



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT

2024





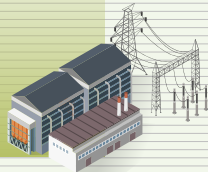
2024 SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT

Now in its third year of implementation, the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan continues to guide our progress toward a more sustainable future. Focused on eight core topic areas, the plan drives action both within county operations and across the broader community. 2024 was a year of transition with a Sustainability Program Administrator joining the county in late August and taking over the management of this plan from our consultant.

In 2024, we built on the momentum of previous years—delivering measurable progress, strengthening partnerships, and expanding initiatives that support long-term environmental, social, and economic resilience.



ENERGY



ADDING SOLAR AND GEOTHERMAL POWER TO COUNTY BUILDINGS



In 2024, Adams County started Investment Grade Audits (IGAs) for most county facilities. These audits resulted in the recommendation of solar arrays at Riverdale Animal Shelter and the Human Services Center as well as geothermal HVAC systems or ground-source heat pumps at Colorado Air and Space Port and the Waymire Dome at Riverdale Regional Park. These geothermal upgrades will allow both facilities to be Net Zero Ready. They will be implemented through our Energy Performance Contract (EPC) over the next two to three years.

The county also began contracting for a large LED project at the Justice Center and converted the shop lights at both Strasburg and Whittier to LED. Converting from florescent to daylight brightness enhanced staff ability to see when performing work in those shops for both the Department of Public Works and Facilities & Fleet Management.

What is Net Zero Ready Building?

A Net Zero Ready building is a highly energy-efficient building designed to require so little energy that adding a renewable energy system, like solar panels, would allow it to produce as much energy as it consumes over a year.

In January 2024, an ordinance was adopted requiring solid waste haulers to obtain a license, and those that provide trash collection services are required to offer curbside recycling collection to existing and new customers.

In addition, Adams County began implementing its Waste Diversion Communications Plan by:

- *Mailing 220 postcard notices and information packets on new licensing and recycling requirements to solid waste hauling businesses.*
- *Launching the Solid Waste Hauler Licensing and Waste Diversion websites.*
- *Recycling print ads placed in the Standard Brighton Blade (5,000 households) and I-70 Scout (8,800 households) newspapers.*
- *Mailing Recycle Adams County stormwater billing inserts to 25,969 residential property owners.*
- *Posting two press releases.*
- *Posting 24 unique social media posts on waste reduction, recycling, and reuse for a total of 26,280 impressions and 700 engagements.*



WASTE

FOCUS ON WASTE DIVERSION



WATER



DEVELOPING OUR WATER MASTER PLAN



Adams County began the development of its Water Master Plan, which received grant funding in 2023.

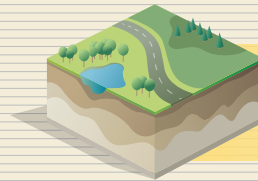
The following actions took place:

- *Project team kick-off meeting*
- *First Technical Advisory Committee meeting*
- *Strasburg Open House*
- *Sent out surveys to approximately 60 water districts*
- *Gathered data from water districts for further analysis*
- *Developed water conservation pages for the website*

The Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts Department (POSCA) has been experimenting with different types of lower water use turf grass at Riverdale Regional Park. In addition, POSCA is working with a local turf farm to develop their own seed mix that uses 30% less water than Kentucky Bluegrass that can be used for future park development.

The Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts Department (POSCA) is partnering with local ditch companies to find more sustainable water sources for our parks, including winter irrigation water for the Golf Course and Rotella Park.

The department also partnered with the Mile High Flood District on improvements to the Brantner Gulch to ensure that storm conveyance through Riverdale Regional Park is safe and sustainable.



LAND

WORKING TOWARD MORE SUSTAINABLE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES



SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



INVESTING IN OUR PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES



The Department of Public Works made significant progress toward their goal of 30% of staff achieving Envision certification. By the end of 2024, six employees had this certification. The staff that have become Envision Sustainability Professionals learned a sustainable, resilient, and equitable approach to all types of infrastructure projects.

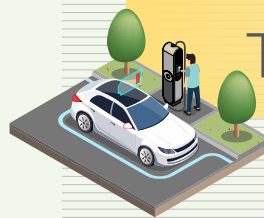
They also participated in 21 events with 1,250 participants. Some of the events staff attended were:

- *The Rain Barrel Workshop*
- *Adams County Bring Your Child to Work Day*
- *Barr Lake Clean-Up*
- *The Adams County Fair*
- *Bike to Work Day*

In 2024, Facilities & Fleet Management installed eight new electric vehicle (EV) chargers for the public and employees, bringing the total to 29. Adams County also received two Charge Ahead Grants to support the installation of new EV chargers for public use. The Charge Ahead Colorado grant program supports electric vehicle adoption in Colorado by offering funding for EV charging to serve communities and EV drivers across the state.

Fleet established a baseline for vehicle total idle time in 2024 to develop an anti-idling policy in the future.

The Adams County Public Works team was awarded the Colorado Energy Office Community Accelerated Mobility Grant. This \$75,000 in funding will support our initiative to enhance short-trip solutions in Adams County.



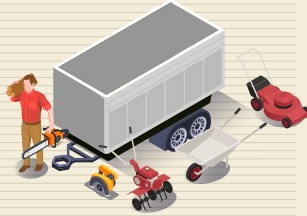
TRANSPORTATION

ADDING TO THE EV INFRASTRUCTURE



HEALTHY AND RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS

SPARC TAKING OWNERSHIP OF PROGRAM



SPARC

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
& RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

In late 2024, all strategies under this goal were re-assigned to the Office of Strategic Partnerships & Resilient Communities' (SPARC) new Community Resilience Coordinator for Neighborhoods.

Due to this transition, the Community Resilience Coordinator used the remaining months in 2024 to better understand community needs, track community partners with support from the Adams County Health Department, and develop a Neighborhood Community Fund program to provide funding to residents and neighborhood groups for community-led neighborhood improvements.

In 2024, the Environmental Programs Division of the Community & Economic Development Department participated in three rulemaking proceedings at the State Air Quality Control Commission advocating for strong air quality regulations that are protective of public health and the environment.

Additionally, Environmental Programs continued to lead the Regional Air Monitoring and Messaging collaborative of local and state governments, researchers, and air quality scientists, which aim to increase public access to air quality monitoring data and information on air quality impacts at the local and regional scales.



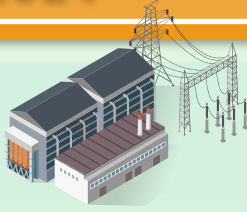
AIR QUALITY

IMPROVING STATE AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



ADAMS COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY IN 2024

48%

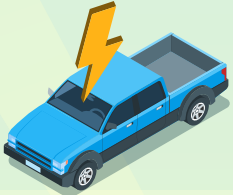


of Adams County's facility electricity use
powered with renewable energy

15%



Met 2030 target of 15%
natural gas use reduction
over 2019 baseline in
Adams County facilities.



2%

EV share of
light-duty vehicles
on the road

100,678 lbs.



of e-waste and
household hazardous
waste collected

2,621



total solar permits issued since 2016



21

stormwater education
activities



2

Charge Ahead Colorado
grants received to
increase EV charging
infrastructure



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO





SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO