SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT

2025

ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

Cover Page of the Regional Energy Action Plan Report

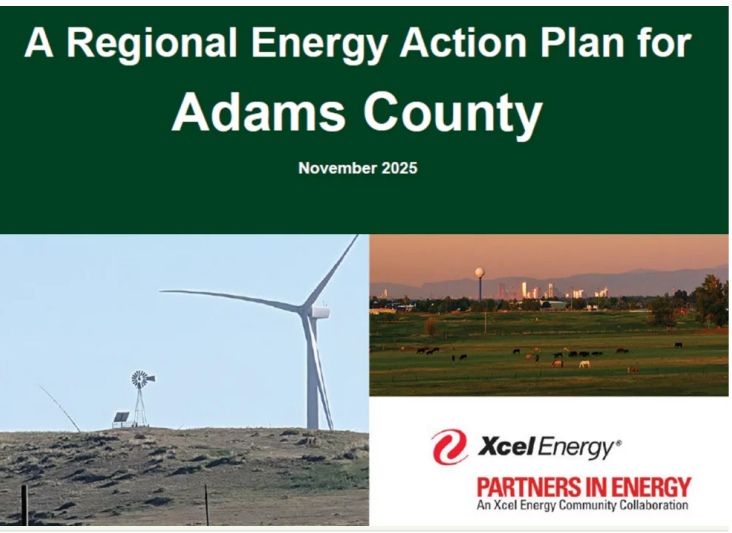
2025 SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT

Now in its fourth year of implementation, the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan continues to guide the county's progress toward a more sustainable and resilient future. Focused on eight core topic areas, the plan provides a framework for advancing sustainability across county operations and throughout the broader community.

In 2025, the county built on the momentum of previous years by strengthening partnerships, advancing key initiatives, and turning long-term sustainability goals into meaningful action. From expanding community engagement and education to advancing renewable energy, electric vehicle infrastructure, waste reduction, and sustainable operations, the county continued to make measurable progress toward the goals outlined in the 2030 Plan.

This year's progress reflects a growing commitment to making sustainability an integral part of how Adams County operates, plans for the future, and serves our communities.

ENERGY



Cover Page of the Regional Energy Action Plan Report

Energy Efficiency Projects at Adams County Buildings

Adams County installed eleven solar powered parking lot lights: three at the FLATROCK Regional Training Center, four at the Strasburg Public Works shop, and four at the Whittier Public Works shop.

We also converted over 7,000 internal lights and 83 exterior lights at the Justice Center to LED. The exterior lights for the District Attorney's Office were also converted to LED.

Facilities & Fleet Management (FFM) also modernized ten elevators at the Justice Center. The new elevators are regenerative and produce power when the elevator is going up, sending power back to the building.

FFM and Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts (POSCA) also led efforts to improve HVAC energy efficiency at several buildings at Riverdale Regional Park and construct a more sustainable South Parks Maintenance Building.

Community Energy Action Plan

In late 2025, Adams County finalized its first Community Energy Action Plan. The plan outlines strategies to help residents and businesses reduce energy use, improve energy efficiency, and increase the share of electricity supplied by renewable energy sources. The plan provides a framework for continued community engagement and action on energy sustainability.

WASTE

Composting Launch

In July 2025, we launched a pilot program for composting in staff kitchens and breakrooms at the Government Center. During the pilot program phase, each of the Government Center's five floors received one compost bin. Now, the building has a total of seven bins and one in the Taza Coffee House for coffee grounds. In the six months of 2025 when this program was active, Adams County staff diverted 2,819 pounds of food waste from the landfill.

Plastic Reduction in Adams County Buildings

At the Justice Center and District Attorney's Office, FFM replaced existing water fountains with new water-filling stations equipped with built-in bottle fillers. These stations are estimated to eliminate the need for approximately 15,000 single-use plastic bottles each year, further reducing waste generated at county facilities.



Compost Bin in Adams County Kitchen

WATER



Adams County Justice Center Building

Water Efficiency in Adams County Buildings

Adams County installed water-saving fixtures in 117 bathrooms at the Justice Center. The new fixtures reduce water consumption in toilets from 3.5 gallons per flush to 1.25, while urinal water use is reduced from one gallon per flush to 0.5. Water-saving fixtures were also installed in all restrooms at the District Attorney's Office.

