



WESTMINSTER



SUSTAINABLE
WESTMINSTER

Sustainability Plan Progress Report 2024

City Vision

Westminster is a city of beautiful, safe, well-maintained neighborhoods and destinations with a vibrant, diverse economy, rich and resilient environment, and a strong sense of community and belonging.

Context

In 2018, the City of Westminster began designing its first **Sustainability Plan** to provide a guiding framework for City Staff, residents, businesses, and community partners. Completed in 2021, the Plan focuses on seven areas (described in the following pages) with corresponding targets and actions for each area.

Progress Report Purpose

This progress report describes the exceptional sustainability services the City provided to achieve the Sustainability Plan's strategies and goals and to reduce utility bills for residents and businesses, increase residents' access to City resources, bolster our natural resources, and spur innovative internal City practices. This report highlights the actions accomplished by the City and the community in 2024.

To learn more about sustainability at the City of Westminster and ways you can get involved, visit our [website](#) or reach out at sustainability@westminsterco.gov.



Energy

TARGETS

Strive for 80% renewable electricity for primary municipal facilities and operations by 2030.

100%

As of 2024, all of the City’s occupied buildings (which excludes industrial buildings like water treatment plants) source **100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources** through subscriptions to a local solar garden. In doing so, the City **saved \$186,136** and purchased 9.5 Megawatts (MW) of solar energy.

Pursue opportunities to decrease energy utility costs for residents.

300+

Through innovative partnerships with Xcel Energy and Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC), the City supported over **300 residents** to increase the comfort of their homes and reduce their utility costs. The City provided **9 households** with energy upgrades retrofits administered by EOC. Through **\$21,000 in funding**, the City unlocked an additional **\$71,000 in Xcel rebate funding** for these homes. Similarly, through making free the cost of Xcel’s Home Energy Squad program, over **107 homes** received detailed energy audits—2x more than last year! Also, **400 households** received free LED lighting upgrade kits. In total, the City leveraged **\$35,000** to deliver over **\$175,000 in energy saving services** to residents.

Pursue 100% renewable electricity communitywide by 2040.

49

In partnership with Solar United Neighbors, a national solar nonprofit, the City hosted its fourth solar cooperative group buy. As a result, **49 residents** installed solar on their homes totaling **329.67 KW** of new capacity. As well, **five residents** installed a battery storage system, a combined **60.50 KW** installed. Participants saw a **~25% savings** compared to the average price for solar installation.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Get a **FREE Home Energy Squad Plus assessment** from Xcel Energy that can reduce your utility bills and increase home comfort. This is a **\$600 VALUE PROVIDED FOR FREE**. Over 600 of your neighbors have already participated. [Sign-up here](#) with the promo code **WESTMINSTER2025**.

You may be eligible for **financial incentives and rebates** for home energy efficiency enhancements. [Learn more here!](#)

Throughout 2025, Westminster will be hosting a **Solar Co-Op!** You can learn more and [sign-up here!](#)



Economic Resilience

TARGET

Improve social responsibility and sustainable business practices in the community.

300

The **SAGE (Save. Act. Grow. Earn.) Sustainable Business Program** has assisted roughly **300 local businesses** (about **10% of Westminster businesses**) on sustainability initiatives since April 2021. In 2024 alone, SAGE provided high-value financial and technical assistance to **15 businesses**. **\$32,000 in grants** were awarded for projects that ranged from solar window tinting and energy efficiency upgrades to compost services and community gardens.

15

The City continued its **Building Energy Upgrade Program (BE UP)** which provides free support to owners and managers of buildings sized 50,000 sq. ft+ to meet the requirements of the state's Building Performance Standards. In 2024, the City supported **15 local buildings** to earn compliance and save money through energy efficiency upgrades.

22

Downtown Westminster welcomed new businesses including MADabolic, Vatos Tacos, and The Alley Tea. In 2024, Downtown was home to **22 businesses**.

DID YOU KNOW?



SAGE gives out a **Sustainable Business of the Year award!** The 2024 recipient was **Leanna Organics** for their commitment to zero-waste packaging and eco-friendly operations. Past winners include Growing Home, GQue BBQ, Vestar: The Orchard Town Center, and Premier Members Credit Union.

If you own a business, reach out for a **free business opportunity assessment** by emailing SAGE@westminsterco.gov.



Health & Wellness

TARGETS

Collaborate to improve regional air quality.

200+

Working with **Drive Clean Colorado**, the City hosted its **fourth showcase of electric vehicles** ranging from sedans to trucks at the Orchard Town Center's Farmers Market. Over **200 residents** learned about the benefits of electric vehicles.

3&5

Through a partnership the **Colorado Local Entity Air Network (CLEAN)**, an air quality sensor was installed at Irving Street Library to monitor and inform residents of Westminster's local air quality. In addition, **three residents** received electric lawn mowers, and **five residents** received electric leaf blowers.

Increase community resilience and neighborhood connections for improved health and wellness outcomes.



In October, the City unveiled a temporary **Downtown dog park** comprised of an area for large dogs and a separate area for small dogs. This off-leash dog park may be moved to its permanent home within **Downtown Westminster's East Park** in the future.

6

In addition, Downtown has **6 LEED-certified buildings** — the Alamo Drafthouse, the Origin Hotel, Aspire Apartments, Ascent Apartments, Downtown Westminster Residences, and Eaton Street Apartments. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is an internationally recognized green building certification.

DID YOU KNOW?



