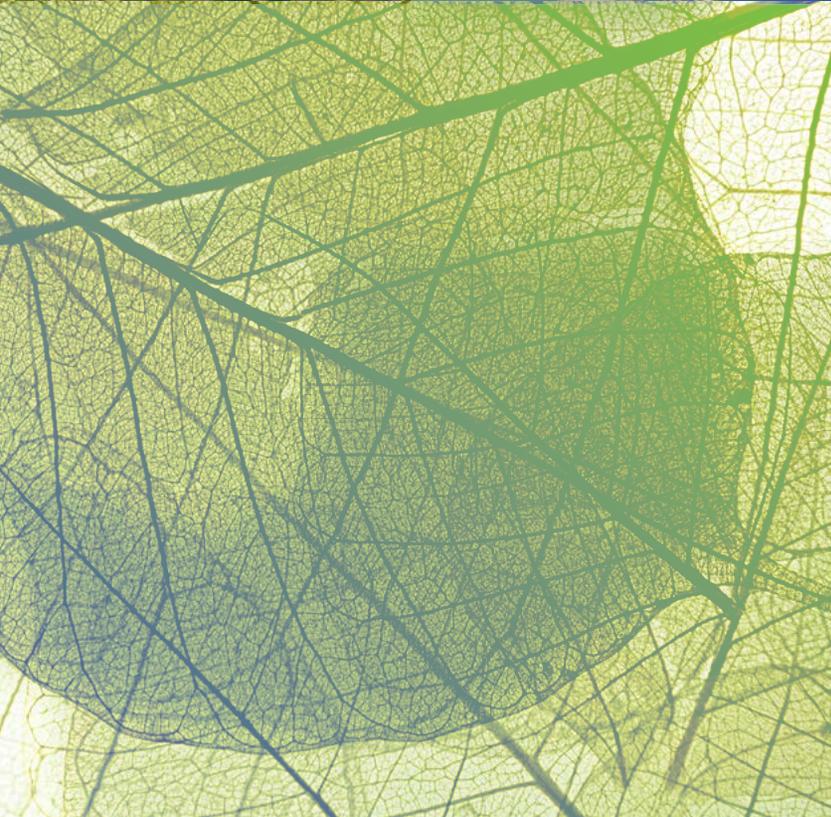




CITY OF LAKEWOOD

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2015



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RESOLUTION OF CITY OF LAKEWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION

On April 1, 2015, the Lakewood Planning Commission held a public hearing at the Lakewood Civic Center, 480 South Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado, to consider the City of Lakewood Sustainability Plan.

Motion was made by COMMISSIONER MESCH and seconded by COMMISSIONER MILLER to ADOPT AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL of the City of Lakewood Sustainability Plan by City Council. The roll having been called, the vote of the Lakewood Planning Commission was as follows:

Johann Cohn	Aye
Stuart Crawford	Aye
Robert Eadie	Aye
Henry Hollender	Aye
Julia Kirkpatrick	Absent
Carrie Mesch	Aye
Dale Miller	Aye

FINDINGS OF FACT AND ACTION

The Planning Commission finds that:

- A. The City of Lakewood has prepared a document entitled the City of Lakewood Sustainability Plan.
- B. The Sustainability Plan guides the City in efforts to achieve sustainability through goals and targets that ensure we balance environmental, social, and economic well-being.
- C. Six work groups were formed to develop the Sustainability Plan's goals, targets, objectives, and strategies. Work groups consisted of Lakewood residents, City staff, community stakeholders, and industry experts. In total, 24 work group meetings were attended by 87 work group participants.
- D. Four joint study sessions were held with the Planning Commission and City Council to update the City Council on the status of the development of the Sustainability Plan.
- E. Eight open houses were held to gain input from residents. In addition, drafts of the Sustainability Plan were placed on the website and the opportunity for the public to comment on the draft Sustainability Plan was made available on the website.
- F. The Sustainability Plan complements and expands upon the goals of the draft City of Lakewood Comprehensive Plan, *Moving Forward Together: 2025* through measurable targets and specific strategies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Lakewood Planning Commission on April 1, 2015:

- 1. The City of Lakewood Sustainability Plan, dated March 24, 2015, is hereby ADOPTED AND RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL to the Lakewood City Council.

