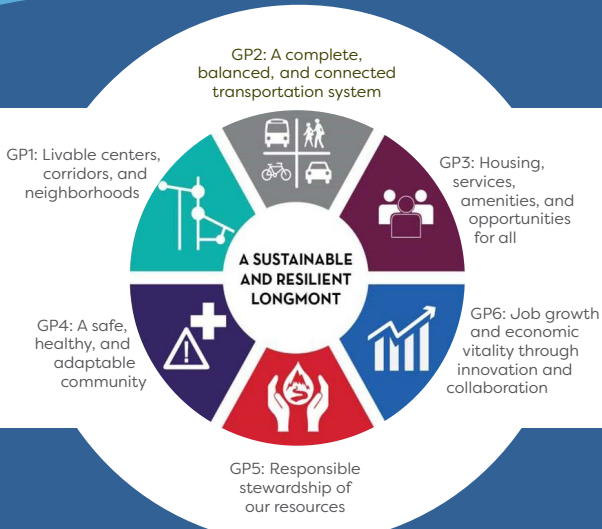


Sustainability and Climate Action Report

An engaged community that promotes environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and social equity to create a sustainable and thriving future for all.



The Sustainability Plan supports the guiding principles of the Envision Longmont Multimodal & Comprehensive Plan. Throughout the report you will see these symbols that highlight connections to the Envision Longmont guiding principles.

Visit indicators.longmontcolorado.gov for progress towards the Envision Longmont and sustainability goals over time.



In December 2020, City Council approved the Climate Action Recommendations Report (CARR). Completed by the Climate Action Task Force and Just Transition Plan Committee, the CARR accelerates Longmont's steps toward a carbon-free future, focusing on the areas of: Adaptation and Resilience, Building Energy Use, Education and Outreach, Land Use and Waste, Renewable Energy, and Transportation, with the overarching priority of equity. The recommendations include new programs and projects, as well as the expansion of existing programs, and process-oriented strategies focused on embedding equity into climate action.

CLIMATE ACTION

intersects with many actions in the Sustainability Plan.

Look for the graphic below throughout the report for more climate action updates.



Key Activities and Accomplishments:

Adaptation & Resilience

- The Community Rating System (CRS) Cycle Verification for the voluntary FEMA incentive program for floodplain management was completed in September 2022. Draft results indicate the City will remain a Class 5 Community which provides a 25% discount on flood insurance premiums to anyone within the City's jurisdiction.
- City Sustainability staff is currently completing an online climate risk and vulnerability mapping tool to determine climate exposures at a neighborhood scale. Of the five vulnerabilities analyzed so far, extreme heat was identified as the biggest risk to Longmont. The City is using 2023 Boulder County sustainability tax funding to implement two initiatives to address this issue: 1) extreme heat resilience through energy efficiency and building electrification and 2) real-time heat mapping and community-driven cooling solutions.

Education & Outreach

- The Museum and Sustainability Office launched a new format for the Climate Action series in 2022 called Climate Action Sundays with support from Sustainable Resilient Longmont. These family-friendly events engaged community members through panel discussions with Spanish interpretation and resource booths. The second Sunday included a free drop-in kids activity.

Equity in Climate Action

- The City's Equitable Climate Action Team (ECAT) re-evaluated overall operations to better integrate diverse membership, collaborate with city staff projects related to sustainability and climate action, and implement new models for equity-based community engagement. Throughout the year, the team provided feedback on six climate action projects and volunteered at 12 City sponsored events.
- In developing the City's Beneficial Building Electrification Plan, the team devoted a committee meeting to framing future meetings and strategies with equity considerations, convening a focus group specific to issues of equity, and working with ECAT to use its climate equity guide in evaluating several plan strategies.

Photos provided by City of Longmont and Resource Central.



