

Longmont Sustainability Plan

Baseline Snapshot



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Introduction

This document provides context and information supporting the update of the City of Longmont Sustainability Plan. Originally drafted in 2010, but never formally adopted, the 2010 Integrated Sustainability Program Report and Plan (ISP), provided guidance for how the City of Longmont could become a more sustainable community. The following mission statement defined the central theme of the ISP:

Transforming Longmont into a sustainable community that balances economic, social and environmental needs while enhancing our legacy.

The plan focused on City services and specifically addressed how City government could apply the concepts of sustainability to:

- Provide higher levels of service for residents
- Improve the value of those services, and
- Ensure that the services would be delivered in an affordable and environmentally responsible manner both now and in the future.

The ISP defined two City service areas: Organizational Service Areas (how the City manages its sustainability efforts), and the Sustainability Service Areas (*the services the City provides that are directly related to the triple bottom line of sustainability*). The Service Areas and associated Primary Objectives of each, per the ISP, are summarized in the following table.

Service Areas	Primary Objectives
<i>Organizational Service Areas</i>	
Community Engagement	A sustainability program that inclusively engages our stakeholders.
Sustainable Management	A Triple Bottom Line (TBL) management system integrated into policies and procedures of all City departments.
Work Force Knowledge and Culture	An organizational culture and knowledgeable workforce that understands and is aligned with the City's sustainability goals.
<i>Sustainability Service Areas</i>	
Built & Natural Environment	An integrated land use pattern that results in a sustainable community
Community and Individual Well-Being	Meet all people's basic needs and provide access to resources so they can benefit from and contribute to a sustainable Longmont
Economic Vitality	Continual investment and re-investment in the community, encouraged by partnerships the city productively plans and engages in.
Energy	Continuously improving the community's energy efficiency while balancing social, environmental, and economic impacts of energy resources decisions
Transportation	An efficient and cost effective transportation system that offers environmentally responsible alternatives for all users
Water	Efficient management of water to provide high quality water supply and minimize environmental impacts
Zero Waste	Availability of more waste diversion programs, reuse opportunities and education

In addition to the 2010 ISP, in early 2015 the City of Longmont initiated an exciting, community-wide planning effort to update and integrate the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan (LACP) and the Longmont Multimodal Transportation Plan (MMTP). Branded as "Envision Longmont," the process was designed to engage a representative cross-section of the community in a discussion about the City's future—providing an opportunity for the community to reflect on Longmont's strengths and assets, and to explore future possibilities.

As the City’s Comprehensive Plan, Envision Longmont plays a critical role in weaving together previous planning efforts while addressing emerging trends to shape a positive future for the community. Envision Longmont was informed by numerous recent plans, studies, and initiatives developed by the City and its many local and regional partners. Related plans and studies that played a significant role in the process include: Advance Longmont; the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan; the Open Space and Trails Master Plan and Wildlife Management Plan; Resilient St. Vrain (underway); Blueprint St. Vrain (underway); the Boulder County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and Age Well Boulder County.

Longmont’s vision for the future is embodied in the six guiding principles, illustrated at right. These guiding principles reflect the key elements of the community’s desired future. They further provide direction in terms of where efforts and resources should be focused over the next ten to twenty years to ensure Longmont remains a livable, prosperous, and attractive community. Fundamentally, these guiding principles and their supporting goals are intended to promote a more sustainable and resilient community.



The Longmont Sustainability Plan is intended to build upon the work of the 2010 ISP and Envision Longmont by providing detailed strategic direction for the community’s greatest sustainability priorities. While Envision Longmont provides broad, longer-term goals and policies, the Sustainability Plan will establish shorter-term, more focused objectives, targets, activities and timelines for the determined sustainability topics. These topics may be less emphasized or addressed in Envision Longmont. The below table summarizes how the Sustainability Plan and 2010 ISP differ.

	Envision Longmont	Sustainability Plan
Time Horizon	2035 (20 years)	2025 (+/-10 years)
Scope	Comprehensive (all topics)	Strategic (priority topics)
Organization	6 Guiding Principles	10 Topic Areas
Area of Emphasis	General Policy Guidance, Land Use & Transportation	Strategic Sustainability Objectives, Targets & Activities

The Sustainability Plan will be guided by a systems approach to recognize the integrated and relational nature of sustainability topic areas, and to promote interaction between those areas. Currently conceptualized, the Sustainability Plan will be organized into ten topic areas. To note, this structure is subject to change as the planning process progresses. These topic areas match many of the ISP categories, and include new additions such as air quality and food systems – topics that have emerged as community priorities in recent years. The preliminary Sustainability Plan topic areas include:

- Air Quality
- Built Environment
- Community
- Economic Vitality
- Energy
- Food Systems
- Natural Environment
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water

This Baseline Snapshot document provides a summary of previously established goals, current conditions and trends, and connections to Envision Longmont for each topic area. Furthermore, each topic area snapshot includes a draft objective statement, preliminary list of potential areas of emphasis, and summary of relevant community comments from the Envision Longmont community engagement process and sustainability plan stakeholder interviews to-date. Finally, each topic area snapshot includes a visual representation of a relevant trend or condition illustrating a component of the baseline.

The purpose of the Baseline Snapshot is to provide an informed foundation to begin the Sustainability Plan update process. It draws from the Envision Longmont Community Profile as a primary source, supported by interviews with Longmont City staff and stakeholders, other plans, studies, sources, and reports as noted within the footnotes of each section. Note that this information is intended to highlight major trends and current conditions for the topic in the Longmont community and is not intended to be an exhaustive or fully inclusive synopsis of all available sources or data points. The graphics included in each topic area are not intended to encompass the topic areas or provide a metric that will be used to compare future results, but rather as illustrative examples using existing data to spur community conversation. The information is presented in bulleted list format to allow for quick review, however, the Sustainability Plan will incorporate many of the key concepts from this Baseline Snapshot document in a more graphical and reader-friendly format.

Air Quality

Draft Objective: Improve air quality to protect public and environmental health.