Julia Kirkpatrick
Julia Kirkpatrick, Chair

Henry Hollender
Henry Hollender, Secretary of the Planning Commission

CERTIFICATION

I, WALTER M. JAUCH, Secretary to the City of Lakewood Planning Commission, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Lakewood Planning Commission at a Public Hearing held in Lakewood, Colorado, on the 1st day of April, 2015, as the same appears in the minutes of said meeting.

April 1, 2015
Date approved

Walter M. Jauch
Walter M. Jauch, Secretary to the Planning Commission

2015-39

A RESOLUTION

APPROVING THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

WHEREAS, the City Council has the authority to review and approve the City of Lakewood Sustainability Plan (the "Sustainability Plan") as adopted by the Lakewood Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, six (6) work groups, which consisted of Lakewood residents, City staff, community stakeholders and industry experts, were formed to develop goals, targets, objectives and strategies for the Sustainability Plan; and

WHEREAS, a total of twenty-four (24) work group meetings were held and attended by eighty-seven (87) work group participants; and

WHEREAS, eight (8) open houses were held to gain input from residents; and

WHEREAS, drafts of the Sustainability Plan were placed on the City's website, and the opportunity for the public to comment on drafts of the Sustainability Plan was also made available on the City's website; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Plan complements and expands upon the goals of the Lakewood Comprehensive Plan, *Lakewood 2025: Moving Forward Together*, through measurable targets and specific strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Lakewood Planning Commission unanimously adopted the Sustainability Plan at a public hearing held on April 1, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Colorado, that:

SECTION 1. The City of Lakewood Sustainability Plan as presented to City Council and adopted by Planning Commission on April 1, 2015, is hereby APPROVED.

SECTION 2. The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to affix their signatures to the Sustainability Plan as evidence of the approval and adoption of the same by the City Council.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED by a vote of 8 for and 2 against at a regular meeting of the City Council on May 11, 2015, at 7 o'clock p.m. at Lakewood City Hall, 480 South Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado.

ATTEST:



Margy Greer
Margy Greer, City Clerk

Bob Murphy
Bob Murphy, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Tim Cox
Tim Cox, City Attorney

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lakewood Sustainability Plan would not have been possible without the support and dedication of City of Lakewood leadership, staff, and the Sustainability Plan Work Group Participants.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Bob Murphy
Ramey Johnson
Karen Kellen
Scott Koop
Cindy Baroway
Shakti
Pete Roybal
David Wiechman
Adam Paul
Karen Harrison
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PLANNING COMMISSION

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Lakewood's Natural Systems and Regional Parks, Page 131

GRID Alternatives: *Renewable Energy for Everyone, Page 37*

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Rob Smith, *Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Institute:*

Microfinancing, Page 60

SustainAbility: *Learning from Neighboring Communities, Page 89*

Thomas Slabe, *Eiber Neighborhood:*

Garden for Wildlife: A Sustainable Thing to Do in the City, Page 129

Tom Quinn, *City Council, Ward 5:*

Foreword: Climate Change and the City of Lakewood, Page 16

DESIGN ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ligature Creative Group

www.ligcreative.com

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MAY 28, 2015



I AM PROUD TO INTRODUCE THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD'S FIRST SUSTAINABILITY PLAN. This is a remarkable milestone that will ensure Lakewood's leadership and excellence in sustainability. Sustainability is a subject we must all care about because it helps us consider the impacts of our decisions and behaviors so that we can achieve a balance among the natural environment, social values, and the economy.

This document offers ambitious goals, detailed strategies, and concrete measurements aimed at advancing a culture of permanence where community leaders, businesses, and residents work together to ensure that Lakewood remains a healthy and vibrant place for generations to come.

Over the past several years, the City of Lakewood has taken large strides toward sustainability within our municipal operations and throughout our community from expanding opportunities for solar access to enabling residents to lead sustainable initiatives within their own neighborhoods. It is evident that our community cares deeply about sustainability.

I invite you to view this plan as a living document, reflecting our community's vision and accelerating our progress toward sustainability. Please delve into this plan to see where we need to head in the coming years.

This plan wouldn't be possible without our community. Thank you to the hundreds of residents, businesses and community partners who generously donated their time, knowledge, and passion to create a sustainable vision and strategy for Lakewood. Now that our goals are before us, it is time for each and every one of us to do our part to turn this vision into a reality and ensure that Lakewood remains a great city for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Bob Murphy
Mayor

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WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

SUSTAINABILITY MEANS creating balance among the environment, the economy, and society to ensure that practices and decisions do not compromise the quality of life for future generations. Sustainability is not an end goal, but an approach that recognizes the interplay between natural, economic, and social interests. As our population and economy continue to grow, we depend on the resources and services that our surrounding ecosystems provide. Sustainable development requires an understanding of these systems and how we can survive and thrive within the patterns and cycles of the natural world.

