Adams County</i></p> <p>b) <i>Engage in education and outreach measures regarding water conservation methods</i></p> <p>c) <i>Explore creative financing mechanisms for home and business owners to reduce water consumption through water efficiency upgrades (e.g. Property Assessed Clean Energy)</i></p>	<p>d) <i>Revise development and design codes to encourage drought tolerant landscaping, xeriscaping, and water conservation</i></p>
3.5 Reduce fuel consumption from traditional resources in County fleet operations by 30% through increased efficiency and use of alternative fuels	<p>a) <i>Develop and implement a policy regarding telecommuting and web and conference-call based meetings</i></p> <p>b) <i>Develop and implement a fleet policy focusing on miles per gallon (MPG) reductions and use of GPS in fleets and an alternative-fuel vehicle fleet policy</i></p>	<p>c) <i>Optimize pool vehicle and fleet size and efficiency</i></p>
3.6 Reduce vehicle miles traveled by employees for work purposes by 10%	<p>a) <i>Promote flexible work schedules (9/80s and 4/10s), telecommuting, and video conferencing/virtual meetings</i></p>	<p>c) <i>Partner with Regional Transportation District (RTD), Smart Commute Metro North, Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and others to offer</i></p>



	b) <i>Develop a functional bike map of Adams County, including municipal trails regional bike paths</i>	<i>EcoPasses/FlexPasses and other incentives and supportive infrastructure for County employees to use public transit and carpools</i>
3.7 Increase number of residents with access to multi modal transportation options, including on/off road bike routes, sidewalks, and alternative transportation within ¼ mile of their residence by 30%	a) <i>Promote non-vehicular transportation method through better access, signage, and education</i>	b) <i>Support the implementation of sustainability and multi-modal elements outlined in the Adams County Transportation Plan, with a specific focus on pedestrian and bike facilities, multi-modal options, and transit-oriented development</i> c) <i>Work with RTD to increase alternative transit options in Adams County</i>
3.8 Increase number of total online revenue transactions for County services by 200% to support a reduction in vehicle miles traveled by citizens	a) <i>Support implementation and use of online transaction processes for County business</i>	b) <i>Install payment kiosks in high revenue traffic areas such as the Clerk and Recorder's office</i>
4.1 Maintain conservation of acres of high quality agricultural lands	a) <i>Continue to purchase development rights to sensitive agricultural lands on riparian corridors and in other biologically important zones</i>	b) <i>Support the implementation of the Adams County Open Space, Parks, and Trail Master Plan and the Adams County Fairgrounds Master Plan</i>
4.2 To protect water quantity and quality, increase the number of publically accessible acres conserved with reservoirs or within water corridors by 10%		a) <i>Target the purchase of development rights along riparian or waterway corridors</i> b) <i>Make improvements and additions to the trail systems along riparian corridors</i>
4.3 Increase residents' access to fresh foods and support a sustainable local economy and new economic opportunities through the support and promotion of farmers markets, farm stands, and community gardens	a) <i>Promote local farmers markets and farm stands</i> b) <i>Provide access to information and resources on urban gardening, season extension, food preservation, and winter growing and harvesting techniques via partnerships and outreach with the Extension network</i>	c) <i>Support development of and education about community gardens at local schools, churches, and municipal buildings</i>

Sources

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Beginning in 2001, Adams County, the cities of Thornton, Commerce City, Brighton, Northglenn, and Federal Heights partnered with the Tri-County Health Department to provide one-day household chemical collection events. Since then, two events have been held each year for residents of participating jurisdictions to bring their household chemicals, such as motor oil, paint, and pesticides, as well as hard-to-recycle items, such as tires, electronic waste (e-waste), and scrap metal. In 2009, Northglenn decided to no longer participate. Over the past 17 years, resident participation in the one-day events declined by at least 50%, while the costs continued to increase, with the current cost per household at \$200.