In November 2016, City Council adopted the City’s Sustainability Plan. The Plan supports the guiding principles of the Envision Longmont Multimodal & Comprehensive Plan while focusing on actions that can be taken over the next ten years to help meet long-term goals that promote social equity, environmental stewardship, and economic vitality for all residents of Longmont.



Air Quality

Improve air quality to protect public and environmental health.

- The City has an ongoing program, which monitors 28 sites for oil and gas related environmental pollutants, and includes air, surface water and groundwater sampling. No samples have been flagged for elevated pollutants in this program to-date.
- In July 2022, Longmont’s Air Quality Study findings were presented to the Air Quality Control Commission. The Commission found the data compelling, particularly because the data refuted the Colorado Oil & Gas Association’s claim that oil and gas emissions are decreasing.



Building & Infrastructure

Adopt policies, programs, and design guidelines for resilient and efficient buildings and community infrastructure to enhance quality of life, reduce costs and complement the natural environment.

- The housing rehabilitation program was kick-started in July 2022 after new staff had time to onboard. Nine mobile home projects and six single-family home repairs were completed in 2022. Repairs included HVAC replacements, efficiency upgrades and accessibility improvements.



Community Cohesion & Resilience

A vibrant community where all residents have equitable access to the opportunities needed to thrive, while preserving and enhancing natural, cultural and financial resources.

- The Sustainable Opportunities, Lifestyles, and Leadership (SOLL) program was on hold for most of 2022 due to a lack of day-to-day staff to manage the project. New staff were hired in the fall and have been working to relaunch the program with emphasis on reaching under-resourced populations.
- The City’s internal Equity Team supported staff throughout the year, including hosting Courageous Conversations® and responding to the internal Equity Issues Form. One project included developing necessity boxes for all staff bathrooms which will be available in 2023.



Economic Vitality

Support a diverse economy that is aligned with social and environmental goals of providing local jobs, livable wages, and encouraging innovative and green businesses and business practices.

- 40 businesses were engaged through the Sustainable Business Program throughout the year, engagement in the program increased after the new Business Sustainability Coordinator was hired in Q3. To maximize engagement in the program, 100% of information going out to businesses is in both English and Spanish with extra attention to having a culturally adapted translation.





The Sustainability Plan supports the guiding principles of Envision Longmont while focusing on actions that can be taken over the next ten years to help meet long-term sustainability goals. The Plan utilizes an integrated, relational approach to identify objectives, targets, timelines, and activities in ten primary topic areas.



Energy

Increase energy efficiency and expand the use of renewable energy technologies to improve environmental quality, provide a resilient energy supply, and realize related economic benefits.

- Staff implemented projects to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy generation at City facilities, including lighting upgrades at the Service Center campus and high efficiency blowers, solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery storage projects at the wastewater treatment plant (partially funded by a DOLA grant).
- **Climate Action:** Longmont Power & Communications (LPC) received Colorado Energy Office grant funding to develop and provide an automated utility data portal to help large building owners complete building benchmarking. In 2022, the portal launched and received 39 requests.
- **Climate Action:** LPC developed an RFP and hired a consultant to create a Smart Grid Roadmap and Capital Improvement Program Plan to evaluate and plan for upgrades to the grid to help meet the City’s 100% renewable electric supply goal while providing safe, reliable electricity. The project completed Module 1 of the Sustainability Evaluation System and received a rating of excellent.



Food System

Support a locally-based, environmentally responsible and healthy food system that is available to all residents.

- No annual updates.



Natural Environment

Minimize the negative effects of development and human activities on natural systems by identifying, protecting, enhancing, and restoring critical environmental resources at all scales.

