

Life is good in Longmont



An Overview of the City of Longmont's
Sustainability Plan

longmontcolorado.gov/sustainability



Creating a Place Where Everyone Can Thrive

The City of Longmont is working to ensure our community's long-term vitality. In 2016, the City updated its Sustainability Plan to chart a course toward a more sustainable future in which every Longmont resident can pursue a safe, healthy, and fulfilling life in our city.

The Sustainability Plan focuses on actions that can be implemented within a reasonable time frame that complements the Envision Longmont Multimodal & Comprehensive Plan and helps guide our city's policies and practices. Since the Sustainability Plan was adopted in 2016, additional reports and resolutions have also been passed such as the Climate Action Recommendations Report. These supplements enhance and expand the initial goals of the Sustainability Plan.

This summary provides an overview of key actions the City is taking, but for the most up-to-date information, visit indicators.longmontcolorado.gov



10 Areas of Sustainability



AIR QUALITY



FOOD SYSTEM



**BUILDINGS &
INFRASTRUCTURE**



**NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT**



**COMMUNITY COHESION
& RESILIENCE**



TRANSPORTATION



ECONOMIC VITALITY



WASTE



ENERGY



WATER

Longmont's Sustainability Vision

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





BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Our Sustainability Objective:

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.

Our roads, parks, transit, water, power, homes, and businesses are critical to supporting our quality of life in Longmont. Using equity-oriented, environmentally and economically sound design and development practices in our city's buildings and infrastructure helps conserve resources, reduces operating costs, ensures equitable access, enhances quality of life, and promotes economic vitality.

How We Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Expand indoor air quality testing program
- Preserve, improve, and rehabilitate existing affordable homes
- Develop and implement a process to incorporate social equity into prioritizing infrastructure improvements
- Adopt a policy to require life cycle cost and sustainability analyses for all City of Longmont projects and programs
- Revise and update the City of Longmont Design Standards and Construction Specifications to include sustainability
- Develop 'beyond' building code
- Adopt and enforce updated building code



AIR QUALITY

Our Sustainability Objective:

Improve air quality to protect public and environmental health.

One of the best things about Longmont is the view of Mount Meeker and Longs Peak from just about anywhere in town. However, air pollution because of transportation, building operations, and industrial activities not only obscures our mountain views but also negatively affects public health, decreasing everyone's quality of life and increasing healthcare costs. Integrating sustainable practices into how we manage building operations, transportation, industrial activities, and waste streams improves air quality across the city.

How We Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Increase inspections of emissions from oil and gas sites
- Expand air quality monitoring and improve access to information about air quality
- Develop programs and participate in regional efforts to reduce ozone emissions
- Adopt and enforce leak detection and repair associated with oil and gas operations

Take a Sustainable Step

GIVE YOUR ENGINE A REST

Save fuel and help improve our air by turning your engine off when dropping off/picking up kids from school, or waiting in line at the bank, drive-thru, or car wash.





ECONOMIC VITALITY

Our Sustainability Objective:

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.

From agriculture to high-tech, Longmont is home to diverse businesses that offer residents many prosperous and fulfilling employment opportunities. It is critical that we continue to support local businesses and entrepreneurs, encourage businesses to locate and expand in our city and support employment that provides livable wages, enriches the community, and protects the environment.

How We Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Implement and grow the Longmont Sustainable Business Program
- Work with local economic development organizations to support local businesses and attract and expand green industry/clean tech jobs
- Establish and promote a City of Longmont internal sustainable purchasing policy
- Identify needs, barriers and opportunities to establish equitable access for underutilized, under-represented, and/or multi-cultural businesses and support through expanded programming
- Partner with local educational institutions to connect sustainability knowledge and workforce needs



COMMUNITY COHESION & RESILIENCE

Our Sustainability Objective:

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

You, your neighbors, and other residents of Longmont are our greatest asset. When we work together, we can accomplish any goal and overcome any challenge. We must make conscious efforts to ensure equitable access to resources and programs for all residents, and to create a community in which everyone feels engaged, respected, represented, and included.

How We Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Expand existing neighborhood programs to enhance sustainability, resiliency, and quality of life
- Develop an inclusive standard of equitable access and opportunity for all residents that enhances capacity and is implemented uniformly across all city departments, policies, programs, and outcomes
- Collaborate with St. Vrain Valley School District on a preparedness and resilience site
- Incorporate the City of Longmont's Community Engagement model into all City plans and projects

Take a Sustainable Step

GET SOCIAL

From neighborhood groups and book clubs to concerts and cultural events, there are lots of opportunities to get out and connect with your neighbors. The more we get to know one another, the stronger a community we become.

Take a Sustainable Step

SHOP AND EAT LOCALLY

Whether you're buying goods, services, or dining at local businesses, keeping our dollars and resources in the community helps everyone!





ENERGY

Our Sustainability Objective:
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.

Energy is a driver of the economy and has an impact on the environment and our greenhouse gas emissions. By improving energy efficiency, transitioning to cleaner energy sources, and adopting new technologies, Longmont residents and businesses save money, enjoy improved health and wellness, and protect and preserve our valuable natural resources.