Using a **gas-powered leaf blower for one hour** creates the same ozone emissions as **driving a standard car for 1,100 miles!**

Colorado residents have access to a **30% point-of-sale discount** on electric lawn equipment at participating retailers like Home Depot, Ace Hardware, and Lowes. This state tax credit extends to new electric lawn mowers, leaf blowers, trimmers, and snowblowers. [Learn more here.](#)



Housing & Neighborhoods

TARGET

Increase opportunities for creating community and neighborhood engagement.

7

The **Neighborhood Sustainability Program** connected **seven HOAs and organized neighborhood groups** to City and partner services. Staff supported residents to identify projects to improve neighborhood quality and reduce costs and resource use. **Two neighborhoods** received a **\$2,000 grant respectively** to install solar bollard lights and complete landscape conservation measures.

23

In 2024, **23 new income-aligned units** were certified in multi-dwelling buildings.

70,000

The City hosted **38 community events** such as Westy Fest, neighborhood parties, holiday gatherings and more. Over **70,000 total people** attended these events!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Connect with and learn about **high-impact sustainability resources for your home and lifestyle** on our [residential resources webpage](#).

Did you know:

City-owned parks cover more than **12,000 acres**, which is **over half** of the total acreage of the City!



Materials & Waste

TARGETS

Enhance city environmental management systems and practices.

30,000

In April of 2024, Westminster opened a **centralized recycling facility**, in partnership with the non-profit SustainAbility Recycling. In 8 months, the facility supported over **30,000 residents** to divert **151 tons of single-stream recycling**, and almost **10,000 pounds of electronic waste** from the landfill.

140

City environmental management systems and practices continued to be enhanced. For example, over **140 staff** were trained on spill prevention and stormwater illicit discharges, and over **600 pounds** of printer ink and toner cartridges were recycled.

Increase the community-wide waste diversion rate.

4,450

In 2024, the limb drop program diverted **4,450 cubic yards of tree branches** from the landfill. All of this material was mulched and given away to residents for **free**.

1,105

Westminster's **4th of July** celebration diverted **1,105 pounds of waste** – **705 pounds of compost** and **400 pounds of recycling**. This is a **63% waste diversion rate**.

76%

Through a partnership with **Scraps Compost**, **76% of event waste** from Westy Fest was diverted! Broken down, there was **710 pounds of compost**, **1100 pounds of recycling**, and **545 pounds of trash**.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Visit the City's staffed recycling drop-off facility located within a **10-minute drive for more than 80% of Westminster residents**. The City partners with SustainAbility to manage the site and help unload and process items for residents. You can drop off hard-to-recycle items, including electronics, paint, and Styrofoam in addition to single-stream recycling items such as cardboard, paper, plastic, aluminum, and glass. [Learn more here.](#)

Responsibly dispose of your hazardous waste for no cost! The City has contracted with Waste Management to offer "**At Your Door Special Collection.**" The program collects household hazardous waste directly from your home by appointment **FREE of charge.** [Sign up here.](#)



Transportation & Mobility

TARGETS

Achieve the mode share targets for carpool, transit, bicycling and walking established in the Transportation & Mobility Plan (TMP).

275

Bike to Work Day in 2024 was a “wheely” good success with **275 cyclists** stopping by the City’s station to learn about clean commuting options and resources available to Westminster residents.

35%

The City provided a **robust commuting benefit program** including **free RTD Eco Pass** and commuting rewards program that supported participating employees to reduce **single-occupancy vehicle use by 35%**.

126

Increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations on and off city property.

In total, **126 publicly accessible EV ports** are located throughout Westminster, a **25% increase** from last year.



Looking ahead: In 2025 the City plans to install **new electric vehicle charging stations** at facilities like recreation centers and libraries!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Heading to a Nuggets, Avalanche, Rockies, or Broncos game? Don’t stress with parking in Downtown Denver and traffic, and consider taking **RTD’s Flatiron Flyer bus** or the **train from Westminster Station**. Learn more about RTD’s services [here](#).

Did you know Coloradans can get a **\$450 discount** off a qualified e-bike?! Find a participating e-bike retailer [here](#).



Natural Resources & Environment

TARGETS

Expand the urban tree canopy coverage.

350

In 2024, the City's forestry team planted **350 free trees** in income qualified residents' yards, including **two years of aftercare and watering**. This initiative built upon the success of last year's pilot program which provided trees and aftercare to **60 residents**.

200

In 2024, the **ReLeaf Westy** tree sale provided **200 diverse, drought tolerant trees** to community members, **70 more than last year**.

Reduce systemwide water consumption to 110 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) or lower by 2030.

127

Systemwide water use increased to **127 gpcd** in 2024 after the **lowest gpcd on record in 2023**. With 2024's particularly hot and dry summer, this increase was to be expected.

700

In 2024, **over 700 Westminster customers** participated in **water conservation programs**. Participation in these programs reduces the chance for drought restrictions over time, lowers utility costs and customer rates, and **makes the City more resilient** to changes in our local climate.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



If you have an ash tree, protect it against Emerald Ash Borers. The preservation of an ash tree is the most economical decision for property owners. The cost of removing and replacing an ash tree is comparable to **20 years** of EAB treatments. **Learn how to protect your ash here!**

Did you know the City has a **list of recommended plants and trees** that thrive in our local ecosystem? **Learn what to plant and how here.**

Sign up for the City's many **water conservation opportunities here.**

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