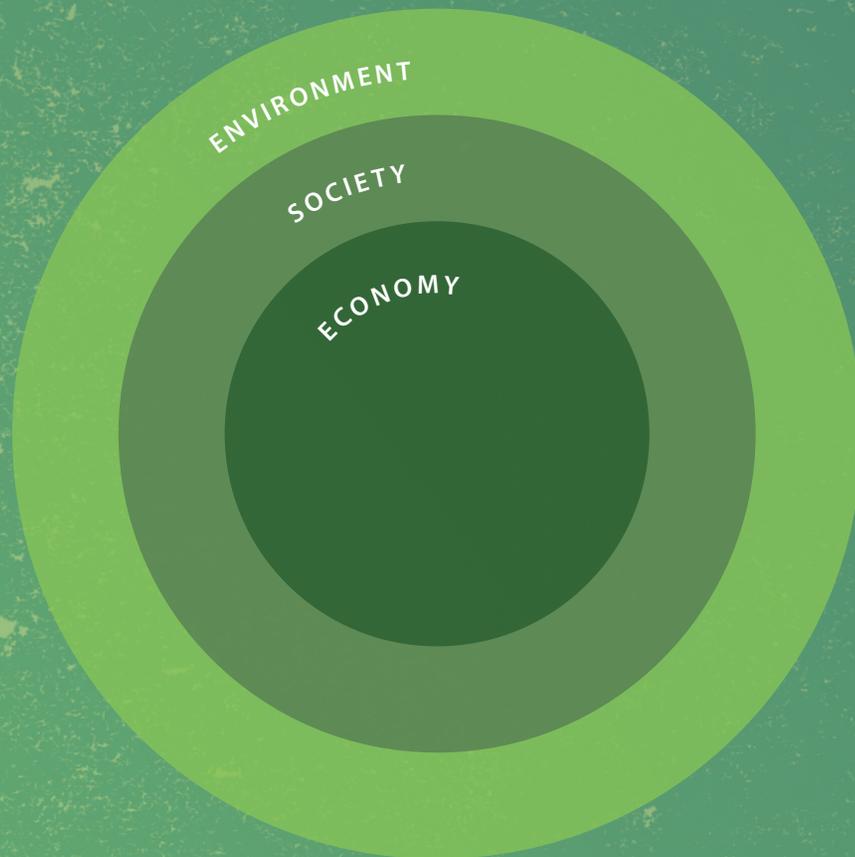
In Lakewood, the term sustainability made its first appearance in the 2003 Comprehensive Plan, which included a chapter on Community Sustainability. Since then, support for sustainability has grown throughout the Lakewood community and City organization:

- 2003 – City of Lakewood Comprehensive Plan included a chapter on Community Sustainability.
- 2007 – Employees from each City department formed the Employees Committee for a Sustainable Lakewood (ECSL) to provide education and outreach and launch employee-led sustainability events and initiatives.
- 2008 – The ECSL hosted the first annual Sustainability Awards ceremony to recognize community, youth, and employee initiatives.
- 2009 – City Council approved funding for the ECSL.
- 2010 – The sustainability coordinator position was funded through federal grants and placed in the City Manager’s Office.
- 2012 – The Sustainability Division was formed and relocated to the Planning Department.
- 2013 – The Community Sustainability Framework was endorsed by City Council.
- 2013 – The Sustainability Plan process began, gathering community input through open houses, work groups, and the City website.

ILLUSTRATING THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABILITY

The concept of sustainability can be illustrated through two different models. First, the “nested model” illustrates our dependence on a healthy environment to support social well-being, which in turn enables us to sustain a robust economy. In other words, without a healthy environment, a community would be unable to achieve social well-being and economic success.

Second, the “overlapping-circles model” illustrates the importance of considering equally the environmental, social, and economic impacts of our decisions and behaviors. It is the goal of sustainability to achieve balance between the natural environment, social values, and the economy.



WHAT IS A SUSTAINABILITY PLAN?