Over the years, private industry has responded to the demand for chemical collection and recycling options. For example: auto stores now take back car batteries and used motor fluid; local hardware stores collect used or unwanted paint; and electronics stores take e-waste. Not only are there more locations available to take items, but they are open year-round. Residents prefer to recycle and drop-off their items at a convenient time and location, rather than waiting for one of two collection events each year. However there are still hard-to-recycle items that are sometimes cost-prohibitive for residents to get rid of, including large TVs.

In 2013, Colorado passed an electronic waste disposal ban, which requires their collection and recycling since they are made from valuable metals and other resources. Adams County and the City of Thornton began offering e-waste collection events in 2016, with two each year: one at the Thornton Infrastructure and Maintenance Building and one at the Riverdale Regional Park. Three events were held in 2018 due to a high demand in 2017. A fee of \$10 per screen was collected to off-set some of the event costs. Almost one million pounds of e-waste has been collected at these events over the past three years.

In 2015, Colorado passed a paint stewardship law, which is paid for through a small fee applied to the price of paint and encourages retailers to become drop-off sites. Adams County and the City of Thornton partnered with PaintCare in 2016, 2017, and 2018 to hold free paint collections events in Thornton, the Town of Bennett, and at the Riverdale Regional Park. Over 360,000 pounds of paint have been collected at these events over the past three years.


Looking toward 2019, we plan to work with our municipalities to transition to household chemical collection at a permanent facility rather than continue one-day events. E-waste collection events will still be held twice per year, one at the Thornton IMC and one at the Riverdale Regional Park. One PaintCare-sponsored event will also be held in 2019.

Recycling & Sustainability Update

January 22, 2019

Summary

- ▶ Sustainable Adams County 2030 Update
 - Current Approach
 - Successes So Far
 - Next Steps

 - ▶ Recycling & Household Chemical Collection Update
 - History of Collection Services
 - Current Events
 - Plans for 2019
- 

Current Approach

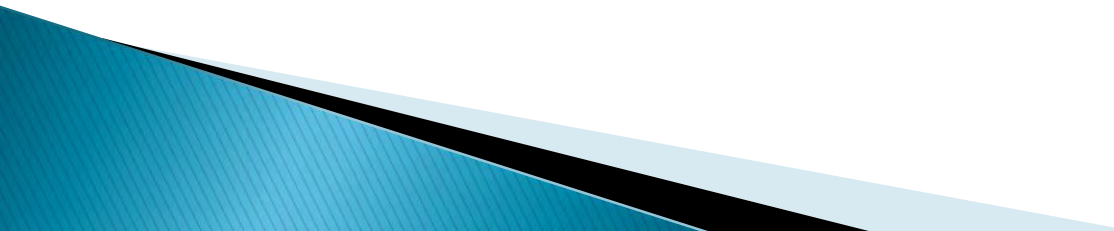
- ▶ Sustainability as a culture
 - Not a single person's job
- ▶ Facilities & Fleet Management “chairing” 2030 Plan management
 - Per Compact of Colorado Communities, above 75% of Sustainable efforts (energy, materials, waste) is in Facility Management, with Fleet the second highest component
 - Key department stakeholders comprise 2030 Plan Committee
- ▶ “Green Team” remains active (grass roots)

2030 Plan Committee

- ▶ Facilities & Fleet Management
 - Mike Gutierrez, Kevin Delohery, & Sean Braden
- ▶ Community & Economic Development
 - Doug Clark, Jen Rutter
- ▶ Public Works
 - Brian Staley, Mark Moskowitz
- ▶ Parks & Open Space
 - Marc Pedrucci
- ▶ Information Technology & Innovation
 - Kevin Beach
- ▶ People & Culture
 - Cindy Bero
- ▶ Green Team Representative
 - Ben Dahlman

