

# 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.



GP2: A complete, balanced, and connected transportation system

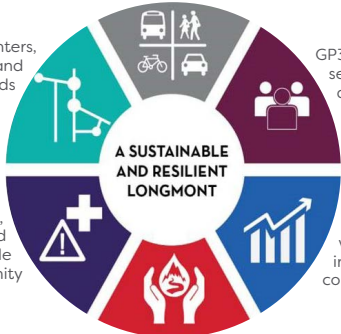
GP1: Livable centers, corridors, and neighborhoods

GP3: Housing, services, amenities, and opportunities for all

GP4: A safe, healthy, and adaptable community

GP6: Job growth and economic vitality through innovation and collaboration

GP5: Responsible stewardship of our resources



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

Visit [indicators.longmontcolorado.gov](https://indicators.longmontcolorado.gov) to view our 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.

## Key Activities and Accomplishments:

# CLIMATE ACTION

intersects with many actions in the Sustainability Plan.

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



### Adaptation & Resilience

- A Flood Risk brochure has been created. It will be sent annually by mail to all properties that are currently in the “new” 100-year floodplain. The address list will change as the revisions to the City’s floodplains become effective.
- The Sustainability Office is completing a climate risk map to determine climate exposures, at risk communities, and elements that increase adaptive capacity. Building off the mapping work, the City has two extreme heat-related initiatives underway.
  - **Extreme heat resilience through energy efficiency and building electrification:** This is a demonstration program that combines energy efficiency, housing rehabilitation and building electrification to enhance heat resilience along with whole home health, safety and comfort while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and utility cost burden. Approximately ten low-income households are participating.
  - **Heat mapping and community-driven cooling solutions:** This consultant-led campaign is designed to determine real-time heat index information across the community and better understand the heat differential between neighborhoods. Once completed, the City will engage stakeholders in conversations about extreme heat and gain a better understanding of experiences and appropriate solutions at the neighborhood scale.

### Education & Outreach

- The Sustainability Office convened a Climate Action Sunday event titled “Our Water, Our Future” at the Longmont Museum in February. It included kids’ activities and an information fair featuring a panel discussion with Spanish interpretation.
- Staff and volunteers have attended more than ten community events to date, including hosting two presentations at the Longmont Senior Center focused on practical steps residents can take to conserve water and improve air quality.

### Equity in Climate Action

- The City’s Equitable Climate Action Team (ECAT) welcomed three new members early in the year. Staff have purchased volunteer T-shirts and a banner to help the team be recognized as volunteer City leaders at community events. So far this year, ECAT has attended six community events and provided equity feedback on seven City climate action programs.



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.**

- Staff are in the process of applying for grants with the Colorado Air Quality Enterprise and Division of Local Affairs with hopes of funding sophisticated analyses of the air quality data gathered by Boulder AIR.



## Buildings & 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 City Housing Rehabilitation program has completed 34 health, safety, accessibility and efficiency repairs on 12 homes and currently working with 10 more households to complete needed rehabilitation.
- The City continues to provide opportunities for residents to check out radon testing devices and carbon dioxide monitors at the Longmont City Library.



## 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 is recruiting new volunteer sustainability ambassadors and has completed 15 customized consultations at residents’ homes. Highlights include helping a low-income family submit a CARE energy audit application and connecting another senior to several programs including Housing Rehabilitation and Cultivate.



## 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.**

- In preparation for the January 2024 Colorado Styrofoam ban, the Sustainability Office implemented a To-Go ware program to provide recyclable/compostable containers free of charge to businesses. All 2023 participants have been BIPOC owned businesses. The City is also exploring the feasibility of a reusable To-Go ware program.
- The Sustainable Business Program has added 20 new participants in the last six months. August 31 is the deadline for current participants to recertify, and recognition ceremony is planned for October 26.





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.

- **Climate Action:** Through Efficiency Works, more and bigger incentives are available for residential weatherization and electrification projects. Early participation levels indicate contractors in the region are aligning with electrification faster than anticipated.
- **Climate Action:** Staff are meeting directly with 200 small businesses (110 to date) to talk about efficiency and resources for upgrades in 2023.
- **Climate Action:** Longmont Power & Communications, Platte River Power Authority, and the other owner communities are developing program options to incorporate more distributed energy resources on the local grid.
- **Climate Action:** The City is making progress towards integrating AMI meters, including completing the communications backhaul network installation and most of the automatic integrations with the current Customer Information System. Citywide electric meter upgrades began the week of August 15.



## Food System

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

- No mid-year program 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.

- Longmont Forestry staff continue to support tree canopy development through the annual Spirit of Arbor Day Tree Sale. This program matches tree types to the moisture regime of the site and establishes new partnerships with tree nurseries. The goal is to increase the number of trees that are suitable for Longmont's environment in the face of a hotter, drier climate and the presence of the invasive emerald ash borer insect.
- The City is now in its third year of using organic fertilizer in high use turf areas at Roosevelt and Garden Acres Park. Staff are continuing to see success and hope to expand the use of organic fertilizer to other parks in the future.
- To protect local wildlife and habitats, Open Space staff have monitored dozens of raptor nests, controlled hundreds of acres of noxious weeds, and are funding three research projects. One is focused on wildfire risk, another on cavity nesting bees, and the last on the effects of herbicide used to control cheatgrass on soils and plants.





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](https://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.

- The City is continuing to expand Enhanced Multi-Use Corridors through partnering with RTD on a new, bus rapid transit station and on-street facility, finalizing design on the Coffman Street Busway/Multimodal Corridor and designing the Longmont First and Main Station later this year.
- **Climate Action:** A proposal for a Longmont microtransit service is progressing that would integrate six to eight passenger vans with an immediate on-call service within the City. Staff hopes to launch this service in 2024, depending on the budget outcomes later this year.
- A two-year long reconstruction will begin in 2024 to improve safety and mobility for all modes, including pedestrians and bicycles at CO 119 and Ken Pratt Blvd.

Climate Action



## Waste

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

- **Climate Action:** In continuing to support the City’s Zero Waste goals and targets of diverting 75% of our waste from landfill by 2030 and 95% by 2050, the City Council passed a Universal Recycling Ordinance on July 11. Starting in 2024, the Ordinance will begin phased implementation for recycling and organics diversion for commercial and multifamily properties.
- Fifty percent of Longmont schools are participating in the Eco-Cycle Green Star School program. No schools launched in the spring due to composting changes, but the City plans to launch three schools this fall and three additional schools in 2024. All schools are projected to be completed by the end of 2026.

Climate Action



## Water

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

- As part of the Growing Water Smart initiative, the City received a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to work on a turf transition project at Kensington Park. 3,000 square feet of water-intensive turf grass will be replaced with a perennial, xeric garden that will be more inviting and complementary to the Art in Public Places mural, “The Unity Project.” The project will be completed in September.

