



WESTMINSTER



SUSTAINABLE
WESTMINSTER

Sustainability Plan Progress Report | 2020–2022

City Vision

Westminster is a city of beautiful, safe, well-maintained neighborhoods and destinations with a vibrant, diverse economy, rich and resilient environment, and a strong sense of community and belonging.

Context

In 2018, the City of Westminster began designing its first Sustainability Plan to provide a guiding framework for City Staff, residents, businesses, and community partners. Adopted in 2020, the Plan focuses on seven areas (described in the following pages) with corresponding targets and actions for each area.

Progress Report Purpose

This progress report describes the highlights achieved in 2020–2022 related to the **Sustainability Plan**. The content focuses on actions accomplished by the City and the community.

To learn more about sustainability at the City of Westminster and ways you can get involved, visit our [website](#) or reach out at sustainability@westminsterco.gov.



Energy

TARGETS

Strive for 80% renewable electricity for primary municipal facilities and operations by 2030.

70%

As of 2022, **70%** of City buildings source 100% of their electricity from renewable **100% of their electricity from renewable energy sources** through SunShare solar garden subscriptions. In 2022, the City purchased **9.5 Megawatts (MW) of solar energy** from community solar gardens.

Pursue opportunities to decrease energy utility costs for low-income households.

7

Through a relationship with Energy Outreach Colorado in 2022, **seven** low-income households received **free high-impact weatherization assistance** that included the installation of insulation, LED lighting, programmable thermostats, and other energy efficiency upgrades.

Provide residential energy education and engagement.

500+

In partnership with Solar United Neighbors, a national solar nonprofit, the City has hosted two solar co-ops. These co-ops have helped **500+ residents learn about solar options** and how to become more energy independent and save on their electricity bills. Through the 2021 and 2022 co-ops, **44 residents** installed solar panels and saw a **15-20% savings** from participating in the co-op compared to an average price for solar installation.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Get a free home energy assessment from Xcel Energy that will reduce your utility bills and increase the comfort of your home. This is a **\$200 value provided for free**; over 500 of your neighbors have already benefited from this service. [Sign up here.](#)

You may be eligible for **thousands of dollars in Federal and State tax credits and rebates** for home energy efficiency enhancements. [Learn more here!](#)



Economic Resilience

TARGET

Improve social responsibility and sustainable business practices in the community.

230+

The **SAGE (Save. Act. Grow. Earn.) Sustainable Business Program** serves as an essential one-stop-shop on sustainability opportunities and services for local businesses. In its second year of operation, the program assisted over **230 local businesses**; that's about **10% of Westminster businesses**. Over **\$35,000 in grants** were awarded for projects that ranged from solar window tinting and energy efficiency upgrades to compost services and community gardens. An estimated **\$175,000 in savings** has been provided to businesses since April 2021.

\$150,000

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the City **\$180,000 in grant funding** to support the advancement of energy efficiency and electrification of large commercial buildings through technical and financial assistance.

5

The Downtown Westminster development has **5 LEED-certified buildings**—the Alamo Drafthouse, the Origin Hotel, Aspire Apartments, Ascent Apartments, and Eaton Street Apartments. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is an internationally recognized green building certification. **Explore more about Downtown here!**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Shop SAGE: Check out local businesses that are SAGE certified on **our website** and be sure to give them a try!

If you own a business, reach out for a **free business opportunity assessment** by emailing SAGE@westminsterco.gov.



Health & Wellness

TARGET

Collaborate to improve regional air quality.

400+

Working with Drive Electric Colorado, the City hosted two showcases of **electric vehicles and e-bikes** at the Orchard Town Center's Farmers Market in 2021-22 where over **400 residents** learned about the benefits of electric vehicles.

\$150,000

The Downtown Westminster Central Park is transforming into a healthy and connected destination. Through the reception of **\$150,000 in grant funds** from the Colorado Department of Transportation, the City is installing bike parking, trees, shade structures, and seating amenities to facilitate an enjoyable park experience and to encourage biking, walking, and transit use.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Did you know that using a **gas-powered leaf blower for one hour** creates the same ozone emissions as **driving a standard car for 1,100 miles!**

You can contribute to cleaner air by using **electric lawn and garden landscaping equipment**. The Regional Air Quality Council provides vouchers for discounted electric and battery-operated lawn mowers through their "Mow Down Pollution" program. [Learn more and access vouchers here.](#)



Housing & Neighborhoods

TARGETS

Increase opportunities for creating community and neighborhood engagement.

\$5,000

In 2022, the Sustainability Office conducted a pilot program that connected three HOAs with high-impact, cost-saving resources and programs. As a result, **\$5,000 in grants** were distributed to **improve lighting and landscaping water efficiency**. In addition, HOA residents signed up for a variety of water and energy conservation programs.

