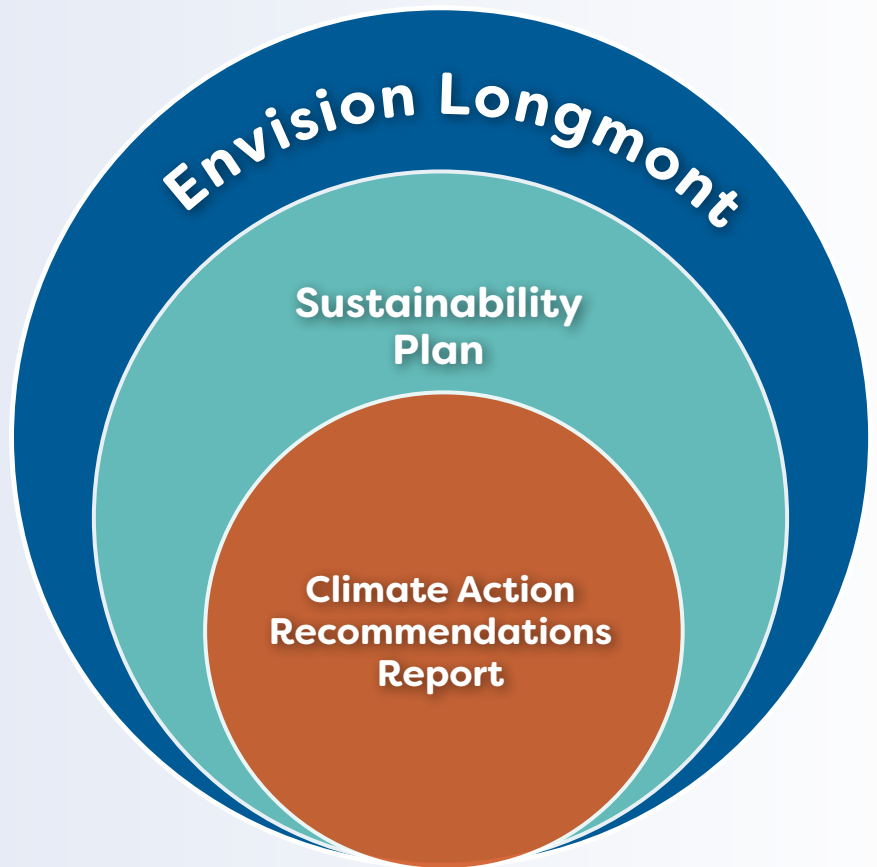


# SUSTAINABILITY and CLIMATE ACTION REPORT

This biannual report provides a summary of updates on key sustainability and climate action activities that work toward a more sustainable future in which every Longmont resident can pursue a safe, healthy, and fulfilling life in our city.

## History & Connection to Envision Longmont

The guiding plan for the City of Longmont's policies and practices is the Envision Longmont Multimodal & Comprehensive Plan (**Envision Longmont**). It includes a recommendation to develop a **Sustainability Plan** that focuses on actions that can be implemented within a reasonable time frame. In addition, a **Climate Action Recommendations Report** was developed to help accelerate Longmont's steps toward a carbon-free future.



The City continues to enhance and expand the initial goals of the Sustainability Plan. For the most up-to-date information, visit [indicators.longmontcolorado.gov](https://indicators.longmontcolorado.gov)



## 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.*

# Climate Action Recommendations Report

## Key Accomplishments and Activities



### Adaptation & Resilience

- City staff completed and is now rolling out an online climate risk mapping tool to determine climate risks at a neighborhood district scale. Of the five hazards analyzed so far, extreme heat was identified as the biggest risk to Longmont. To address this:
  - A Heat Action Plan was completed to identify heat resilience strategies.
  - A two-year term position has been filled to implement the Whole Home Health program.
  - Implementation of 2023 community-identified cooling solutions are underway.



### Education & Outreach

- In June 2024, water conservation staff collaborated with local artists and grassroots organizers to produce the inaugural Longmont Water Fair to educate community members on water stewardship. This family-friendly event attracted between 400-500 attendees.
- Approximately 50 community members attended the “Plastic Pollution Solutions” event held by the Longmont Library and Office of Sustainability during Plastic Free July. The event offered a children’s activity, panel discussion, and information fair and received outstanding reviews.

*Photo credit: Parker Rice*



### Equity in Climate Action

- The Equitable Climate Action Team (ECAT) added five new members this year, growing to a total of 12. As part of the ECAT’s goals of learning, engaging and educating, members have provided feedback to the Transportation Mobility Plan and Vision Zero Plan.
- ECAT is learning how community unity grows our resilience to climate disasters & emergencies. They’ve become more involved in the community this year, volunteering at 10 events.
- In early 2024, the City was awarded a \$148,550 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to support the Whole Home Health program that assists low-income households with health and safety, energy efficiency and building electrification to increase resilience to extreme heat.

Additional **CLIMATE ACTION** recommendations are integrated throughout the report as they overlap with topic areas in the Sustainability Plan.