Potential Areas of Emphasis

- Construction site impacts
- Expanded monitoring
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Indoor air quality
- Vegetation benefits
- Wood burning alternatives

Community Voice

- Air quality with large numbers in and out of community
- Policies that address air quality

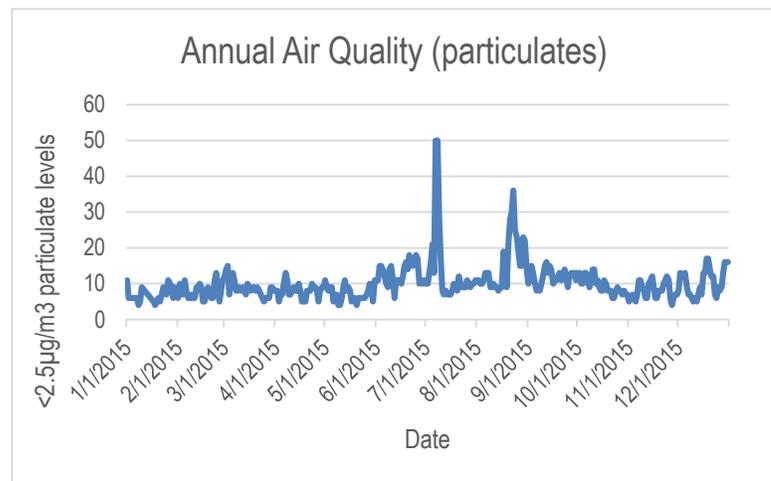
Established Goals

- As part of the Maintenance Plan with the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Longmont has committed to maintaining carbon monoxide 1 hour maximums under 35 ppm and 8 hour maximums under 9 ppm.¹

Current Conditions & Trends

Air quality monitoring

- State air quality monitors for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are located at the Longmont municipal site,² and the latest non-fire related exceedance was a PM_{2.5} in 2012.³
- The Boulder County Public Health Air Quality study showed elevated levels of butane and pentane at the Longmont monitoring site between 2007 and 2008, likely from its proximity to oil and gas exploration activities.⁴



Tree canopy benefits

- A 2008 Tree Canopy study prepared for the City of Longmont by Native Communities Development Corporation estimated that with the current 8% tree canopy coverage community air quality pollutant removal amounts to a value of \$246,825 and total carbon storage capacity of 62,873 tons.⁵

Related Envision Guiding Principles

- GP4: Create a safe, healthy, and adaptable community.
- GP5: Responsible stewards of our resources.

¹ "Revised Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan for the Longmont Attainment/ Maintenance Area," Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Air Pollution Control Division, October, 16, 2007, https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/AP_PO_Longmont-Carbon-Monoxide-Attainment-Maintenance-Plan.pdf.

² "Colorado Air Quality Data Report 2013," Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Air Pollution Control Division, November 2014, http://www.colorado.gov/airquality/tech_doc_repository.aspx?action=open&file=2013AnnualDataReport.pdf.

³ Colorado Department of Health and Environment, accessed April 13, 2016, <http://www.colorado.gov/airquality/>.

⁴ "Air Quality Monitoring," Boulder County, accessed April 13, 2016, <http://www.bouldercounty.org/env/air/pages/airtoxics.aspx>.

⁵ "City of Longmont, Colorado: Urban Tree Canopy & CITYgreen Analysis Project Report," NCDC Imaging, December 3, 2008, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/home/showdocument?id=448>.

Built Environment

Draft Objective: *Implement integrated land use patterns and resource efficient design that results in a sustainable and resilient community, enhances the quality of life, and complements the natural environment.*

Potential Areas of Emphasis

- Development practices and site design
- Green infrastructure
- High-performing/ green buildings
- Land management practices
- Linkages to human health and well-being
- Vacant or underutilized land and buildings

Established Goals

- See Envision Longmont

Current Conditions & Trends⁶

Infill and revitalization

- Development is increasingly infill and redevelopment in the established areas of Longmont.
- In the planning area, there is the potential to build 1.6 million square-feet of commercial space and 2.8 million square-feet of industrial space.
- Approximately 44% of Longmont's housing was built before 1980, meaning that a large proportion of Longmont's housing is aging.⁷

Household and housing unit growth

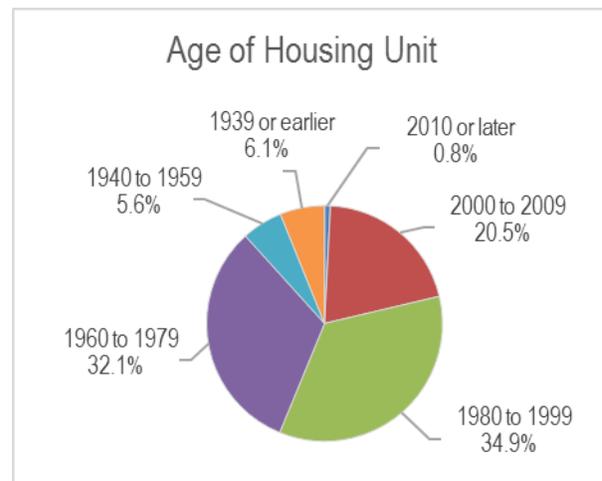
- Since 2005, population and employment growth has outpaced housing unit production.
- To meet 2035 forecasted growth there is demand for 9,366 new households – an increase of 446 households per year.
- In 2013, there were 34,593 housing units (68% single family, 7.3% single-family attached, 17.2% multifamily).
- In 2014, there were 33,661 households in Longmont.
- The average annual rate of household growth was 1.7% between 2010 and 2014.

Green building efforts

- Longmont adopted the International Building Code (2015 Edition) effective January 1, 2016.
 - The national code adoption cycle is on track to net zero by 2030.
- The policy from the 2006 Focus on Longmont Plan, Emphasis on the Built Environment, which included the City developing green standards for residential properties, was not supported by residents to be pursued in a future update (note that an update did not occur in 2012 as was originally planned).⁸

Community Voice

- Encourage smart growth
- Support and incentivize sustainable development and green building
- Support programs to rehabilitate aging housing stock with resource conservation and health/safety measures
- Increase connectivity



⁶ "Envision Longmont Community Profile Draft," *City of Longmont*, November 2015, http://www.envisionlongmont.com/sites/envisionlongmont.com/files/user/documents/EnvisionLongmont_CommunityProfile_11.03.15_Maps.pdf.

⁷ "2010-2014 American Community Survey," US Census Bureau.

⁸ "Focus on Longmont Citywide Strategic Plan Update," *City of Longmont*, May 2012, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/home/showdocument?id=6268>.

- There are at least 5 LEED Certified projects in Longmont, including 3 businesses and 2 residences.⁹

Related Envision Guiding Principles

- GP1: Create livable centers, corridors, and neighborhoods.
- GP4: Create a safe, healthy, and adaptable community.
- GP5: Responsible stewards of our resources.