Water Master Plan

Adams County continued to gather community feedback for its Water Master Plan, hosting three community open houses and one workshop session in 2025. The Water Master Plan seeks to better understand water supply challenges in Adams County and define the county's role in planning and facilitating solutions that support a resilient water future for the region.

Riverdale Dunes Irrigation Project

Design for the Riverdale Dunes Irrigation Project began in 2023 to replace the golf course's 40-year-old irrigation system. Construction began in April 2024 and included safety improvements to holes 11 and 12. Completed in 2025, the new system improves water and energy efficiency, saving an estimated 200,000–400,000 gallons of water per night. Automated controls adjust watering based on actual needs, while new isolation valves allow for more precise water management to help keep the course operational. The upgraded system also eliminates the need for staff to hand-water, freeing up time for other maintenance tasks.

Riverdale Animal Shelter Irrigation Expansion

The Riverdale Animal Shelter Irrigation Expansion Project improved irrigation efficiency by expanding the existing system, installing a pump system, and transitioning from potable water stored in the existing tank to non-potable water from the Lower Clear Creek Ditch. Previously, irrigation competed with the shelter for available water. The project provides a more sustainable water source for parkland surrounding the facility and adjacent agricultural land while reducing reliance on potable water.

LAND



Trail at Twin Lakes Park

Trail and Riparian Corridor Restoration

The POSCA Department collaborated with Community Safety & Well-Being (CSWB) and the County Manager's Office to support the restoration of trails and riparian corridors. These efforts help maintain the county's natural areas and trail systems while supporting the long-term stewardship of local landscapes.

Clear Creek Trail Land Acquisition

POSCA finalized a land acquisition for property occupied by the Clear Creek Trail, helping secure the land underlying this important trail corridor and supporting its continued use as part of the county's trail network.

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



What is a dry outfall?
A stormwater drainage point where water from a drainage system eventually flows into a ditch, stream, river, or other receiving area.

Tree Amenity Program

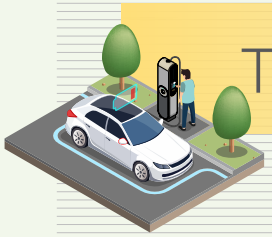
In 2025, Public Works continued to lead the Tree Amenity Program, providing trees for residents across Adams County. A total of 100 trees were planted, including 40 in Strasburg. Additionally, 212 aging or declining trees were removed to support the health and safety of county landscapes.

Inspections

Public Works also continued to make progress toward its goal of inspecting dry outfalls for illicit discharges every five years in urbanized areas. In 2025, the team inspected 76 dry outfalls, bringing the three-year inspection rate to 88%.

Community Outreach

The Public Works team continued to lead community outreach efforts, attending 18 events and engaging with more than 3,000 participants throughout the year.



TRANSPORTATION

EVs and EV Chargers at Adams County Buildings

In 2025, FFM added six electric vehicles to the county fleet, bringing the total number of electric vehicles to 15.

The county also expanded its electric vehicle charging infrastructure by installing 12 new EV chargers. Three chargers were installed at the Government Center, three at the District Attorney's Office, three at the Justice Center, and three at the new South Parks building.

EV Ride and Drives

In April 2025, as part of Adams County's first Earth Day Celebration, Drive Clean Colorado hosted an electric vehicle ride and drive for community members at Bison Ridge Recreation Center in Commerce City. Community members had the opportunity to learn about EVs and experience them firsthand through test drives.

In June 2025, Adams County hosted its first EV ride and drive for county staff at the Government Center, in partnership with Drive Clean Colorado. Participants attended a brief presentation on electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, and available rebates before test driving three different electric vehicles on a 10-minute route near the building.



Colorado National Speedway Official Waving the "Go" Flag for Skills Test

On Nov. 1, 2025, Adams County joined four other local governments in hosting an electric vehicle skills challenge at Colorado National Speedway. Participants had the opportunity to put their EV driving skills to the test on a designated course around the track, with prizes awarded to top performers.

HEALTHY AND RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS

SPARC
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The new Community Resilience Coordinator was busy during 2025. She started the Neighborhood Community Fund program to provide small grants to neighborhood groups.