COMMUNITIES TODAY FACE A WIDE VARIETY OF CHALLENGES that affect their ability to move toward a vibrant future, including natural resource availability, pollution, social isolation, public health concerns, and climate change. Local governments are uniquely suited to address these complex challenges through sustainability planning, which incorporates strategic assessments of challenges, development of creative solutions, and tracking progress toward community goals. Successful implementation of sustainability plans support the long-term resilience of communities.

The first step in developing the City of Lakewood Sustainability Plan was the formation of the Sustainability Division in 2012 and subsequent development of the Community Sustainability Framework, which states Lakewood's commitment to creating a culture of permanence where community leaders, businesses, and residents recognize that the vibrancy of our social, economic, and environmental systems are interdependent and work together to ensure that Lakewood and the surrounding region remains a healthy and vibrant place for generations to come.

The formal planning process for the City of Lakewood Sustainability Plan began in the fall of 2013 with a series of community open houses and was developed over the past year and a half through a series of working groups consisting of residents, City staff, community

partners, and industry experts. In total, the planning process included 33 meetings and engaged more than 400 residents, representing more than 450 hours of community support and dedication. The City of Lakewood is grateful to all the residents and stakeholders who contributed to the development of this plan.

The planning process engaged more than 400 residents, representing more than 450 hours of community support and dedication.

HOW DO WE READ IT?

The City of Lakewood Sustainability Plan was developed to improve the social, environmental, and economic conditions of the Lakewood community through seven chapters that address topics identified through community outreach and best practices from

sustainability leaders and organizations around the country.

The first chapter, **Climate Change and Adaptation**, focuses on reducing our greenhouse gas emissions; protecting and preserving our social, economic, and environmental well-being;

and preparing for future challenges associated with a changing climate, thereby laying the foundation for the six subsequent chapters in the plan, which include the following topics:

- **Energy, Water, and the Built Environment**
- **Sustainable Economy**



- **Zero Waste**
- **Community Cohesion and Public Health**
- **Natural Systems**
- **Transportation**

Each chapter is organized around **Goals, Targets, Objectives, Indicators**, and three types of **Strategies**.

- **Goals** reflect the ultimate desired state or condition of the community related to each chapter.
- **Targets** are measurable results that indicate whether or not we are achieving our goals.
- **Objectives** are clear desired results intended to move the community toward the broader goal.
- **Indicators** are measurable pieces of information that demonstrate

whether or not we are trending in the right direction.

- **Strategies** are actions that our community can take to achieve our goals, targets, and objectives. There are three types of strategies included in the Sustainability Plan:
 - **Implementation Strategies** outline a series of action steps, including assessments, policies, operational improvements, infrastructure projects, and programs and services. The benefits and feasibility of each implementation strategy are assessed through two tables located at the end of each chapter that serve to inform decision making and prioritization.
 - **Supporting Strategies** are actions that are common to each chapter and support multiple implementation strategies with minor variations depending on the topic. The four types of supporting strategies found throughout the plan include

collaboration, education and promotion, tools and technology, and research and tracking.

- **Crosscutting Strategies** leverage the cross-benefits of multiple implementation strategies. There are three crosscutting strategies in the Sustainability Plan: **the Sustainable Energy and Water Resource Center, the Sustainable Business Hub, and the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program**. These strategies are introduced as implementation strategies in the Energy, Water, and Built Environment; Sustainable Economy; and Community Cohesion and Public Health chapters, but are incorporated into each of the plan's goals in order to enhance the scope and effectiveness of implementation.

Supplemental content providing data, illustrating concepts, and highlighting community and City initiatives are found throughout the plan.

HOW DOES IT INTERACT WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

The Sustainability Plan expands and complements the existing communitywide vision and sustainability efforts of the Lakewood community. It will build upon the recommendations contained in the City of Lakewood Comprehensive Plan, Lakewood 2025: Moving Forward Together, which was adopted in 2015 as a guide for physical and economic development in the city over the next 10 to 20 years. Distinct from the Comprehensive Plan, the Sustainability Plan will set measurable targets that will be tracked and updated on a regular basis. In this regard, the Sustainability Plan will be a flexible document that will be regularly adjusted based on new data and information.

The Sustainability Plan will set measurable targets that will be tracked and updated on a regular basis. In this regard, the Sustainability Plan will be a flexible document that will be regularly adjusted based on new data and information.

HOW DO WE USE IT?

