



Creating a Sustainable Longmont

life is good  
in longmont



# An Overview of the City of Longmont's Sustainability Plan

[longmontcolorado.gov/sustainability](http://longmontcolorado.gov/sustainability)





A THRIVING, VIBRANT COMMUNITY —

# *today and tomorrow*

Day in and day out, the City of Longmont offers residents and visitors alike a vibrant, welcoming community in which to work, raise a family, have fun, and experience new adventures. Longmont is undeniably an amazing place and we want to ensure it remains that way for generations to come.

For Longmont to continue to be a community that is environmentally healthy, economically prosperous, and socially equitable, we must work together to manage and enhance our natural environment and ensure everyone has access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

The City of Longmont's Sustainability Plan will help guide our city's policies and practices to create a more sustainable community. The plan provides recommendations for how residents, businesses, and the City can contribute to making Longmont an even more incredible community.

# Shaping Our Future Through Innovation, Collaboration and Commitment to Equity

**Sustainability** is about making Longmont the best place it can be, now and in the future. When we act sustainably, we connect with our community, take care of the natural environment, and ensure every resident has the resources and support needed to prosper. Sustainability creates opportunity and benefits for all.

Sustainability is broadly defined as meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.\* A sustainable society is founded on equitable access to the vital resources we all need to thrive – health care, nutrition, clean water and air, a sense of safety and community, shelter, education, energy, economic opportunities, and employment. It takes thoughtful planning and deliberate action to become a sustainable community. The City of Longmont's Sustainability Plan provides a framework for us to work together to make decisions that ensure the current and future well-being of our community and to meet our sustainability objectives.

## 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.



*\*United Nation's Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future, 1987.*

# 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 the next five to ten years to help promote environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic opportunity for all residents and businesses of Longmont.

Visit: [longmontcolorado.gov/sustainability](http://longmontcolorado.gov/sustainability)



## 10 Areas the Sustainability Plan Addresses



### AIR QUALITY

Improve air quality to protect public and environmental health.



### 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.



### 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.



### 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.



### 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.



### FOOD SYSTEM

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



### 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.



### TRANSPORTATION

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



### WASTE

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



### WATER

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



## 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 as a result 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 will improve air quality across the city.

### How We Plan to 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 an ozone reduction incentive and enforcement program
- 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.



## 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 will help conserve resources, reduce operating costs, ensure equitable access, enhance quality of life, and promote economic vitality.

### How We Plan to 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





## 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, the City of Longmont is home to diverse businesses that offer residents many interesting and fulfilling employment opportunities. As Longmont grows, it is imperative 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 Plan to Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Create a Longmont Sustainable Business Recognition program
- Work with local economic development organizations to support local businesses and attract and expand green industry/clean tech jobs
- Reinstate the Pollution Prevention Program
- 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

### 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 and respect one another, we can accomplish any goal and overcome any challenge. As our community grows and becomes more diverse, 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 Plan to 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 it's buying from a local merchant or getting food from our many local farmers and ranchers, 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 also has an impact on the environment. By improving energy efficiency, transitioning to cleaner energy sources, and adopting new technologies, Longmont residents and businesses will save money, improve health and wellness, and protect and preserve our valuable natural resources.

### How We Plan to 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

**TAKE A SUSTAINABLE STEP**

### START AT HOME

Even small changes to your own home can help achieve our objective. You can save energy and reduce your energy costs by installing LED bulbs, purchasing low-energy appliances, weatherizing your home, and air drying your clothes. Learn more about rebates and incentives for energy efficiency measures at [efficiencyworks.com](http://efficiencyworks.com).



## FOOD SYSTEM

### Our Sustainability Objective:

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

From family dinners at home and summertime picnics to a quick breakfast on the way to work or a special night out, food plays a central role in all of our lives. 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 Plan to 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 in your yard or at a local community garden, or plant a few pots of tomatoes or peppers in containers on a sunny porch. Support local farmers and ranchers through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, by shopping at farmer's markets, and purchasing locally produced products at grocery stores throughout Longmont.



## 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 are incredibly lucky to have so many 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 that calls Longmont home. As our city grows, we must continue to recognize the natural environment as a valuable asset to be preserved, protected and restored in order to sustain livability, healthy ecosystems, and ensure clean air, water and soil.

### How We Plan to 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

Take advantage of Xeriscape programs like Garden in a Box to create a water-wise landscape in your own backyard. (Visit [conservationcenter.org/gardens/](http://conservationcenter.org/gardens/) for more information.) And 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!



## 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.

There is so much to see and do in Longmont. From safe, accessible sidewalks and walking paths to dedicated bike lanes and buses that pick you up close to home and take you where you need to go quickly, Longmont is working to provide residents with as many convenient, affordable, and environmentally friendly transit options as possible.

### How We Plan to Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Coordinate with RTD to expand service and hours to key community locations
- Develop 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

TAKE A SUSTAINABLE STEP

### CURB THE CAR

Walk, bike, carpool, take the bus, or use alternative fuel vehicles when you can.





## WASTE

### Our Sustainability Objective:

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

The products that we buy and use in our lives may be convenient, but that convenience often results in more waste materials. How we manage our wastes can affect public health and the environment. We have limited space in landfills, and there are alternatives for dealing with wastes in more environmentally and socially responsible ways. Generating less waste, diverting as much as possible from landfills and adopting new technologies and practices will save money and reduce the impact on the natural environment and the community.

### How We Plan to 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
- Increase hazardous/ e-waste/ materials drop-off opportunities
- Establish a construction demolition waste incentive program

TAKE A SUSTAINABLE STEP



## 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 mountain stream; 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 Plan to Achieve Our Sustainability Objective:

- Implement identified strategies within the water efficiency master plan
- Complete an analysis of water loss and recommend 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

Colorado is an arid environment and water is a precious resource. Reducing outdoor water use can go a long way in conserving our water supply. 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.



# You Play an Important Part in Our Sustainability Success

When it comes to sustainability, everyone can make a difference, and our actions – both big and small – help us make real progress toward our goals.

## Here Are a Few Things You Can Do...

- Make sustainability improvements to your home and daily routines. Take a look at the ideas for action throughout this brochure.
- Share your sustainability ideas with City staff and community groups.
- Talk with your friends, family, and neighbors about sustainability.
- Review the City’s Sustainability Plan for new ideas and inspiration.

## Acting Sustainably Pays Off With...

- Savings from lower utility bills and energy rebates.
- A greater sense of community from volunteering and connecting with your neighbors and local businesses.
- Improved health and quality of life from cleaner air, active transportation options, and regionally produced food.
- Increased well-being knowing that you are having a positive effect on the community and helping to create a bright future for Longmont.

**Your actions will have a positive impact**, helping create a city in which people want to live, work and raise a family – **today and in the future.**

**LEARN MORE**

about the City of Longmont Sustainability Plan and how you can participate at [longmontcolorado.gov/sustainability](http://longmontcolorado.gov/sustainability).



“

*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](http://longmontcolorado.gov/sustainability)

Contact

[sustainability@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:sustainability@longmontcolorado.gov)

303.651.8403

*Get involved!*