⁹ USGBC, 2016, <http://www.usgbc.org/projects?keys=longmont>.

Community

Draft 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.

Potential Areas of Emphasis

- Equitable access to resources and programs
- Cultural diversity
- Defining social sustainability
- Gaps in services and programs
- Inequities and disparities (e.g., between groups, geographic areas, services, etc.)
- Neighborhood-based, resident-driven projects

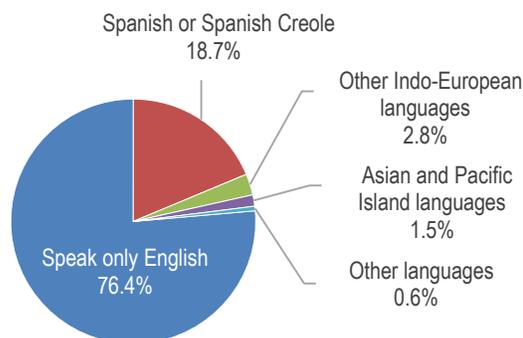
Established Goals

- Community and Neighborhood Resources department wants to ensure maximum community participation by empowering Longmont citizens to access community resources and services, and by ensuring cultural sensitivity throughout the community.¹⁰
- Strive for 10 percent of homes built annually to be permanently affordable housing units that are affordable to households earning less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) for for-sale homes and less than 50% of AMI for rental homes.¹¹
- Engage more diverse members in community leadership roles at the community leadership roles at the neighborhood, local and/or regional level; neighborhood, local and/or regional level; identify and address barriers to community identify and address barriers to community involvement.¹²
- Age Well Boulder County's 2014 Strategic Plan is organized into four quadrants or priority areas: Basic Needs, Personal Connections & Community Involvement, Health & Wellness, and Aging in Community. Each priority area includes a series of associated goals and strategies related to partner agencies in Boulder County and the vital role that older adults play in making Boulder County a wonderful place to live.¹³

Community Voice

- Continue to focus on arts and culture
- Address needs and history of immigrant community
- Culturally appropriate goals and strategies
- Support diversity and inclusivity of all populations

Language Spoken at Home



Current Conditions & Trends

Neighborhood groups

- Neighborhood groups using activity funds have increased from 34 in 2014 to 60 groups in 2016.¹⁴

¹⁰ "Community at Neighborhood Services," *City of Longmont*, 2016, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-a-d/community-and-neighborhood-resources>.

¹¹ "Affordable Housing Incentives for Developers," *City of Longmont*, 2016, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-e-m/housing-and-community-investment/housing-programs/affordable-housing-incentives>.

¹² "Longmont Multicultural Plan," *City of Longmont*, 2002, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/home/showdocument?id=1126>.

¹³ "Age Well Boulder County," *Boulder County Area Agency on Aging Community Services Department*, June 2015, <http://www.bouldercounty.org/doc/cs/agewellbouldercountystrategicplan%202015.pdf>.

¹⁴ Longmont Sustainability Plan staff interviews, March 2016.

Vulnerable populations and needs

- The increase in area incomes and home prices continues to displace and impact lower income residents, creating a wider inequity gap and applying additional stresses to vulnerable populations.
- Hunger prevention and reaction efforts have been ramping up due to rising demand.
- Resiliency Leadership Program in partnership with Boulder County is helping to identify areas to improve and help support vulnerable populations in responding to severe events.
- By 2025, the percentage of residents in Longmont over the age of 55 is expected to double. Older adults in Boulder County will account for about 25 percent of the total county population. The number of people in all of Boulder County above the age of 85 is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 10 percent for the next 25 years.¹⁵

Cultural diversity

- Cultural diversity is growing – not just the Hispanic/Latino segment of the population. Almost a quarter of the population speaks a language other than English at home.¹⁶
- Cultural diversity is increasingly being recognized as a strength to build on with dedicated resources addressing immigrant communities, minority communities, and groups that have increasing or significant cultural representation.
- The Multicultural Action Committee is developing a multicultural action plan and actively supporting opportunities to celebrate and increase diversity.

Related Envision Guiding Principles

- GP3: Accessible housing, services, amenities and opportunities for all.
- GP4: Encourage safe, healthy, and adaptable community.

¹⁵ “Draft Summary of Recommendations,” *Envision Longmont Aging Well*, March 2016.

¹⁶ “2010-2014 American Community Survey,” US Census Bureau.t

Economic Vitality

Draft Objective: An adaptable, diverse and innovative economy that is consciously interconnected with social and environmental systems - providing livable wages and dignified livelihoods for all residents, growing the local economy, and expanding green business practices and industries.

Potential Areas of Emphasis

- Build on Longmont’s brand of “you belong” with “green” opportunities
- Disadvantaged economic groups
- Education and job training
- Green products and services
- Living wage standard
- Measurement of economic vitality
- Sharing economy
- Sustainable business practices

Established Goals

The Advance Longmont Economic Development Strategy (2014-2019) recommends:

- Developing an annual economic scorecard
- Target industries and niche sectors to catalyze economic growth
 - E.g., Advanced technology, bioscience, creative arts & culinary, and professional services & IT
- Reorganization of economic development goals, strategies, and tactics

The Focus on Longmont Strategic Plan support five strategic directions with identified policy directives which include:

- Promote a Healthy Business Climate
 - Policy 1.1 – Increased job opportunities
 - Policy 1.2 – Development aligned with the community’s vision
 - Policy 1.3 – Business-friendly development
 - Policy 1.4 – Balance of businesses
- Revitalize Downtown
 - Policy 4.1 – Downtown as a destination and gathering place
 - Policy 4.2 – Balanced economic development

Community Voice

- Recognize and support existing community assets
- Promote and support smaller, independent, and/or locally-owned businesses
- Develop and implement business-friendly policies to attract high tech, clean tech/green jobs and industry to the area
- Foster a nationally recognized business hub for innovation through sustainability
- Establish a revenue stream to support sustainability goals
- Avoid economic development with negative triple bottom line impacts
- Diversify industries to promote a more resilient and dynamic economy and community
- Leverage existing educational assets to develop new opportunities and skillsets within green industries
- Provide a platform for diverse stakeholders and populations in the community to connect and partner
- Enhance opportunities to both live and work in Longmont