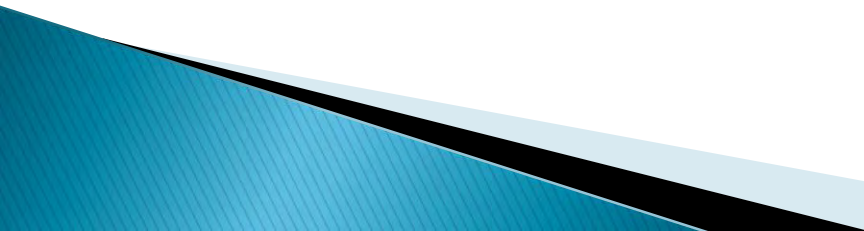
Sustainability Successes

General Items:

- ▶ Attendance and participation in Compact of Colorado Communities Symposium and meetings
 - ▶ Established 2030 Plan Committee
- 

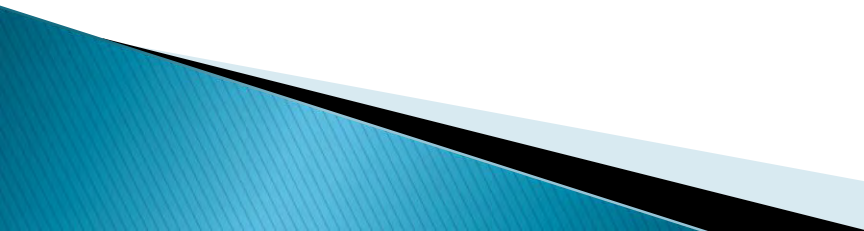
Sustainability Successes

Facility Management :

- ▶ Achieved Top 10 in Xcel EDA Program for 2018 (Human Services Center)
 - ▶ LED lighting upgrades (parking lots, parks, etc.)
 - ▶ Additional Electric Vehicle (EV) stations at Government Center; several more planned
 - ▶ Recycling of materials (palettes, cardboard, etc.)
- 

Sustainability Successes

Fleet Management :

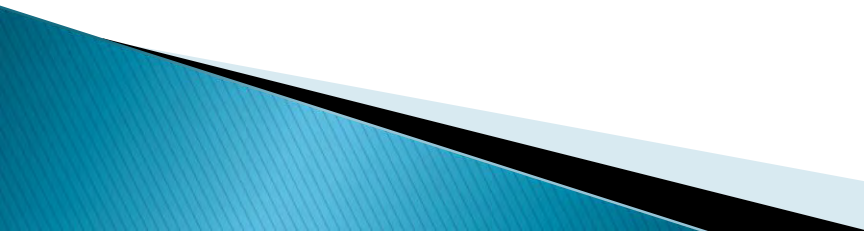
- ▶ Recycled 38,294 lbs of mixed metal
 - ▶ All 25 Mack tandem axle dump trucks have a 5 minute idle shut off if temperature is over 100 degrees Fahrenheit
 - ▶ Recycled police equipment (that we can't re-use) to other smaller agencies that can't afford new emergency equipment
- 

Sustainability Successes

Community & Economic Development:

- ▶ External Recycling:
 - Municipalities (80% of County population) offer recycling services to residents
 - County offers e-waste and paint collection events each year

 - ▶ Energy Regulation:
 - Adopted ICC 2018 Energy Code
 - More efficient solar facility permit process

 - ▶ Minor Home Repair Program:
 - For 2016 and 2017: Replaced 15 furnaces, 11 water heaters, and weatherized/insulated 26 homes.
- 

Sustainability Successes

Community & Economic Development *(cont'd)*:

- ▶ E-Permit Center: 24-7-365 access to submit, review and issue permits

- ▶ District Plan with City of Brighton:
 - Brighton Chamber of Commerce:
 - Promoting local farmers and produce through social media, news articles
 - CSU Extension:
 - Classes for backyard gardeners, performing industry outreach, educating public
 - County-supported community/school gardens

Sustainability Successes

Public Works:

- ▶ Partnered with Xcel Energy:
 - Upgraded 256 street lights to LED, improving both light quality and safety
 - \$0.00 cost to the County



Sustainability Successes

Parks & Open Space:

- ▶ Recycling activities, events, reclamation, clean-up and parks improvement projects

 - ▶ Continue to reduce water use:
 - 2x irrigated acres at the Regional Park since 2012 yet use a similar amount of water annually (37-40M gal)
 - 2016 January - November = 5,661,095 gallons
 - 2017 January - November = 5,064,110 gallons
 - 2018 January - November = 3,293,972 gallons
- (*2018 represents a 35% decrease from 2017; 42% decrease from 2016)*

Sustainability Successes

Information Technology & Innovation:

- ▶ Aided CEDD, Clerk & Recorder, etc. in online transaction development
- ▶ Toshiba Copier Program:
 - Over 240,000 pages “not” printed (over 100 per employee)

Sustainability Successes

People & Culture:

- ▶ Online benefit enrollment for annual open enrollment
 - Reduces paper use
- ▶ Training & Development group no longer prints catalogs for every employee:
 - A few catalogues placed in kitchens/common areas
- ▶ Upcoming: Online benefit enrollment for new hires
 - More paper reduction
- ▶ Berry Patch Farms produce program for employees

2030 Plan – Next Steps

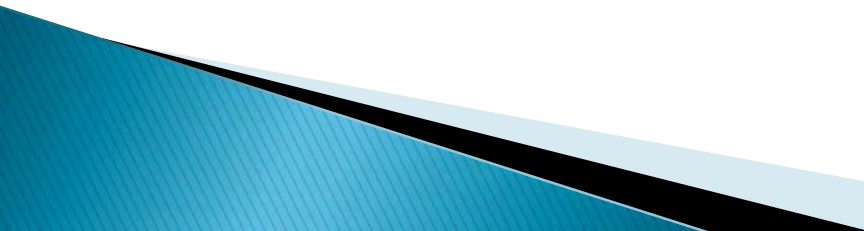
▶ 2030 Plan Committee

- Monthly Meetings
 - Champion Departments “owning” each goal
 - Managing goals & tracking accomplishments
- Re-evaluation of Plan (as outlined in the Plan)
 - Tracking progress
 - Re-baselining where needed
 - Developing metrics where needed
 - Determining next steps when goals are achieved
- Periodic updates and reporting to ELT & BoCC

Recycling & Household Chemical Collection Update



History of Collection Services

- ▶ Focused on Hard-to-Dispose-of Items
 - ▶ Household Chemical Collection Events
 - Since 2001
 - 2 per year
 - Contracted with Tri-County Health
 - \$25 fee per vehicle
 - Items collected:
 - Household chemicals (oil, paint, fertilizer, pesticides)
 - Tires, gas cylinders, e-waste
- 

2016–2018 Collection Services

- ▶ Many chemicals/items taken back by industry
 - Car oil, fluids, batteries; paint; e-waste
- ▶ Added events:
 - E-waste – disposal ban, high cost for recycling
 - Paint – PaintCare program, need for public education
- ▶ Our partners:



Senior Hub



City of Thornton



Police Cadets

2016–2018 Collection Services

- ▶ Household Chemical Collection Events
- ▶ Leaf & Pumpkin Collection
- ▶ E-waste and Paint Collection Events
 - Small fee for electronics, paint is free
 - Paint collection event in Bennett in 2017

