

City Council Goals and Community Sustainability

The following are the current goals and priorities of the Boulder City Council.

Community Sustainability

Community Sustainability is a philosophy and framework for decision-making. The sustainability process involves examination of the links between economic, social and environmental issues as they relate to basic service provision and new initiatives. When considered together, resources can be leveraged and make the solutions more cost effective. Other benefits of considering sustainability from this broader perspective are a healthier community, economy and environment.

The efforts included in the Community Sustainability work program are aimed at ensuring that all three areas of sustainability are considered and incorporated in the provision of basic services as well as new initiatives.

The city has a long tradition of being a leader in environmental sustainability. The work over the past few years has broadened the scope of thinking around sustainability. Environmental and economic sustainability are closely linked with social/human capital. All three are interlinked when talking about long-term community sustainability --a sustainable community maintains and enhances all three types of community capital.

Social sustainability has been a major focus of the council and organization, focusing efforts to make our community and city government more welcoming to and inclusive of all residents. It means valuing equity and diversity, meeting the basic needs of residents so they can contribute and benefit from economic vitality and creating opportunities for all residents to participate in civic life. This requires strengthening representation of all people in the decision-making process. The greater the participation in the governance process, the more well-informed policy decisions are and the better long-term outcomes are for meeting city goals. A Social Sustainability Strategic Plan was accepted by council in 2007.

Specific Community Sustainability projects identified in the 2009 Council Retreat include:

- Work to be collaborative leaders on projects that build community and provide opportunities to bring people together.
- Top projects include:
 - Complete revision to Affordable Housing Plan
 - Inclusivity – community events and implement sustainability plan
 - Connections with the Human Relations Commission (HRC)
 - Neighborhood Livability (safety programs, including alcohol, youth and gang)

For more information see the city's website under Community Sustainability.

Blue Ribbon Commission / Economic Vitality / Revenue Stabilization

It is the policy of the city of Boulder to encourage economic vitality and to build a sustainable economic base to support the overall quality of life of its citizens. Economic vitality in the city of Boulder is an effort to build the long term sustainability of the community. The city welcomes and supports business and economic sustainability. Toward this end, the city uses a variety of tools and strategies that will result in increased sales and use tax revenue, retention and expansion of business investment and opportunities in Boulder, a positive business climate, and lead to an improvement in the quality of life and prosperity of the community.

The city established the first Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) to make evaluate the city's fiscal health and to make recommendations on a long-term, balanced and stable revenue strategy that allows the city to meet the varied and dynamic needs of the municipal corporation in the next twenty years. The BRC II was formed in September 2008 to further refine the revenue stabilization recommendations of BRC Phase I and to continue the implementation of the principles and policies proposed by the first BRC. The group will also be completing a review of city expenditures to ensure that public funds are being used effectively and efficiently. *For more information, access the city's website under City Manager's Office; Blue Ribbon Commission / Revenue Stabilization.*

Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan provides the framework for meeting the city's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal. The current goal is the Kyoto Protocol target – that is to reduce emissions to a level seven percent below 1990 levels by 2012. The primary strategies are reducing energy use in buildings and vehicles, switching to renewable energy sources and fuels and reducing vehicle use. The city's role is to provide programs and services, outreach and education, and to partner with Xcel Energy and other entities and organizations to encourage community-wide emissions reductions.

In March 2008, Xcel Energy put into motion its vision to make Boulder the nation's first fully integrated Smart Grid City. The advanced, smart grid system – when fully implemented over the next few years – will provide customers with a portfolio of smart grid technologies designed to provide environmental, financial and operational benefits. The potential benefits of the Smart Grid City include operational savings, customer-choice energy management, better grid reliability, greater energy efficiency and conservation options, increased use of renewable energy sources, and support for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and intelligent-home appliances.

For more information, access the city's website under Environmental Affairs; Energy and Climate. Additional information on Smart Grid can be found at Xcel Energy's web site: www.xcelenergy.com/smartgrid

Community Planning Efforts

The Council has prioritized various community planning projects for completion to achieve predictability and community benefit in development. The following projects are

included, however for a full list; you can access the council's retreat summary under City Council Agendas for February 17, 2009:

- Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance Revisions
- Downtown Projects – Floor Area Ratio (FAR) bonus; design guidelines; downtown plan revision
- Multi-modal corridor study
- Compatible Single Family Redevelopment

The 2009 City Council retreat summary can be accessed at:

<http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/Clerk/Agendas/2009/02-17-09/3b.pdf>

Boulder City Council Council Goals

Blue Ribbon Commission/Economic Vitality

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Climate Action Plan

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