The Sustainability Plan is intended to be an interactive document that City leadership, staff, and the community can use to launch, expand, and track sustainability initiatives. The Sustainability Plan can be applied in several ways.

- Readers can use it to better understand sustainability topics through chapter introductions and supplemental information scattered throughout the document.
- City leadership can use it to prioritize implementation and resource allocation by reviewing strategies and their associated costs and benefits.
- City staff can use it to prioritize and guide implementation by referring to strategy details.

- Community members, City staff, and City leadership can track the City's progress through measurable targets and indicators.

The Sustainability Plan does not include a specific implementation schedule because many of the strategies require multiple steps of implementation, each of which may be ongoing, short-term or long-term in nature. The implementation strategies contained in the plan should be viewed as a menu of opportunities to achieve the community's goals and targets. Implementation of each strategy is dependent upon resource availability, windows of opportunity, and community support.

Strategy Benefits and Strategy Feasibility tables included in each chapter summarize the potential environmental, economic, and social benefits of each strategy as well as implementation costs, potential for payback or revenue, and communitywide financial impacts for each strategy. This analysis provides residents, stakeholders, City staff, and elected officials with an overall summary of the range of benefits and cost associated with each strategy and can be used to assist in identifying funding and implementation priorities. ■

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN STRUCTURE



GOAL



TARGETS



OBJECTIVES

- INDICATORS



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

CROSSCUTTING STRATEGIES



SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- CONCEPTS
- SPOTLIGHTS
- DATA

DEFINITIONS

- **GOAL:** desired state or condition of the community
- **TARGET:** Numeric representation of the goal
- **OBJECTIVE:** Clear desired results intended to move the community toward the goal
- **INDICATOR:** Measurable pieces of information that demonstrate trends
- **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:** Series of action steps that help the community achieve the goal
- **SUPPORTING STRATEGY:** Common actions that support multiple implementation strategies and achievement of the goal
- **CROSSCUTTING STRATEGY:** Implementation Strategies that are incorporated into multiple chapters to enhance implementation
- **CONCEPT:** Explanation of complex topics
- **SPOTLIGHT:** Features sustainability initiatives by a community member or City employee
- **DATA:** Charts and graphics that illustrate information and statistics

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD

BY TOM QUINN, CITY COUNCIL, WARD 5

OF ALL THE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES facing Lakewood and other Colorado cities, climate change stands out as a truly global issue with negative impacts on environmental, economic, and social systems locally and throughout the world. There is now overwhelming scientific evidence of climate warming, most recently noted in the 2013 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which concludes, “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, sea level has risen, and the concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased.”

Most recently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center concluded 2014 was the warmest year on record across global land and ocean surfaces since record keeping began in 1880. Furthermore, according to NOAA, the 10 warmest years have all occurred since 1997.

Since the onset of the Industrial Revolution in the 1750s, local atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have all dramatically increased. According to the IPCC, levels of carbon dioxide currently are higher than at any time in at least the past 800,000 years. There is widespread scientific consensus that increases in emissions by human activity are primarily the result of burning fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, and gasoline and industrial agriculture and large-scale land use changes; and that the increase in greenhouse gases is the dominant cause of global climate change.

In Colorado, statewide average temperatures have increased 2 F over

the past 30 years. The consequences of this warming are already being felt in communities on the Front Range. Extreme heat has increased, with one study showing that in the first 14 years of this century, the City of Fort Collins averaged nearly three times the number of 95 F days per year as in the last four decades of 20th century. There has also been an increase in the frequency and severity of drought