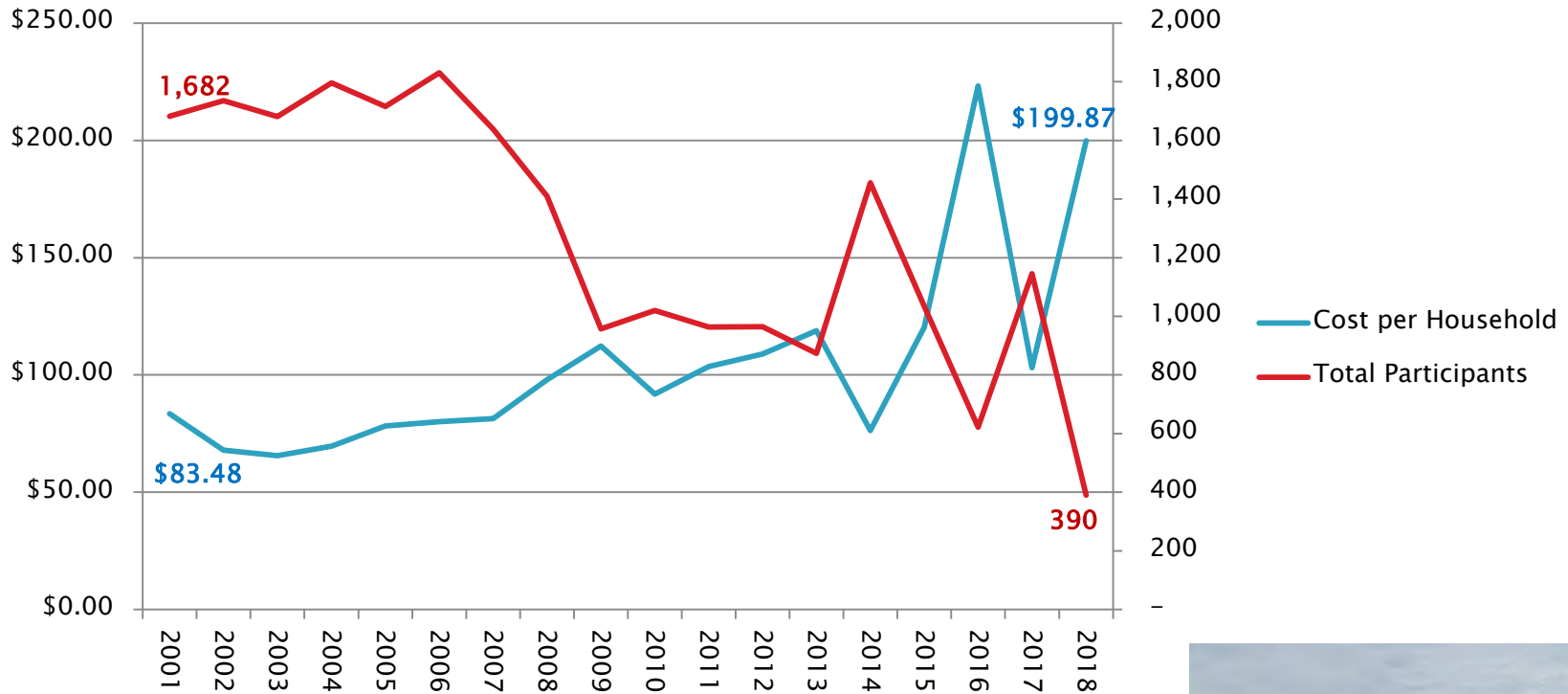


2016-2018 Collection Services

	E-waste		Paint		Household Chemical Collection	
	Cars	Pounds	Cars	Pounds	Cars	Pounds
2016	1,545	221,692	1,072	107,811	581	95,861
2017	2,382	395,667	1,073	131,087	996	135,456
2018	2,195	319,754	1,096	129,320	340	61,635