- Parks, Open Space and Trails Volunteer Program had substantial program impact increases from 2021, including a 49% increase in total volunteers. Part of the program’s expansion included two new ongoing volunteer opportunities: Trail Ambassadors and Citizen Scientists – Phenology Walk.
- The Resilient St. Vrain Project continues to make progress. The Izaak Walton Reach 1 section (Price Road to Boston Ave) was completed this year. The Izaak Walton Reach 2 (Boston Ave. to S Sunset Street including replacement of the Boston Ave. Bridge over St. Vrain Creek) design is complete with construction anticipated to start in 2023. The 2022 Ballot Question 3C passed providing funding for the next phase of the project which includes S Sunset Street to Hover Road including a split flow channel through Fairgrounds Pond and a new box culvert/bridge at Hover Road.





The City of Longmont is working to ensure our community's long-term vitality and to chart a course toward a more sustainable future in which every resident and business can enjoy a safe, healthy, and fulfilling life in our city.

Learn more about all City sustainability programs at longmontcolorado.gov/sustainability



Transportation

Invest in an efficient transportation system that enhances mobility, equitably supports multiple modes of transportation, reduces environmental impacts, and supports a healthier community.

Climate Action



- **Climate Action:** City Fleet Services continues to expand alternative fuel fleet vehicles, including ordering 34 replacement hybrid police vehicles. Staff also applied and was awarded a state Charge Ahead Colorado grant for over \$200k to install nine new level 2 and three new level 3 charging stations across multiple City facilities in 2023.
- Staff is working to expand accessibility to all transit stops, including adding new shelters and benches and bringing sidewalks up to ADA standards.
- LPC awarded 24 rebates for electric vehicle charging stations and 40 standard and seven income qualified e-bike rebates.



Waste

Increase opportunities for waste diversion, education, and reuse to reduce environmental impacts.

Climate Action



- A hard-to-recycle event in October served approximately 1,000 residents. Waste Services plans to have annual collection events for hard-to-recycle and hazardous household waste items.
- 20 Longmont restaurants and food trucks participated in the launch of the ToGo Ware Program, which supported businesses in adopting zero waste practices. Staff used principles of equity in the design of the program to engage a diverse range of businesses throughout the community.
- **Climate Action:** On Sept. 27, Longmont City Council passed an updated Zero Waste Resolution, a non-binding document that sets new targets and guides future decision-makers on reducing waste in the Longmont Community. The new Resolution sets a new target of 75% of trash diverted from the landfill by 2030 and 95% by 2050.



Water

Preserve the natural environment in our watershed and provide a reliable, high quality water supply that protects public health.

- As directed by City Council, Water Resources staff began a discounted Lawn Replacement program with Resource Central. The City subsidized 11 projects, removing 7,226 square feet of lawn and on average, saving each participant 8,000 gallons per year. This program will continue in 2023 with double the budget.
- The Stormwater Quality Program continues to minimize adverse impacts of urbanization on watershed health, with a focus on non-point source pollution.
- Approximately 94% of the City's water meters have been converted to automated meter readers (AMR). Supply chain issues have slowed down access to materials.



Sustainability Office

The Sustainability Team leads, coordinates and supports the implementation of the **Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Recommendations Report**, manages reporting, and integrates sustainability and climate action into organizational work. In addition, the Team provides **departmental support** through resources and expertise on sustainability-related actions, and provides **engagement & education** for the broader community around sustainability and climate action.

Engagement & Education



18
COMMUNITY
EVENTS &
PRESENTATIONS



1,610
Unique Subscribers

40%
Unique
Newsletter Opens



SCORE CARD

A	Final CDP Score
A	Adaptation Score
A	Mitigation Score

The CDP is a global environmental disclosure system that evaluates, benchmarks and identifies opportunities for cities to address climate change. 2022 is the second year that City staff have submitted to the CDP.



Departmental Support

Sustainability
Evaluation System
projects to date:

25

Sustainability Plan and the Climate Action Recommendations Report



91% of immediate, near-term or ongoing Sustainability and Climate Action recommendations on-track for implementation.

71% of all Sustainability and Climate Action targets have either been met (**4%**), are on-track (**49%**), or relevant strategies have not yet been implemented (**18%**).

