

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adams County developed the first countywide sustainability plan in 2015. This plan, [Sustainable Adams County 2030](#), established Adams County's commitment to its vision of being ***the most innovative and inclusive county in America for all families and businesses***. It set the stage for the county to tackle issues such as energy efficiency and renewable energy, waste reduction, water quality and quantity, transportation options, food access, and sustainable neighborhoods while ensuring county operations were leading the way for the community. The 2030 plan called for a reevaluation in 2020 to determine any need for revision, to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of Adams County. The update process began in late 2020 and coincided with Advancing Adams, a coordinated effort to develop the Comprehensive Plan, the Transportation Master Plan, and update the Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) plan.

Since the original plan's publication in 2015, there have been significant advances in the sustainability industry, from renewable energy, to electric vehicles (EVs), to policy changes at the local and state level. This Sustainability Plan update is an essential component to Adams County achieving its vision, mission, and goals and focuses on making the Sustainability Plan more measurable and actionable while aligning with industry best practices, market trends, and State of Colorado climate action goals. Implementation success was also a key consideration in the plan update, and all goals and strategies include clearly defined metrics, clearly defined roles and action steps, and a framework for implementation success is included in the plan.

SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

The plan is organized to align with eight sustainability topics. These topics were chosen based on the original 2030 plan, existing efforts related to sustainability within Adams County's internal purview, and topics important and impactful to the Adams County community. Many topic areas are also broken, by geographic scale, into focus areas representing county operations or the community, with separate considerations for each. At the community scale, unincorporated Adams County is the primary focus, as many of the cities in Adams County have their own sustainability plans and goals. All Sustainability Plan topics incorporated cross-cutting themes of equity, environmental justice, and resilience.