15

The City hosted over **15 community events** in 2022 such as neighborhood Parks and Recreation-focused celebrations.

Maintain or increase the percentage of residents who rate the overall quality of their neighborhood as good or very good.

83%

According to the 2022 Community Survey, **83% of residents** rated the overall quality of their neighborhood as **good or very good!** The same percent of residents agree that Westminster can be described as **safe and secure**.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Connect with and learn about **high-impact sustainability resources for your home and lifestyle** on our [residential resources webpage](#).

Enhance your neighborhood or HOA and connect with **cost saving, community building, and beautification resources** available from the City and its partners. [Learn more here](#).



Materials & Waste

TARGETS

Enhance city environmental management systems and practices.



In 2022, the City **bolstered its waste collection infrastructure and educational services**. New trash and recycling bins were placed at the City Park Recreation Center and at City Hall. Future bins are planned across City facilities. A revamped “Trash and Recycling” website was launched.

165

City environmental management systems and practices continued to be enhanced. **165 staff** have been trained on **spill prevention and stormwater illicit discharges** since 2020.

Increase the communitywide waste diversion rate.

4,072

In 2022, the limb drop program diverted **4,072 cubic yards of organic waste from the landfill**, which equals approximately 2,714 standard pickup truck loads. **2,618 vehicles dropped off tree limbs** to be recycled. All 4,072 cubic yards of tree waste were turned into mulch and given to residents **free of charge**.

210

In 2022, the leaf and pumpkin recycling program diverted **210 cubic yards of organic waste** from the landfill. **460 vehicles dropped off leaves** at the leaf recycling event and were turned into compost at A-1 Organics. Also, the Christmas tree recycling program diverted approximately **200 cubic yards of organic waste** from the landfill.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Responsibly dispose of your hazardous waste responsibly, for no cost! The City has contracted with Waste Management to offer “At Your Door Special Collection.” The program collects household hazardous waste directly from your home by appointment **FREE** of charge. [Sign up here](#).

Bring a reusable shopping bag to stores to avoid the new statewide 10 cent carry-out bag fee.

Recycle responsibly by using the City’s [Hard to Recycle Guide](#).



Transportation & Mobility

TARGETS

Achieve the mode share targets for carpool, transit, bicycling and walking established in the Transportation & Mobility Plan.

200

Bike to Work Day in 2022 was a “wheely” good success with **200** cyclists stopping by the City’s station to learn about **clean commuting options and resources** available to Westminster residents.



In 2022, the Sheridan RTD station added a new “**Bike and Ride**” parking enclosure that allows cyclists to securely park their bike and hop on their bus.

Increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations on and off city property.

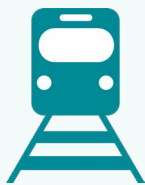


An **electric vehicle (EV) webpage** was created in 2022 to inform residents about the **benefits and financial incentives** related to EVs.

24

The City’s first on-street EV charging station was installed in the Downtown in 2022; this adds to **24 publicly accessible, City-owned charging stations**.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Heading to a Nuggets, Avalanche, Rockies, or Broncos game? Don’t stress with traffic and parking in Downtown Denver. Consider taking RTD’s **Flatiron Flyer bus** or the **train from Westminster Station**.

Did you know you may be eligible for over **\$12,500 in tax credits** for a new electric vehicle? [Check out our EV webpage to learn more!](#)



Natural Resources & Environment

TARGETS

Expand the urban tree canopy coverage.

5

The City conducted an **urban tree canopy equity study** in 2022, to inform where the City will focus tree planting and preventative treatment efforts against the **invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** which threatens the ~70,000 ash trees in Westminster.

Reduce systemwide water use to 110 gallons per capita per day (GPCD) or lower by 2030.

1,427

In 2022, **1,427 Westminster customers** participated in **water conservation programs**. This number was a **50% increase** over 2021 participation. Voluntary participation in these programs reduces the chance for drought restrictions over time, lowers utility costs and customer rates, and makes the City **more resilient to changes in our local climate**.

104

Systemwide **water use has declined rapidly** since 2020 with a per capita trend between 2020 and 2022 that would result in a use of **104 GPCD by 2030**.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



If you have an ash tree, protect it against Emerald Ash Borer. The preservation of an ash tree is the most economical decision for property owners. The cost of removing and replacing an Ash tree is comparable to **20 years** of EAB treatments. **Learn how to protect your ash here!**

Westminster has approximately **12% coverage of urban tree canopy**, which is **below average** for the Front Range. Luckily, the City offers planting programs that include a **tree sale**.

Get planting here!

Sign up for the City's many **water conservation opportunities here.**

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