Advance Longmont Target Industries

			
Advanced Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerospace & Defense • Data Storage • Computers & Electronics • Energy Components • Agricultural Tech 	Bioscience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Devices • Pharmaceuticals • Diagnostics 	Creative Arts & Culinary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breweries & Distilleries • Food & Beverage Production • Food & Dining • Visual & Performing Arts • Special Events 	Professional Services & IT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering & Design Services • Back Office • Research & Development • Software

Current Conditions & Trends

Workforce

- Between 2005 and 2013, the Longmont workforce grew by 3,607 employees or 1.4% annually.¹⁷
- In 2013, there were approximately 35,000 employees working in Longmont.¹⁸
- The unemployment rate in 2014 was a 3.9%.¹⁹
- 37% of the population has a bachelor's degree or higher (22% bachelors, 15% masters+).²⁰
- 29% of the population is aged 25 to 44 years; 3% higher than the national average.²¹
- From 2007-2012, the 20 to 24-year age group was the fastest growing at 54%.²²

Wages and Income

- In 2013, the average wage in Longmont across all industries was \$51,000.
- The median household income was \$58,698 in 2013, which is less than surrounding communities.
 - When adjusted for inflation, household income decreased by 1.1% from 2000 to 2013.
- 24% of a Longmont resident's income is spent on housing and housing and transportation costs account for approximately 43% of household income.²³
- 16.6 % of the population lives below the federal poverty line (27.2% are children).²⁴
 - The poverty level for an individual in 2015 was \$11,770 or \$24,250 for a family of four.
- The median home sales price in 2016 was \$309,000 and median rent was \$1,800 for apartments.²⁵

Businesses and Industries

- Employment growth has been driven by a gain the primary industries of professional, scientific and technical services, healthcare, education, and retail trade.²⁶
 - Together these four industries comprise 54% of the workforce.
- Longmont has 84 Partners for A Clean Environment (PACE) certified businesses and over 1,500 businesses upgraded to date.²⁷
- The majority of recent employment growth has occurred in industries that pay less than average annual wage.²⁸

Related Envision Guiding Principles

- GP6: Job growth and economic vitality through innovation and collaboration.

¹⁷ "Envision Longmont Community Profile Draft," *City of Longmont*, November 2015, http://www.envisionlongmont.com/sites/envisionlongmont.com/files/user/documents/EnvisionLongmont_CommunityProfile_11.03_15_Maps.pdf.

¹⁸ "Community Data Summary," *City of Longmont*, 2016, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/community/community-data-summary>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ "Advance Longmont Economic Development Strategy," *Avalanche Consulting*, 2014, <http://www.longmont.org/Longmont/media/Longmont/PDF%20Files/Advance-Longmont-Final.pdf>.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ "H + T Affordability Index," *CNT*, 2016, <http://htaindex.cnt.org/>.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ "Longmont Real Estate Market Overview," *Trulia*, 2016, http://www.trulia.com/real_estate/Longmont-Colorado/.

²⁶ "Advance Longmont Economic Development Strategy," *Avalanche Consulting*, 2014, <http://www.longmont.org/Longmont/media/Longmont/PDF%20Files/Advance-Longmont-Final.pdf>.

²⁷ "Accomplishments Report through December 31, 2015," *Boulder County Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE)*.

²⁸ "Envision Longmont Community Profile Draft," *City of Longmont*, November 2015, http://www.envisionlongmont.com/sites/envisionlongmont.com/files/user/documents/EnvisionLongmont_CommunityProfile_11.03_15_Maps.pdf.

Energy

***Draft Objective:** Continuously improve the community's energy efficiency and collaborate with regional partners to increase use of renewable energy and decrease emissions, while balancing social, environmental, and economic impacts of energy resources decisions.*

Potential Areas of Emphasis

- Building energy efficiency
- Carbon footprint of energy sources
- Embodied energy
- Energy costs
- Renewable energy generation

Established Goals

- Longmont's City Council requires Longmont Power and Communications (LPC) to provide at least 3% of energy from renewable sources - a requirement that the utility currently achieves.²⁹
- The 2010 ISP set prioritization goals that renewable portfolio standards be 10% of total load by 2020 and electricity conservation of 1% of the total load per year over the ten-year period.
- The 2010 ISP further established three implementation strategies to meet the identified energy objectives:
 - Help consumers, City staff, elected officials, and partners understand and support energy efficiency goals and the actions necessary to achieve the goals.
 - Monitor evolving technology to evaluate what helps and what hinders reaching energy efficiency goals.
 - Adapt energy tactics and goals to reflect triple bottom line influences.
- All street lighting is in a 5 year LED change out program to reduce light pollution and energy use.³⁰
- The Focus on Longmont Strategic Plan set forth the goal to "Enhance the Natural Environment"
 - Policy 3.6 Conservation Programs – Reduce energy and water consumption by enhancing access to energy and water conservation programs.
- Boulder County created a Sustainable Energy Plan to collaboratively achieve a sustainable future by reaching the following goals:³¹
 - Emissions reductions in 2012 of 1.3 million+ metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent and 3.6 million metric tons in 2020.
 - Emissions reductions 11% below 1990 levels by 2020.
 - Annual cost savings in 2020 of more than \$445 million dollars.

Community Voice

- Increase and diversify renewable energy portfolio
- Establish zero emissions goals
- Promote and implement energy efficiency and conservation measures
- Promote and support the use of clean energies and technologies
- Establish building requirements for energy efficiency and retrofitting

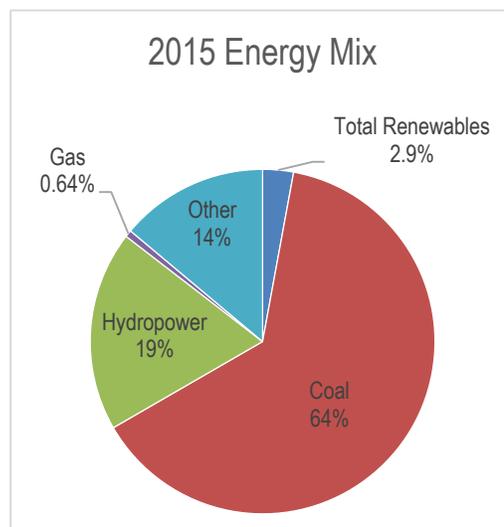
²⁹ Longmont Sustainability Plan staff interviews, March 2016.

³⁰ "LED Streetlights," *Longmont Power and Communications*, March 2016, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-e-m/longmont-power-communications/electric-service/led-information>.

