

SUSTAINABLE ADAMS COUNTY 2030 PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



In 2021, Adams County undertook an update to its Sustainable Adams 2030 plan. The objective of the update was to create a robust, actionable plan with measurable targets. The resulting plan identified 90 actionable strategies and 55 measurable targets across eight priority areas.

With a deadline to reach our goals by 2030, we immediately got started on implementation. 2022 marked our first full year of implementation. This annual report summarizes the progress we are making toward our targets and highlights many of the quick wins and foundational activities we accomplished in 2022.

The dedication to improving the sustainability plan further supports Adams County's vision of being the most innovative and inclusive county in America for all families and businesses.



Targets to be met by the end of the planning period (2030)



NOT ON TRACK



ON TRACK



ENERGY

DECREASE Energy Use Intensity by **15% OVER BASELINE**



20 C-PACE PROJECTS



50% RENEWABLE ENERGY supply



DECREASE Gas Use Intensity by **15% OVER BASELINE**



FIVE FACILITIES with **ON-SITE SOLAR**



MAINTAIN or increase participation in **MINOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM**



Create **ONE SOLAR CO-OP**



Issue **200** or more **SOLAR PERMITS** annually



Adams County participated in Xcel's Partners in Energy Program in 2022. This program is a collaboration with Xcel Energy that will assist the Federally Facilitated Marketplace in taking a deeper dive in developing and implementing its energy goals and strategies for meeting Adams County's 2030 Sustainability Plan. In addition, Adams County increased grid supplied renewal electricity from 24% (2019 Baseline) to 37% renewal energy supply in 2022. There was also identification of one potential site for solar installation on county-owned property at Colorado Air and Space Port.

In 2022, Adams County launched its first solar co-op. Successes included:

- 202 members participated in the co-op
- 39 rooftop installations
- 279.79 KW solar capacity
- \$3,000 rebates provided to four low-income qualifying households
- \$1.3 M savings over 25 years
- 5,644 mtCO2e offset over 25 years
- Four solar jobs created
- The county maintains a target of implementing a solar co-op every year through 2030



WASTE

30% INCREASE

over baseline in **HARD-TO-RECYCLE** waste collected



100% of private haulers PROVIDING RECYCLING



In 2022, Adams County created a series of guidelines to reduce county waste. Low waste meeting guidelines outline parameters for county-hosted meetings – which are available to all county staff who want to lead low-waste meetings – and includes an attachment to share with parties renting county facilities. These guidelines will be leveraged by the Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts Department to host leading-edge, low-waste events, like the Adams County Fair. Sustainable procurement guidelines provide at-a-glance guidance to help all departments and staff do their part to achieve multiple sustainability goals, including low waste. In addition, the county offered 18 days of electronic waste and household hazardous waste collection for residents, which resulted in more than 204,000 lbs. of waste collected for recycling or safe disposal. These efforts keep waste from polluting our landfills and recover valuable materials for reuse.



WATER

Meet benchmark for

INDOOR WATER EFFICIENCY



Meet benchmark for

OUTDOOR WATER EFFICIENCY



Throughout 2022, Adams County completed indoor and outdoor water audits of six county-owned buildings. The county audited a total of 547,000 square feet and identified nearly 530,000 gallons of potential water savings. At the end of 2022, Adams County identified grant opportunities to fund projects to improve savings and developed a tool to benchmark all facility water use to help identify and monitor building performance and prioritize water saving opportunities on an ongoing basis.

The Adams County Water Baseline Assessment was also launched to inventory water supply sources, providers, challenges, and opportunities. While the county is not a water provider, the county recognizes water supply issues need to be prioritized to advance and create a sustainable future in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan and Sustainable Adams 2030. The water baseline was the first step toward understanding current and future supply and demand, and it also identified ways the county can support water providers and the community in water related issues. This report will serve as the foundation for a Community Water Plan, which is expected to kick off in early 2024.



LAND

MAINTAIN

or increase acres of county-owned

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS



MAINTAIN or increase acres of
COUNTY-OWNED LAND



In fall 2022, Adams County completed the Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan, designed to help guide the county in future park, open space, and trail management and development to better serve the community while sustaining and conserving natural environments. Rather than create separate strategies, the Sustainable Adams 2030 plan seeks to align with this Master Plan.



SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Increase **FEMA** Community Rating Score



ADD FIVE LOCAL WATER QUALITY FACILITIES owned by county



ACHIEVE 100% TREE REPLACEMENT RATE



FOUR ENVISION CREDITS ON 80% OF PROJECTS



30% of inspection and engineering staff ENVISION CERTIFIED



TWO COORDINATION MEETINGS between Public Works and Utility/District Partners



100% INSPECTION of dry outfalls for illicit discharges



10 STORMWATER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES above MS4 Permit minimum requirements



The ENVISION certification was achieved by four team members who are actively supporting the incorporation of sustainable principles into the transportation capital improvement program. Leading by example, the Public Works Department shared their approach to sustainable infrastructure at a national conference.



TRANSPORTATION

ELECTRIFY 75% of eligible light-duty **VEHICLES**



REPLACE 80% of diesel fuel with **B-20 BLENDS ANNUALLY**



In 2022, Adams County started an inter-division electric vehicle (EV) readiness plan to develop a strategic roadmap for advancing EV adoption in both the county's fleet and the community. The plan identifies ideal locations for public and fleet charging, funding opportunities to lower the cost of installing EV charging, and an outreach plan to educate community members about available resources. Adams County recognizes medium- and heavy-duty fleet vehicles contribute a disproportionate amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and air pollutants. In 2022, 62% of diesel fuel was replaced with B-20 fuel. 183,082 gallons of diesel fuel was consumed, of which 111,933 gallons of biodiesel was used. 62% of fuel consumption was an alternative fuel for medium- to heavy-duty vehicles. The Facilities & Fleet Management Department purchased two Nissan Leaf EVs in 2022, and an additional electric SUV will be ordered in Fall 2023.



HEALTHY AND RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS

75% UTILIZATION RATE of block parties and/or tool shed trailers by **NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS**



HOST TWO EVENTS per neighborhood group



In April 2022, Adams County's Community Safety & Well-Being (CSWB) Department hosted a community-wide event at Rotella Park that connected residents to resources, services, and opportunities. In addition, CSWB launched its tool shed program, which provided Adams County residents with free access to yard and gardening tools. The tool shed had 66 reservations in 2022, which included some neighborhood cleanup events.

Adams County launched two neighborhood groups in 2022. One of those neighborhood groups hosted a cleanup event in 2022. The other neighborhood group was the site of the resource event.

In 2023, CSWB has already exceeded last year's total tool shed reservations, including neighborhood-wide cleanup events. There was also the launch of the block party trailer, which has received three reservations YTD. The block party trailer was designed to be another community resource that can bring the neighborhood together. There are plans to increase the number of neighborhood groups and launch a low-cost vet and grooming service pilot program.



AIR QUALITY

FOUR AIR QUALITY MONITORS



ONE AIR QUALITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS COMMUNICATION, excluding alerts, per quarter



The Community & Economic Development (CED) Department installed two Clarity-S air quality sensors at Rotella Park and the county's Justice Center as a partner in the Love My Air - Colorado Local Entities Air Monitoring Network (CLEAN). The Clarity-S sensors measure a common air pollutant – particulate matter (PM2.5) – that can impact cardiovascular and respiratory systems. Community members can check the PM2.5 values to know when to limit outdoor activities. In 2022, CED conducted an air quality awareness campaign to help community members learn about air quality safety. Learn more at clean.lovemylair.com.

Also in 2022, CSWB partnered with the Public Works and Parks, Open Space & Cultural Affairs Departments on an environmental equity project. 32 trees were planted on residential properties in Berkeley Gardens. This neighborhood was selected to remediate the impact of a Public Works project in their neighborhood in 2019. The intention of this project was to work toward the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan under Strategy 16.2, which is to improve air quality in neighborhoods impacted by air pollution and remove barriers to tree planting.



For more details about Adams County sustainability goals, targets, and progress visit adcogov.org/sustainability-plan-2030.