How We Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Review energy efficiency improvement and renewable energy generation opportunities for municipal facilities
- Continue collaboration with Energy Outreach Colorado to expand energy services for low-income households
- Improve commercial building efficiency
- Develop a comprehensive 100% renewable energy plan for Longmont’s Just Transition to a clean energy economy
- Report and benchmark energy use
- Monitor advanced metering infrastructure implementation
- Continue to provide energy efficiency outreach and incentives for all energy users
- Monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Expand awareness and partnership opportunities for solar installations and renewable subscriptions
- Develop and implement a Beneficial Building Electrification Plan



FOOD SYSTEM

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

Longmont has a long history in food production and agriculture with many families stewarding the land for several generations. A sustainable food system is a vital component of a thriving community as it provides healthy food for community residents, viable jobs for producers, and utilizes agricultural techniques that protect and restore our natural resources.

How We Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Identify barriers and opportunities for local food production
- Encourage and support the Boulder County Resource Conservation Board in pursuing carbon sequestration studies
- Expand connections between local food producers and areas/populations in need
- Support and expand Garden to Cafeteria program opportunities
- Support the establishment of community food processing and storage facilities in partnership with Boulder County
- Encourage and support agricultural research in Boulder County

Take a Sustainable Step

GROW YOUR OWN FOOD OR SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS



Plant a garden, big or small. Your yard, porch or a community garden are great options. Also, support local farmers and ranchers by looking for their products at farmer’s markets and grocery stores, and consider Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Our Sustainability Objective:

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

In Longmont, we enjoy a variety of parks, open space and trails that provide recreational opportunities and let us appreciate the beautiful Colorado outdoors. Our riparian areas, open space, and river corridors also provide critical habitat for an array of wildlife. We must continue to recognize the natural environment as an asset to be preserved, protected, and restored to sustain livability, healthy ecosystems, and ensure clean air, water and soil.

How We Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- ✓ Update the Open Space Master Plan
- ✓ Update the Wildlife Management Plan
- Work with community partners to promote education and awareness about regenerative land management practices on private properties
- Update the Tree Canopy Management and Replacement Plan
- Create and implement a plan to restore and remediate damaged ecologically sensitive areas and critical corridors and habitat areas
- Continue and increase participation in existing volunteer programs

Take a Sustainable Step

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY

Help keep our public spaces green and clean by volunteering to do trail maintenance or park cleanup. These activities are even more fun when you do them with friends and family! Sign up at joinus.longmontcolorado.gov.



TRANSPORTATION

Our Sustainability Objective:

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

The ability to get around Longmont is vital for all of us, be it travel for school, work, or play. From safe, accessible sidewalks and walking paths to dedicated bike lanes to local and regional bus routes, Longmont aims to provide residents with as many convenient, affordable, and environmentally friendly mobility options as possible.

How We Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Coordinate with RTD to expand service and hours to key community locations
- Implement a fleet efficiency and alternative fuels plan
- Coordinate with regional partners on publicizing car/van pooling
- Increase electric vehicles through vehicle incentives and improved infrastructure
- Audit all transit stops to evaluate accommodation needs of residents and prioritize improvements
- Support growth in active transportation and transit ridership through implementation of the multimodal transportation plan
- Continue the Ride Free transit program
- Expand public transit through a microtransit service





WASTE

Our Sustainability Objective:
Increase opportunities for waste diversion, education, and reuse to reduce environmental impacts.

How we manage our wastes can affect public health and the environment. Generating less waste, diverting as much as possible from landfills and adopting new technologies and practices saves money and reduce the impact on the natural environment and the Longmont community.

How We Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Build support for participation in the curbside composting program
- Provide waste diversion opportunities and education for St. Vrain Valley School District
- Develop a strategic waste management plan with regional partners
- Increase public education and awareness about waste reduction and diversion opportunities
- Incorporate diversion target for City construction projects and Longmont Urban Renewal Authority (LURA) projects into standard contract language
- Adopt a commercial recycling ordinance that includes multi-family units and expand waste diversion from commercial entities
- Increase hazardous/ e-waste/ materials drop-off opportunities
- Establish a construction demolition waste incentive program

Take a Sustainable Step

**RIGHT SIZE
YOUR TRASH BIN. ONLY PAY
FOR WHAT YOU NEED!**

Sign up at longmontcolorado.gov/solidwaste for a 48 gallon 'Every Other Week' trash bin, and 96 gallon recycling and composting bins.



WATER

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

Water is not only a necessity for life, but it provides us with some of life's greatest pleasures – a tall, cold glass of water on a hot summer day; fishing in a local pond; a relaxing shower after hard day's work. It is also essential to agriculture and other industries in our community. Maintaining a reliable, clean water supply and protecting water quality in our watershed are key components that insure Longmont's long-term viability.

How We Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Implement identified strategies within the water efficiency master plan
- Analyze water loss and implement strategies for subsequent actions
- Develop a strategic water quality improvement and enforcement plan for consecutive systems
- Coordinate with Boulder County Public Health on model greywater (water reuse) ordinance
- Create an active watershed management program

Take a Sustainable Step



TURN OFF THE HOSE

Replace a portion or all of your lawn with a xeriscape garden, water plants in the early morning or evening when less water will evaporate, and replace indoor and outdoor fixtures with those that are more efficient.

Visit bit.ly/water-matters for more information.



*“Another world
is not only possible,
she is on her way.
On a quiet day,
I can hear her
breathing.”*

Arundhati Roy



GET
INVOLVED!

Want to Learn More?

Find ideas & information at
longmontcolorado.gov/sustainability

CONTACT

sustainability@longmontcolorado.gov

303.651.8416



CITY OF
Longmont
Sustainability

