

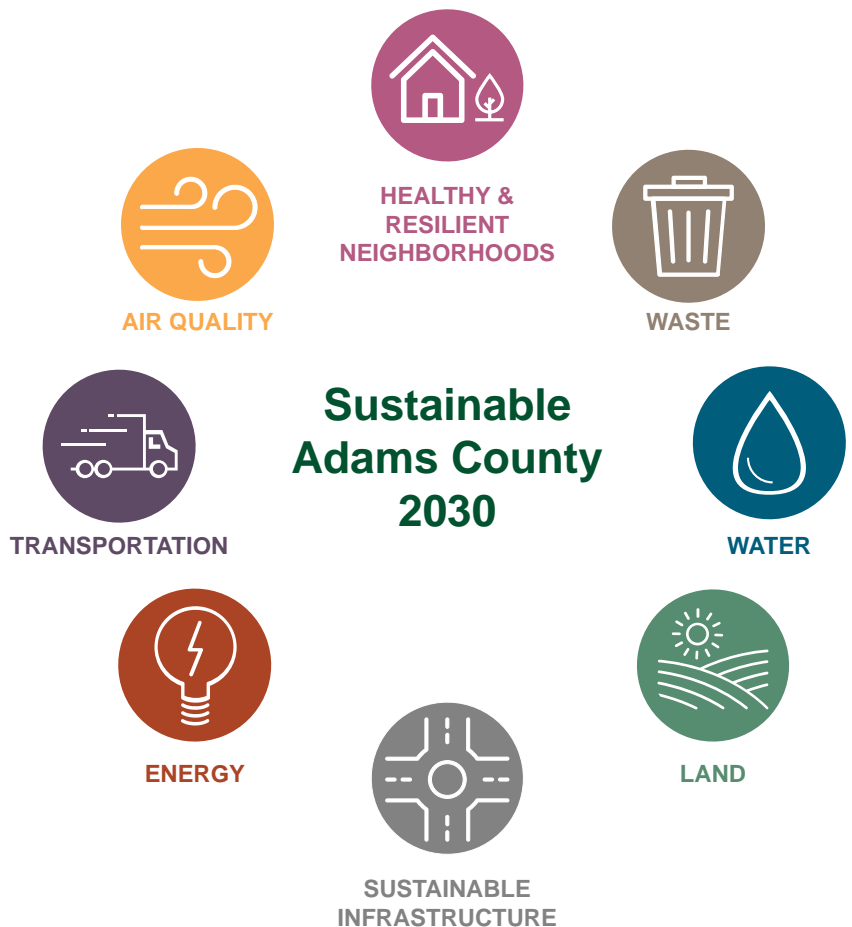
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adams County developed the first countywide sustainability plan in 2015. This plan, [Sustainable Adams County 2030](#), established Adams County's commitment to its vision of being **the most innovative and inclusive county in America for all families and businesses**. It set the stage for the county to tackle issues such as energy efficiency and renewable energy, waste reduction, water quality and quantity, transportation options, food access, and sustainable neighborhoods while ensuring county operations were leading the way for the community. The 2030 plan called for a reevaluation in 2020 to determine any need for revision, to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of Adams County. The update process began in late 2020 and coincided with Advancing Adams, a coordinated effort to develop the Comprehensive Plan, the Transportation Master Plan, and update the Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) plan.

Since the original plan's publication in 2015, there have been significant advances in the sustainability industry, from renewable energy, to electric vehicles (EVs), to policy changes at the local and state level. This Sustainability Plan update is an essential component to Adams County achieving its vision, mission, and goals and focuses on making the Sustainability Plan more measurable and actionable while aligning with industry best practices, market trends, and State of Colorado climate action goals. Implementation success was also a key consideration in the plan update, and all goals and strategies include clearly defined metrics, clearly defined roles and action steps, and a framework for implementation success is included in the plan.

SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

The plan is organized to align with eight sustainability topics. These topics were chosen based on the original 2030 plan, existing efforts related to sustainability within Adams County's internal purview, and topics important and impactful to the Adams County community. Many topic areas are also broken, by geographic scale, into focus areas representing county operations or the community, with separate considerations for each. At the community scale, unincorporated Adams County is the primary focus, as many of the cities in Adams County have their own sustainability plans and goals. All Sustainability Plan topics incorporated cross-cutting themes of equity, environmental justice, and resilience.



SUSTAINABILITY PLAN GOALS AND TARGETS

ENERGY



Goal 1: Incorporate energy efficiency and new energy technologies and building practices in new facilities and retrofit eligible existing facilities.

- Achieve 15% reduction in energy use intensity (EUI – energy use per square foot)
- Track the number of existing facility energy efficiency retrofits
- Incorporate at least 1 sustainable technology in each new facility



Goal 2: Increase use and procurement of renewable energy for county facilities.