³¹ "Sustainable Energy Plan," *Climate Smart*, April 2008, <http://www.bouldercounty.org/doc/publichealth/susenrgypln.pdf>.

Current Conditions & Trends

- Electricity LPC customers can enroll for Green-E certified wind power up to 100% of their usage.³²
- Electric customers in 2014 totaled 37,751 and were comprised of 92.8% residential, 7.2% commercial, and <1% industrial.
- The LPC service area is 49 sq. miles - 29.5 sq. miles of which fall within Longmont's city limits.
- LPC provides customers a mix of energy from a variety of sources, including coal, wind, solar, hydropower, and natural gas.
- The LPC customer base has grown 8% over the last decade with an annual electric system load of 800 MWh.
- The average electricity rate is 26% less than the national average. This helps the average Longmont residential customer save \$379 annually and the Longmont community \$26.7 million compared to the average Colorado community.
- The average annual electricity usage for residential customers is 8,336 KWh or about \$783 per year.
- The average annual electricity usage for commercial customers is 76,027 KWh or about \$5,900 per year (not including largest commercial customers on separate, confidential contracts).³³
- The Efficiency Works program is offered by LPC in partnership with PRPA to support energy and water efficiency for businesses and homes.³⁴



Renewable Energy

- Longmont was named a 'Solar Friendly Community' earning a bronze designation as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot initiative.³⁵
 - The designation allows LPC customers to receive a \$500 discount on solar panel installation for the designated Longmont solar providers.³⁶
- As of 2015, Longmont had 77 solar installations amounting to 381 kW total.³⁷

Total MWh for renewables in 2015 was 22,103, equivalent to 2.9% of the total energy generated.³⁸Oil and Gas

- There are 10 oil and gas wells operating in the City – one in Boulder County and the remaining in Weld County³⁹

Related Envision Guiding Principles

- GP5: Responsible stewards of our resources.

³² Longmont Power and Communications Report to the Community, 2015, <http://www.longmontcolorado.gov/home/showdocument?id=13016>.

³³ Longmont Power and Communications.

³⁴ Longmont Power and Communications Report to the Community, 2015, <http://www.longmontcolorado.gov/home/showdocument?id=13016>.

³⁵ "Solar Energy," *City of Longmont*, accessed April 13, 2016, <http://www.longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-e-m/longmont-power-communications/electric-service/renewable-energy/solar-energy>.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ 2015 2016 Resource Mix, Longmont Power and Communications.

³⁹ http://www.timescall.com/news/ci_29415107/johnnie-st-vrain-heres-your-list-oil-wells?source=mostpopular

Food System

Draft Objective: A vibrant local food system that provides healthy food to all residents, supports agricultural heritage, creates economic opportunities, and contributes to the health of the environment.

Potential Areas of Emphasis

- Agriculture and food waste
- Agricultural knowledge and heritage
- Natural/cottage food industries
- Public lands food pilot projects
- Food security/resiliency
- Agritourism
- Carbon sequestration potential

Established Goals

- Part of the mission of Open Space is to preserve agricultural lands and increase open space in general.
- Creative arts and Culinary is a target industry of Advance Longmont including food and beverage production, which is identified as a competitive strength in need of immediate attraction strategies per Advance Longmont.⁴⁰

Current Conditions & Trends

Agriculture

- Boulder County Parks and Open Space Cropland Policy encourages small scale and diverse farming, soil conservation, economic viability and other components of a thriving food production system.
- Longmont has a number of active CSAs, a Saturday farmer's market and has experimented with a Wednesday farmer's market.
- Longmont Parks, Open Space and Trails leases out 1,300 acres for farmers whom grow primarily row crops (e.g., alfalfa, soy, and winter wheat) which generate about \$60-70,000 of income annually.

Food Access and Nutrition

- Permits available for backyard chickens.
- Permitting system in place for food trucks and carts.
- Livewell Longmont 2010 survey:⁴¹
 - 90% of respondents reported wanting to include more local foods in their diet.
 - Increasing the number of or access to Farmers' Markets and other sites that sell local foods are priorities for a majority of the sample.
 - Most consumers (90% of respondents) travel by car to purchase fruit and vegetables, with only 8% by alternative transportation (bike, walk, bus).
 - 42% of respondents live within 3 miles of their food and vegetable source, 25% within a mile.
 - 30% reported compromising on healthy food items because of budget concerns more than half the time or all the time.

Community Voice

- Protect pollinators
- Implement education programs
- Restore/conservate healthy soil
- Food security
- Encourage organic and sustainable agricultural practices
- Support/maintain agricultural businesses
- Support local food production
- Support agricultural industries, land, and innovation
- Access to healthy food options
- Local food trucks allowed at parks, public spaces
- Farmers' markets
- CSAs
- Longmont as a food hub
- Urban farming

⁴⁰ "Advance Longmont Economic Development Strategy," *Avalanche Consulting*, 2014, <http://www.longmont.org/Longmont/media/Longmont/PDF%20Files/Advance-Longmont-Final.pdf>.

⁴¹ "Food Assessment Report of Findings," *Livewell Longmont*, 2011.

- Shoppers that use more cultural-based markets (e.g., Fruterias or ethnic markets) or receive food through assistance programs reported a significantly higher challenge to access their fruits and vegetables as opposed to those who shop at grocery stores or grow their own produce, who do not perceive transportation or far distances as a challenge.
- 20% of children are living in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits.⁴²
- Boulder County Community Food Share is using GIS to identify trends in clientele.
- City of Longmont Community Services department is increasing hunger prevention/ food provision to meet increasing demand.

Related Envision Guiding Principles

- GP4: Encourage a safe, healthy, and adaptable community.
- GP5: Responsible stewards of our resources

⁴² “2010-2014 American Community Survey,” US Census Bureau.

Natural Environment

Draft Objective: Nature at all scales is valued and responsibly managed to benefit current and future generations by mitigating the negative effects of the built environment and human behavior on natural systems.

Potential Areas of Emphasis

- Biophilia and connections with nature
- Ecosystem services
- Remediation and restoration
- Tree canopy preservation
- Use of native plants to promote biodiversity

Established Goals

- See Envision Longmont.
- See the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan.
- In 2002, the City adopted an Open Space and Trails Master Plan, which set forth a number of goals and criteria for the purchase and acquisition of open space.⁴³
- The City adopted a Wildlife Management Plan in 2006, which developed policies for managing federally protected species, species with special legal status, species that add to the biodiversity in Longmont, and species that had a history of conflict with humans and human development.⁴⁴
- The Focus on Longmont Strategic Plan included a policy area of “Enhance the Natural Environment” with performance measures in each policy area:
 - Policy 3.2 Open space, parks and recreational opportunities – Continue to develop and maintain the City park system with a focus on long-term financial sustainability.⁴⁵
 - Policy 3.4 St. Vrain River Corridor – Enhance the quality of the natural environment, pursue redevelopment, and integrate transit connections along the river corridor.⁴⁶
 - Policy 3.5 Open Space – Continue targeted open space acquisitions.
 - Policy 3.6 Conservation Programs – Reduce energy and water consumption by enhancing access to energy and water conservation programs.

Community Voice

- Preservation of open space
- Increase tree canopy
- Integrate natural areas with community
- Create and utilize an Integrated Pest Management Plan with policies restricting or eliminating the use of chemical herbicides and/or pesticides to protect pollinators and other fauna
- Implement environmental education and volunteer programs for a greater connection with nature
- Remediate and conserve riparian areas, floodplains, and other natural ecosystems
- Designate habitat conservation areas

Current Conditions & Trends

Parks and Open Space

- As of July 2014, the City has protected nearly 2,500 acres of open space, and holds conservation easements on an additional 788 acres of open space in Boulder County.⁴⁷

⁴³ “Envision Longmont Community Profile Draft,” *City of Longmont*, November 2015, http://www.envisionlongmont.com/sites/envisionlongmont.com/files/user/documents/EnvisionLongmont_CommunityProfile_11.03.15_Maps.pdf.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Note that parks are mostly constructed environments that may or may not play a role in enhancing the natural environment; this topic is related to built environment goals and trends.

⁴⁶ Note that like parks, this policy is not solely focused on stewardship of the natural environment but rather balance of various goals.

⁴⁷ “Envision Longmont Community Profile Draft,” *City of Longmont*, November 2015, http://www.envisionlongmont.com/sites/envisionlongmont.com/files/user/documents/EnvisionLongmont_CommunityProfile_11.03.15_Maps.pdf.

- Longmont has more than 1,660 acres of developed parks that serve a variety of functions.⁴⁸
- Parks and open space lands occupy 30% (approx. 6,790 acres) within the planning area.⁴⁹
- In 2000, residents approved a 0.2% Open Space sales tax which was extended by voters until 2034.⁵⁰
- As of 2012, the City has increased open space areas by 61% since 2006.⁵¹
- As of 2012, there are 2.17 acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents.⁵²

Trails

- There are over 93 miles of off-street trails in Longmont's trail system.⁵³
- Greenways account for 32 miles of trails.⁵⁴

Related Envision Guiding Principles

- GP1: Create livable centers, corridors, and neighborhoods
- GP4: Encourage a safe, healthy, and adaptable community
- GP5: Be responsible stewards of our natural resources

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ "Focus on Longmont Citywide Strategic Plan Update," *City of Longmont*, May 2012, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/home/showdocument?id=6268>.

⁵² "Envision Longmont Community Profile Draft," *City of Longmont*, November 2015, http://www.envisionlongmont.com/sites/ envisionlongmont.com/files/user/documents/EnvisionLongmont_CommunityProfile_11.03_15_Maps.pdf.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

Transportation

Draft Objective: Continue to invest in a complete, balanced transportation system that enhances mobility and convenience for all modes – reducing reliance of single-occupant motor vehicle trips, supporting healthy and active lifestyles, and protecting our environment.

Potential Areas of Emphasis

- Air quality linkages
- Reduced reliance on fossil fuels and alternative fuel transportation
- Car and ride sharing services
- Fleet efficiency
- Transportation affordability and accessibility

Established Goals

- See Multi-Modal Transportation Plan.
- Advance Longmont Economic Development Strategy specifies in the Implementation Plan the goal to “continue city investment in capital improvements in public buildings and facilities, transportation, parks and recreation, telecommunications and water” (6.3)
 - 6.3b - Improve public transportation options for Longmont residents and workers.
- The 2010 ISP established three strategies in the transportation sustainability service area with an objective of “an efficient and cost effective transportation system that offers environmentally responsible alternatives for all users”:
 - Utilize data collection, metrics, and asset management techniques to support implementation of an efficient and sustainable transportation system.
 - Foster partnerships with other transportation agencies.
 - Increase the availability of balanced and sustainable transportation systems with clean alternatives.

Community Voice

- Enhance multi-modal transit options
- Focus on community-wide connectivity
- Provide accessible, affordable, and available transportation and mobility options for all residents
- Better utilize the existing infrastructure
- Provide safe routes to schools
- Offer a community-wide EcoPass

Current Conditions & Trends

Vehicles

- Four publically available electric vehicle charging stations were installed in 2014 (one level 3 and three level 2), in partnership with the Regional Air Quality District and Efacec USA.⁵⁵
- In 2015, LCP had two electric cars in its fleet as did the City of Longmont’s Public Works and Natural Resources department.
- In 2013, 333.5 total VMT were traveled on the City’s arterial and collector roadways.⁵⁶

Bicycles and pedestrians

- Barriers limit bicycle and pedestrian mobility and connectivity between different areas of Longmont (e.g., St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks, railroad tracks, streets, and expressways).⁵⁷

⁵⁵ “Electric Vehicle Charging Stations,” City of Longmont, accessed April 13, 2016,

<http://www.longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-e-m/longmont-power-communications/electric-service/electric-vehicle-charging-stations>.

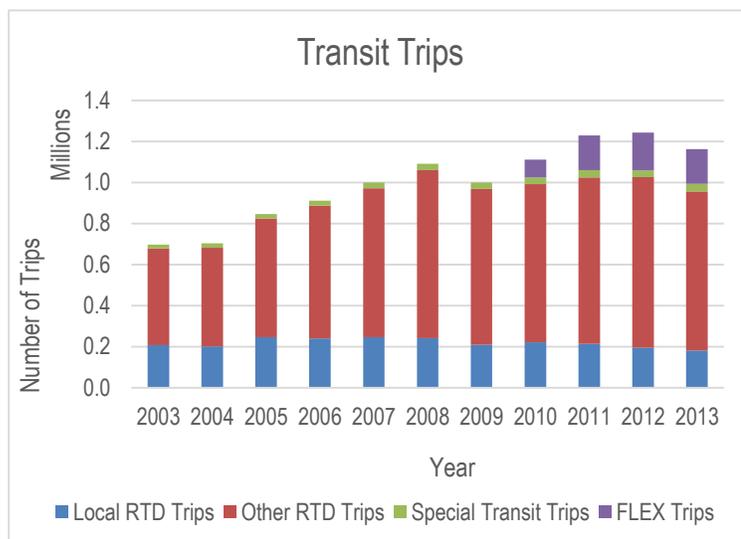
⁵⁶ “Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan,” City of Longmont, July 8, 2013,

<http://longmontcolorado.gov/home/showdocument?id=2615>.