This fund provides resources for residents and community groups in Adams County to create projects, events, and initiatives that strengthen neighborhoods, foster connections, and address community needs. This program is designed to support local ideas and empower neighbors to work together to make a positive impact. In 2025, the following projects were funded:

- *Annual Picnic and Parade*
- *Annual Celebration*
- *Block Party*
- *Community Library Initiative*
- *Community Food Markets*
- *Dead Tree Replacement*
- *Ice Cream Social*
- *Legal Consultation*
- *Meal Assembly and Distribution*
- *Neighborhood Food Drive*
- *Website Creation, Training, and Maintenance*



AIR QUALITY

Community Air Quality Monitoring and Evaluation

Adams County is leveraging the Public Works Fuel Impact Enterprise Award through the Colorado Department of Transportation to address traffic-related air pollution and public health impacts to those most vulnerable.

The project will place three ultrafine particle air monitors near the I-270 corridor project and at a childcare center also located within 500 feet of a major arterial. Ultrafine particle monitoring data will provide information on particle size distribution of PM-2.5 pollution. Ultrafine particles, defined as particulate matter that is 0.1 microns or smaller in size, are significantly more harmful to public health.

Adams County will also place four black carbon air sensors near major arterials (I-270, Highway 85, and I-25) at locations occupied by sensitive populations such as young children. Black carbon monitoring data will provide the team with insights into the composition of combustion-related particulate matter. Monitoring black carbon is critical because it contributes to both climate change and public health impacts, especially in urban areas and along transportation corridors.



Neighborhood in Strasburg in eastern Adams County

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION



Gas-powered lawn mowers to be recycled and replaced with electric mowers at Adams County Earth Day event

Earth Day Celebration

On April 26, 2025, Adams County hosted its inaugural Earth Day Celebration at Bison Ridge Recreation Center in Commerce City. The event brought together Adams County and the cities of Westminster, Northglenn, Thornton, Brighton, and Commerce City to connect community members with local organizations, resources, and opportunities to take action for a more sustainable future.

The celebration featured more than 15 local environmental organizations and vendors, electric lawn equipment vouchers, food trucks, an electric vehicle ride and drive, an electric garbage truck, and demonstrations of electric landscaping equipment.

The event engaged more than 250 community members and collected more than 150 gas-powered lawn equipment items for recycling and replacement with cleaner electric alternatives.

Earth Day Participating Vendors

- *Arapahoe County Weatherization*
- *Colorado Green Business Network*
- *Drive Clean Colorado*
- *Huntington Bank*
- *Moms Clean Air Force*
- *Ocean First Institute*
- *Regional Air Quality Council*
- *Republic Services*
- *Solar United Neighbors*
- *SunShare Community Solar Garden*
- *United Power*
- *Veregy*
- *Xcel Energy*

SUSTAINABILITY GRANT FUNDING



Drilling for Geothermal Project at the Colorado Air and Space Port

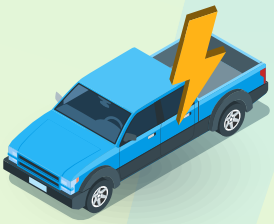
In 2025, Adams County was awarded these grants related to sustainability:

- ***A Jurisdictional Subaward ($1.5 million), funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), provides funding for building decarbonization work, including permitting, policy, and planning updates.***
- ***The IMPACT Accelerator Grant ($2.04 million), funded by the U.S. EPA and administered by the Colorado Energy Office, is a combined effort to advance clean energy policy and implement sustainable transportation solutions. Projects include:***
  - ***Policy: Update and propose formal adoption in land use code to include utility-scale deep geothermal and wind energy land uses alongside modernizing existing codes for solar and battery storage.***
  - ***Project 1: RTD Neighborhood EcoPasses for Maiker residents***
  - ***Project 2: E-Bike incentives for Adams County residents***
  - ***Project 3: Installation of solar-powered eHubs***
  - ***A Clean Fleet Vehicle and Technology (CFVT) Grant ($262,013), funded by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, will allow Adams County Fleet to purchase nine electric trucks.***
- ***The Colorado Geothermal Energy Grant Program ($243,000), funded by the Colorado Energy Office, will provide two grants for geothermal systems at the Colorado Air and Space Port and the Waymire Dome.***

ADAMS COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY IN 2025

1st

joint Earth Day Celebration in partnership with five municipalities



6

new electric vehicles in the Adams County fleet



54%

of facility energy supplied by renewable electricity

$4 MILLION



In sustainability grant funding awarded

100%

of private haulers in unincorporated Adams County provide recycling





18

stormwater education activities



12

new EV chargers at Adams County buildings

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