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



# Sustainability Plan

## Key Accomplishments and Activities



### AIR QUALITY

Improve air quality to protect public and environmental health.

- Staff continue to present Longmont air quality findings to legislators. Most recently, staff presented information about Longmont's air quality data to the Colorado Air Quality Enterprise Board in association with an ozone research grant proposal.



### BUILDING & 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.

- Out of the \$478,873 annual Community Development Block Grant allocation to the City from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, \$200,000 was awarded to the Longmont Housing Authority through a competitive funding process. The project will replace original hotel doors and hardware on all units at the Suites Permanent Supportive Housing community to improve conditions for residents through better trauma-informed design.
- **Climate Action:** Sustainability, Longmont Power & Communications and Building Services staff are working with a consultant to conduct a cost analysis of building electrification and other code requirements to support decarbonization to be incorporated into the discussion of the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) adoption process.



### 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.

- As of July 2024, 31 Sustainable Opportunities, Lifestyles, and Leadership (SOLL) appointments have been completed by a core group of four volunteers and three staff. Staff are currently recruiting Sustainability Ambassador volunteers, including bilingual volunteers to expand the program further in 2025.
- The City Manager and staff launched a city-wide employee equity training focused on understanding and embodying the City's cultural attributes. In conjunction with the training, a survey was developed to gauge employee sense of belonging and identify action steps.



### 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.

- The Sustainable Business Program continues to grow with nearly 30 businesses welcomed in the first half of the year.
- After a successful pilot in 2023, the Sustainable Business Program has been working to launch the induction cooking program in August, 2024.

# Sustainability Plan

## Key Accomplishments and Activities



### ENERGY

Increase energy efficiency and expand the use of renewable energy technologies to improve environmental quality, provide a resilient energy supply, and realize related economic benefits.

- **Climate Action:** The full deployment phase of the advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) installation is going strong, with the project ramping up to 60 percent AMI meters installed between January and July of this year. The project is on track to be 90% completed by November of this year.
- **Climate Action:** Staff has begun mapping locations and types of distributed energy resources within the Longmont Power & Communications (LPC) service territory to give LPC more visibility into local resources that can be leveraged for grid resilience, peak shaving, and future load flexibility.
- **Climate Action:** Efficiency Works added additional incentives in the midyear, including new rebates for electrical panel upgrades, bonuses for rental properties, and bonuses for bundling envelope and heat pump measures. Air conditioner rebates have been discontinued in favor of heat pump incentives.



Track implementation of the Beneficial Electrification Plan at [indicators.  
longmontcolorado.gov/bbe](https://www.longmontcolorado.gov/bbe)



### FOOD SYSTEM

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

- Staff has requested a five-year term Agricultural Resource Specialist/Project Manager II for 2025 to support agriculture projects.



### 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.

- Work to expand the tree canopy continues. As of July 2024, 413 trees have been planted by the City, 2,194 trees have been planted by development projects and 277 trees were sold during the arbor day sale to the community.
- Staff are continuing to develop a native plant propagation program for use in restoring habitat. A new Senior Plant Ecologist has been hired that will assist with the plant propagation program and development of property stewardship plans..

# Sustainability Plan

## Key Accomplishments and Activities



### TRANSPORTATION

Climate Action



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

- **Climate Action:** Staff is currently partnering with RTD to create a new “microtransit” service to fill gaps in transit and create a quick, reliable on-demand service. Implementation of the three-year pilot is expected to start in the fall.
- The Transportation Mobility Plan (TMP) update is currently underway. Two rounds of open houses and surveys have been held with the community and staff expect the plan to be complete by the end of the year. The TMP will expand upon current projects to improve safe and accessible transportation options, including improving the bikeway system and multimodal corridor projects.

Learn more about implementation of transportation solutions at [indicators.longmontcolorado.gov/transportation](https://indicators.longmontcolorado.gov/transportation).



### WASTE

Climate Action



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

- **Climate Action:** The second phase of implementation of the Universal Recycling Ordinance began on June 1, 2024. This phase required recycling collection services for all commercial and multifamily properties. Staff is supporting properties in becoming compliant with the URO through financial assistance and targeted multifamily educational events later this summer.
- Rocky Mountain Elementary school joined Eco-Cycle’s Green Star School program this past Spring. Longs Peak and Trail Ridge Middle schools are planned for this fall.



### WATER

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

- The Stormwater Program continues to promote low impact development strategies for new and existing developments. Currently, there are eight rain gardens/sand filters under construction on new development projects. Staff is also conducting a site assessment and survey of all existing rain gardens within Longmont to learn lessons about what features have been working well and what challenges have arisen. The study is set to conclude this fall with findings to be summarized in a white paper.
- Using a technical assistance grant from the Sonoran Institute, the City received a comprehensive review and recommendations report of the City’s code and design standards. The report included recommendations on how to enhance water efficiency standards. Staff are currently working on the next steps of the implementation, including extensive stakeholder engagement.