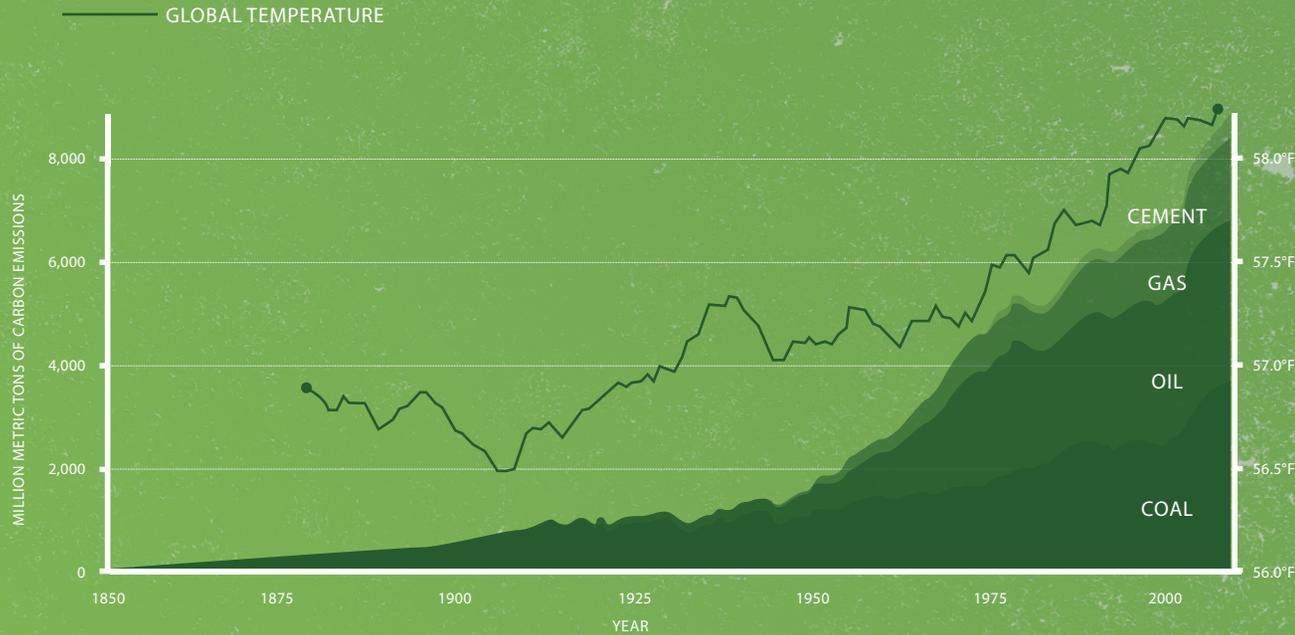
Lakewood and other Colorado communities can play a vital role in showing emissions can be reduced in ways that lead to consumer savings, economic prosperity, and a healthy living environment.

and wildfires. In Colorado, the three wildfires causing the greatest amount of property damage have all occurred since 2010. Moreover, previously burned areas of the state have experienced more extreme flash flooding, including some of the flooding in Colorado’s costliest natural disaster, the September 2013 floods that caused \$3 billion in damages. Higher temperatures and drought also have allowed for the spread of bark beetle outbreaks resulting in millions of dollars in

damages to forests and increasing the risk of wildfires. These developments are all consistent with scientific projections of the impacts of climate change, and these impacts are expected to become more severe as the climate continues to warm. This is particularly true if future emissions of greenhouse gases continue to increase.

The risks to Colorado’s economy posed by climate change are potentially severe and will likely reverberate throughout the state. These include reduced snowpack, affecting water supply and the state’s thriving tourism industry as well as agricultural economics. Extreme heat events and degraded air quality from wildfires may result in increased health care costs and a lower quality of life.

TEMPERATURE AND CARBON EMISSION TRENDS



Climate related risks cut across all governmental boundaries. The world's cities are the cornerstone of effective collaborative action to address climate change. Lakewood can set an example by acting decisively to both mitigate the impacts of climate change on its residents and plan for climate adaptation. Lakewood and other Colorado communities can play a vital role in reducing emissions in ways that lead to consumer savings, economic prosperity, and a healthy living environment.

Efforts to slow climate change are critical to avoid its most severe impacts. If climate change is not sufficiently mitigated, the best efforts of state and local governments to prepare for its effects may be completely ineffective. Along Colorado's Front Range, the consequences of climate change would be far greater from unchecked emissions of greenhouse gases.

The strategies and actions recommended in this plan to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions can only be achieved in Lakewood with strong public support from an engaged citizenry and determined civic commitment from elected leaders and the business community. While some of the recommended actions will require the investment of financial resources, they will ultimately lead to cost savings and will be small in comparison to the cost of inaction on climate change. It is possible to find common ground in certain unifying principles including the desire of all residents to live in a healthy and resilient community with a prosperous economy in which we conserve and make more efficient use of energy, water, and other natural resources, and leave to future generations a legacy of stewardship.

This Sustainability Plan outlines realistic, measurable goals and targets with strategies for reducing Lakewood's greenhouse gas emissions accomplished through collaborative pathways, which allow us to work together to build a thriving, prosperous, and resilient community. ■