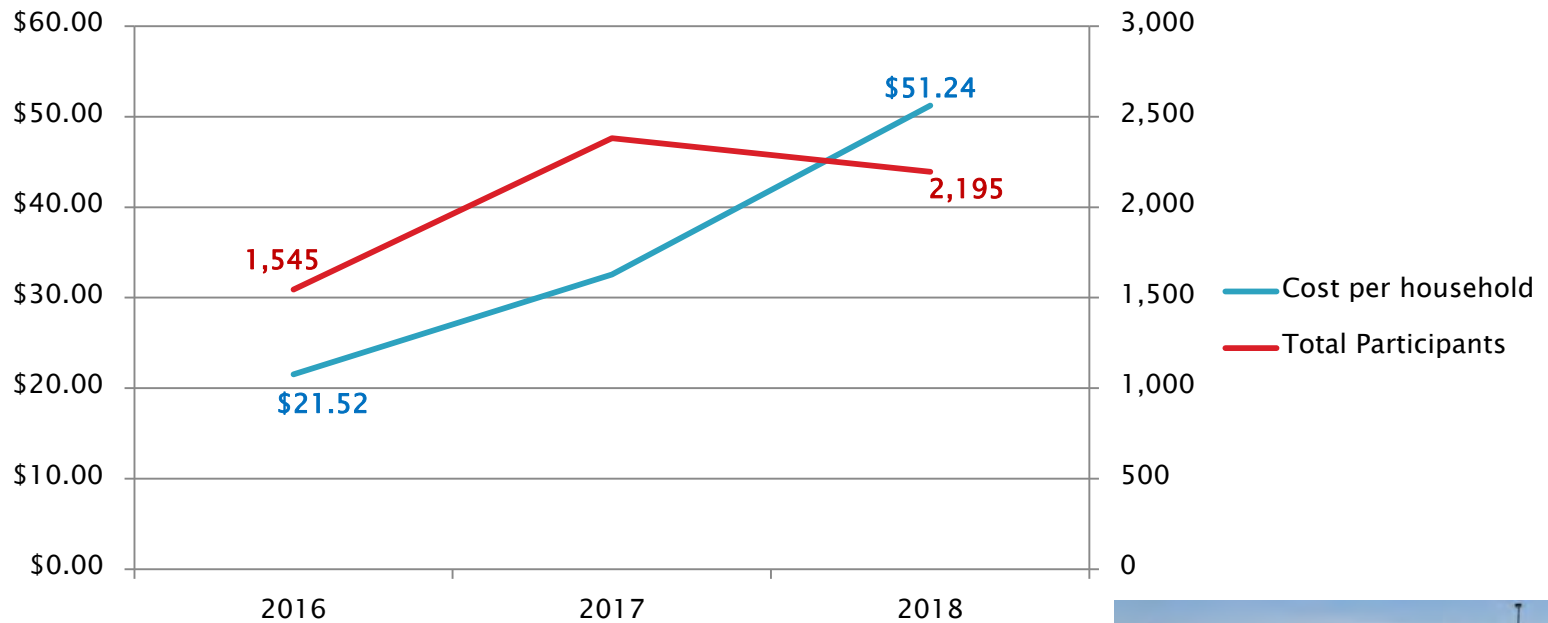
Household Chemical Collection Events

Cost per Household vs. Number of Participants

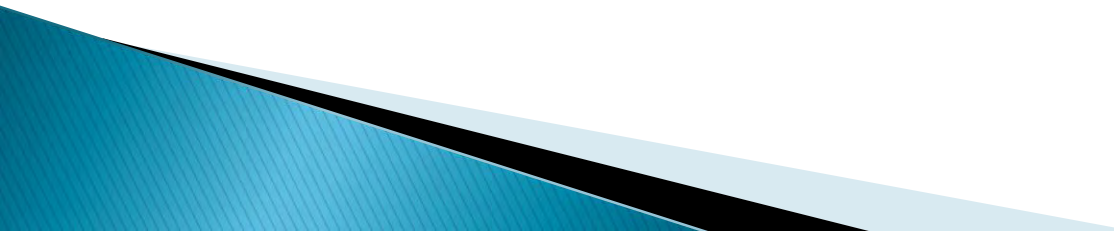


E-waste and Paint Collection Events

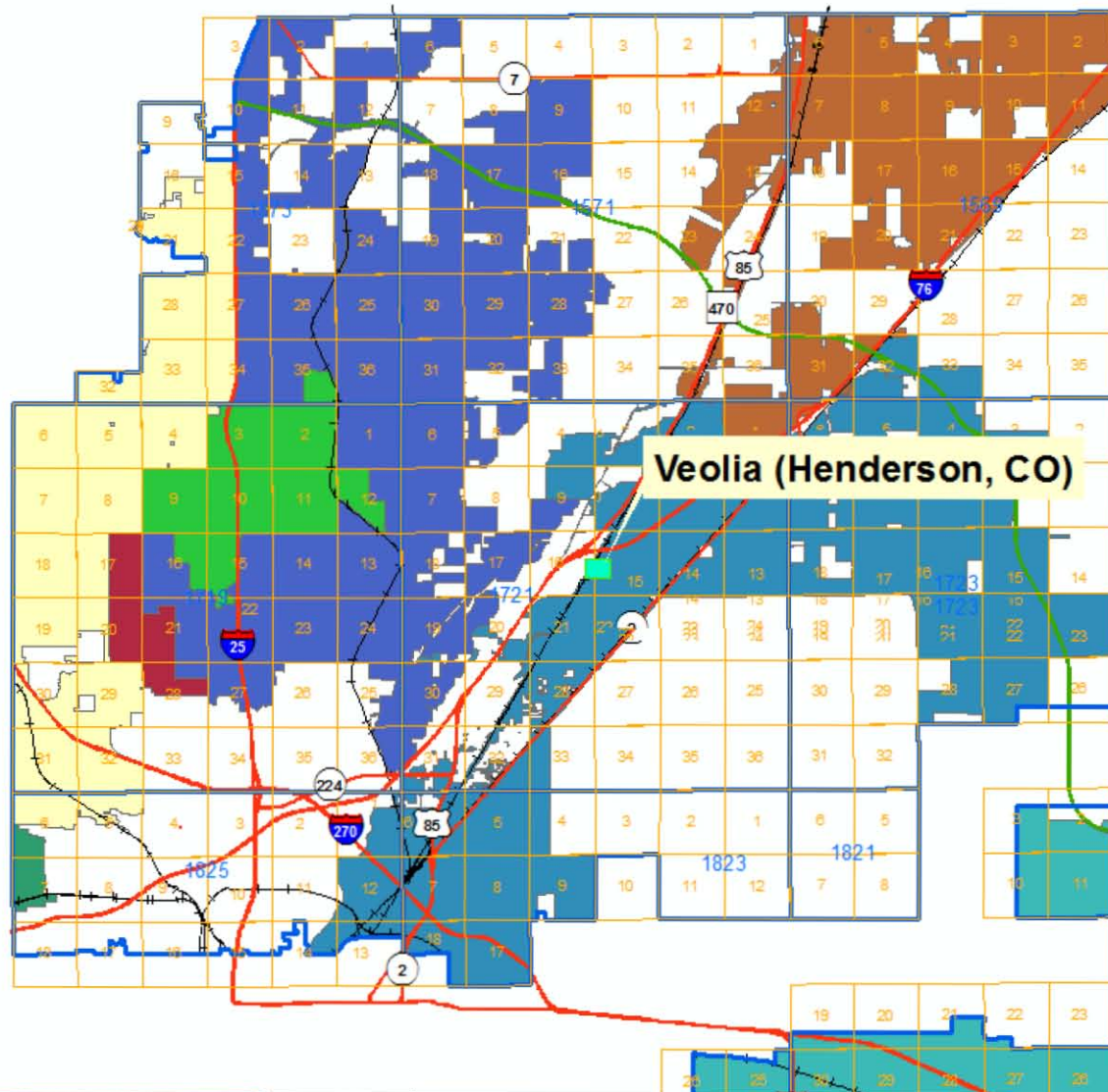
Cost per Household vs. Number of Participants



Plans for 2019

- ▶ Continue e-waste and paint collection events
 - ▶ Consider new waste streams:
 - Mattresses
 - Tires
 - ▶ Permanent Household Chemical Collection Facility:
 - Open year-round to the public
 - Private company (i.e. Veolia in Henderson, CO)
- 

Permanent, Year-Round Household Chemical Collection Facility



Questions?