⁵⁷ “Envision Longmont Community Profile Draft,” *City of Longmont*, November 2015,

http://www.envisionlongmont.com/sites/envisionlongmont.com/files/user/documents/EnvisionLongmont_CommunityProfile_11.03.15_Maps.pdf.

- Longmont routinely plans and constructs facilities to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists, including – bike lanes, multi-use trails, multi-use sidewalks, bike routes, and shoulders.⁵⁸
- Bicycle facility improvements are planned per DRCOG TIP and roadway improvements per the Capital Improvements Plan.⁵⁹
- In 2013, there were 133.2 miles of bikeways in the City.⁶⁰



Transit service

- The Regional Transportation District (RTD), Transfort, and Via provide transit service.
- In 2013, 1.2 million trips were made on local RTD transit.⁶¹

Commuting and transportation costs

- In 2013, there were 6 employers (Amgen⁶², City of Longmont, Longmont United Hospital, St. Vrain Valley School District, Seagate, Xilinx) with a transportation demand management program for employees (E.g. Van pools, EcoPass, etc.).⁶³
- 73% of Longmont residents are single occupancy commuters.⁶⁴
- 6.3% of residents telecommute compared to 6.9% statewide.⁶⁵
- According to the Center for Neighborhood Technology H+T Fact Sheet, within the City of Longmont:⁶⁶
 - Transportation accounts for 19% of a Longmont household's income.
 - Average annual transportation cost per household is \$12,813.
 - Transit access is car-dependent with limited access to public transportation coinciding with an index score of 2.1 (on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 representing greatest accessibility).
 - Annual greenhouse gas per household from automobile use is 8.94 tons.
- 72% of residents (27,700) commute to work outside the city each day.⁶⁷

Related Envision Guiding Principles

- GP2: A complete, balanced, and connected transportation system.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ "Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan," City of Longmont, July 8, 2013, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/home/showdocument?id=2615>.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Note that Amgen is no longer a major employer in Longmont.

⁶³ Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan," City of Longmont, July 8, 2013, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/home/showdocument?id=2615>.

⁶⁴ "Longmont Community Profile," DRCOG Regional Data Catalog, 2016, http://gis.drcog.org/datacatalog/sites/default/files/Longmont_v2016.pdf.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ "H + T Affordability Index," CNT, 2016, <http://htaindex.cnt.org/>.

⁶⁷ "Advance Longmont Economic Development Strategy," *Avalanche Consulting*, 2014, <http://www.longmont.org/Longmont/media/Longmont/PDF%20Files/Advance-Longmont-Final.pdf>.

Waste

Draft Objective: Longmont will increase waste diversion initiatives, reuse opportunities, and waste reduction and diversion education for residents to support the City’s zero waste goal.

Potential Areas of Emphasis

- Commercial and residential recycling and composting
- Construction demolition, re-use and upcycling
- Life-cycle materials analysis
- Materials recovery
- Source waste reduction
- Waste management planning
- Waste to energy
- Regional planning and partnerships

Community Voice

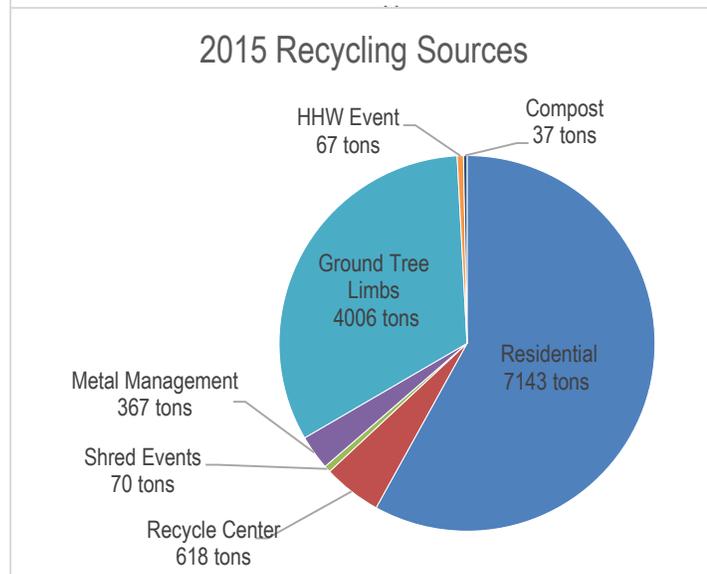
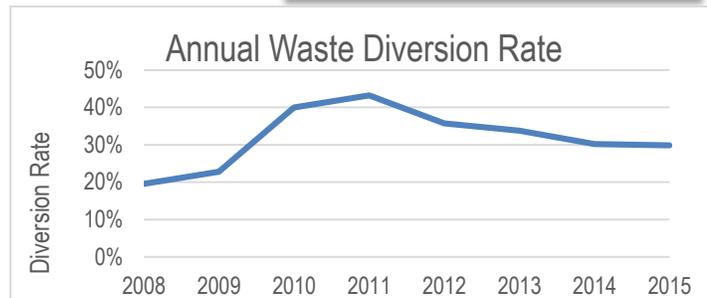
- Encourage composting
- Increase recycling/composting options
- Waste diversion education programs
- Require businesses to recycle

Established Goals

- The City of Longmont adopted a Zero Waste resolution in 2008.⁶⁸

Current Conditions & Trends

- Longmont’s waste diversion center collected 618 tons of recycling in 2015.⁶⁹
- A combined “pay as you throw” and municipal compost collection ordinance is under development and operation could begin in spring 2017.⁷⁰
- Yard waste is accepted free of charge for City customers and mulch is provided free of charge.⁷¹
- Waste diversion center accepts a multitude of materials and includes free single stream recycling.⁷²
- The City of Longmont has partnered with Eco-Cycle to help publicize waste reduction options in Longmont.



Relation to Envision

- GP5: Responsible stewards of our resources.