- Achieve 50% renewable energy supply
- Increase number of facilities with on-site solar to 5



Goal 3: Expand, create, and advocate for equitable clean energy opportunities for all community members to reduce our carbon footprint.

- Create 1 solar co-op annually
- Increase number of CPACE projects in the county to 20
- Maintain or increase the number of participants in weatherization and Minor Home Repair programs
- Issue 2,600 total solar permits

WASTE



Goal 4: Reduce waste in county operations through source reduction, sustainable diversion practices, and fostering a waste reduction culture.

- Establish waste diversion rate through waste hauler tracking
- Establish construction and demolition diversion rate for each new construction or retrofit project
- Hold 4 employee education events per year about sustainability and waste reduction



Goal 5: Ensure all Adams County residents in unincorporated areas have access to recycling.

- 100% of private haulers in unincorporated Adams County provide recycling
- Achieve 30% increase over 2019 in hard-to-recycle waste and yard/green waste collected
- Achieve 25% of waste recycled or composted



Goal 6: Achieve 30% waste diversion at county-led events.

- Achieve 30% diversion rate at County-led events (e.g. Adams County Fair, Stars & Stripes)



Goal 7: Expand waste diversion and reduction practices in all new developments during construction.

- Reach a 35% waste diversion rate
- Establish construction and demolition diversion rate for each development project

WATER



Goal 8: Improve water use efficiency in county facilities and parks and promote the use of non-potable water supplies where available and feasible (including in public works operations).

- Meet efficiency benchmarks for all buildings for indoor water use, outdoor water use, and outdoor irrigation use
- Maintain or increase percent of water supply that is non-potable for facilities, parks and open space, and public works operations



Goal 9: Promote water use efficiency for new and redeveloped residential and commercial properties in unincorporated Adams County.

- Take 4 actions to improve indoor and outdoor water use efficiency (from categories education, financing, codes, programs)
- Increase participation in water use efficiency programs
- Increase estimated water savings associated with efficiency programs

LAND



Goal 10: Acquire and conserve land sustaining the level of service of parks and open space for economic, social, and environmental benefits.

- Maintain or increase number of acres of county-owned conservation easements
- Maintain or increase number of acres of county-owned land

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



Goal 11: Use sustainable infrastructure in Public Works projects to maximize economic, environmental, and social durability and minimize economic impacts from natural hazards.

- Achieve a FEMA community rating score of 7
- Increase number of regional flood control/detention facilities implemented from Master Drainage Studies to 2
- Increase number of local water quality facilities owned and maintained by Adams County to 17
- Achieve a tree replacement rate of 100%
- Incorporate 4 ENVISION credits on 80% of projects
- Increase number of ENVISION certified staff to 30% of inspection and engineering staff
- Conduct 2 annual coordination meetings between Public Works and Utility/District partners
- Inspect 100% of dry outfalls for illicit discharges every 5 years in urbanized areas
- Conduct 10 educational activities above MS4 permit minimum requirements annually

TRANSPORTATION



Goal 12: Decrease county fleet emissions through vehicle and operational efficiency and fuel switching.

- Track total vehicle miles traveled and gallons of fuel consumed for county fleet
- Decrease hours of idling by 50%
- Electrify 75% of eligible light-duty vehicles
- Convert 25% of medium- to heavy-duty vehicles to alternative fuels



Goal 13: Support EV mobility and infrastructure across all of Adams County.

- Electrify 5% of all registered vehicles in Adams County



Goal 14: Support alternative modes of transportation and enhance mobility for all Adams County residents.

- Align with Transportation Master Plan performance measures once adopted (to be updated)

HEALTHY AND RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS



Goal 15: Increase access to resources, opportunities, and services supporting financial, mental, and physical well-being for all community members in Adams County.

- Track number of annual resource events
- Establish neighborhood groups in 50% or more neighborhoods with higher incidence of violations
- More than 50% of mini-grants funding awarded to neighborhoods with higher incidence of violations
- Provide a minimum of 2 educational events per neighborhood per year

AIR QUALITY



Goal 16: Reduce indoor and outdoor air quality impacts on disproportionately impacted communities through advocacy and mitigation practices.

- Track the number of environmental compliance and oil and gas inspections
- Maintain or increase the number of participants in Weatherization and Minor Home Repair programs
- Increase the number and type of air quality monitors to 4
- Provide 1 air quality education and awareness communication per quarter (excluding air quality alerts)

IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Implementation is at the forefront of the Sustainability Plan update. All strategies have associated work plans that include action steps, lead and partner departments identified, and resources to support implementation. In addition, organization actions are outlined that will support long-term success, including formalizing the Sustainability Committee and holding routine implementation check-ins, annual reporting and communications about Sustainability Plan progress, and leveraging the Green Team to infuse a culture of sustainability throughout Adams County staff. The plan was developed to be dynamic in nature and conducting routine check-ins and reporting will allow any necessary changes or updates to strategies, tactics, or performance management to occur.