⁶⁸ “On the Road to Zero Waste in Boulder County,” *Eco-cycle*, accessed April 21, 2016,

<http://www.ecocycle.org/zerowaste/bouldercounty>.

⁶⁹ Note that total waste and waste diversion peaked in 2011 as a result of 2010 snow storms that resulted in an unusually large amount of yard debris from downed branches and similar materials.

⁷⁰ “Expanded Trash Service & Curbside Composting,” *City of Longmont*, accessed April 21, 2016,

<http://longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-n-z/trash-and-recycling/composting/expanded-trash-service-curbside-composting>.

⁷¹ “Yard Waste,” *City of Longmont*, accessed April 21, 2016, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-n-z/trash-and-recycling/yard-waste>.

⁷² “Waste Diversion Center,” *City of Longmont*, accessed April 21, 2016, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-n-z/trash-and-recycling/waste-diversion-center>.

Water

Draft Objective: Provide efficient management of water to provide high quality water supply, minimize environmental impacts, and promote conservation.

Potential Areas of Emphasis

- Food-water-energy nexus
- Integrated water resources management
- Stormwater runoff
- Water costs and savings

Established Goals

- Longmont Raw Water Master Plan Update (2013)
 - Goal 7: The City will develop and implement a water conservation policy that strives to achieve a sustainable use of its water resources
 - Goal 8: The City will pursue water policies and operations that minimize adverse environmental impacts
 - Goal 9: The City will pursue water policies and operations that promote multiple uses of water
- The 2010 ISP established within the water sustainability service area the objective for “efficient management of water to provide high quality water supply and minimize environmental impacts” with three strategies:
 - Educate stakeholders (including staff, customers, and regional partnerships) about their participation via two-way communications
 - Manage the City’s water services to support sustainable goals
 - Align water utility projects and programs with sustainability goals
- The 2010 ISP further established a water conservation goal of 10% below 2008 levels and water treatment plan efficiency goal to reduce electricity use by 20% by 2020.
- The Envision Community Profile states that the City is looking to reduce customer and City raw water demands by 10% by buildout (Projected to be 104,000 residents by 2048 in the 2003 Raw Water Master Plan Update).
- The 2008 Water Conservation Master Plan establishes conservation goals of reducing City raw water demands by approximately 10 percent by buildout (expected reduction of about 3,500 acre-feet by 2048).⁷³
- The Longmont 2013/2014 Water Supply and Drought Management Plan details 12 guiding water goals and policies.
- The Focus on Longmont Strategic Plan set forth the goal to “Enhance the Natural Environment”
 - Policy 3.6 Conservation Programs – Reduce energy and water consumption by enhancing access to energy and water conservation programs

Community Voice

- Promote water collection and reuse
- Encourage conservation
- Prohibit rental, lease, or sale of city water to any company, industry, or municipality that may be used for oil and gas purposes
- Address point source contamination
- Sustainably manage water resources

Current Conditions & Trends

Water quality

- 9,382 tests were conducted on drinking water in 2014.⁷⁴
- In 2014 there were no drinking water violations.⁷⁵

⁷³ “City of Longmont Water Conservation Master Plan,” City of Longmont, August 28, 2016, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/home/showdocument?id=5664>.

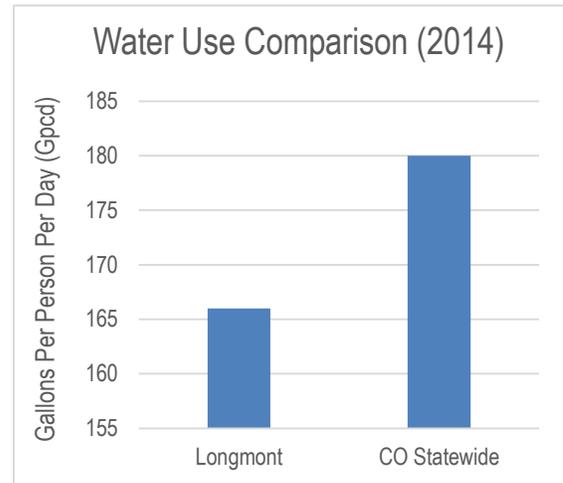
⁷⁴ “2014 Longmont Water Quality Report,” City of Longmont, accessed April 14, 2016, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-n-z/water/drinking-water>.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

- The City of Longmont partners with Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District on annual sampling and testing of the upper watershed to check for emerging (trace) contaminants in Longmont's water supply. There have been no contaminants of concern identified by this sampling.

Water supply and demand

- In 2013, the total City water supply was 26,082 acre feet (AF) and demand was 18,498 AF with a projected supply and demand in 2024 of 31,392 AF and 24,877 AF respectively.⁷⁶
- 5.56 billion gallons of water were used by residents in 2014.⁷⁷
- 60,493 gallons of water were used per person in 2014.⁷⁸
- 2012 treated water demand was 18,4400 AF.
- 166 gallons of water were used per person (capita) per day in 2014 (21 gpcd less than in 2007).⁷⁹



Related Envision Guiding Principles

- GP5: Responsible stewards of our resources.

⁷⁶ "Envision Longmont Community Profile Draft," *City of Longmont*, November 2015, http://www.envisionlongmont.com/sites/envisionlongmont.com/files/user/documents/EnvisionLongmont_CommunityProfile_11.03.15_Maps.pdf.

⁷⁷ "2014 Longmont Water Quality Report," City of Longmont, accessed April 14, 2016, <http://longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-n-z/water/drinking-water>.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Draft 2010 Integrated Sustainability Program Report and Plan (ISP).

Plan Topic Relationships

The following pages contain a topic-based “heat map” which was used to identify potential areas of overlap between Sustainability Plan and other topics from various City of Longmont Plans. Note that potential Sustainability Plan topics that are identified are identified in rows, and the guiding principles/goals/categories from the other plans are identified in columns. Red cells indicate topics that are addressed extensively or in detail by another City of Longmont plan, and may not be priority topics for the Sustainability Plan to address due to potential duplication. Yellow cells indicate areas of some overlap, wherein another plan may have broad goals or policies addressing the topic, and where the Sustainability Plan could potentially provide more detail regarding specific targets or actions. Green cells indicate areas where there is no or very limited information about the topic in another City of Longmont Plan (bolded topics have no overlap) – these are potential priority areas of emphasis for the Sustainability Plan, depending on community preferences and desired direction in these areas.

