

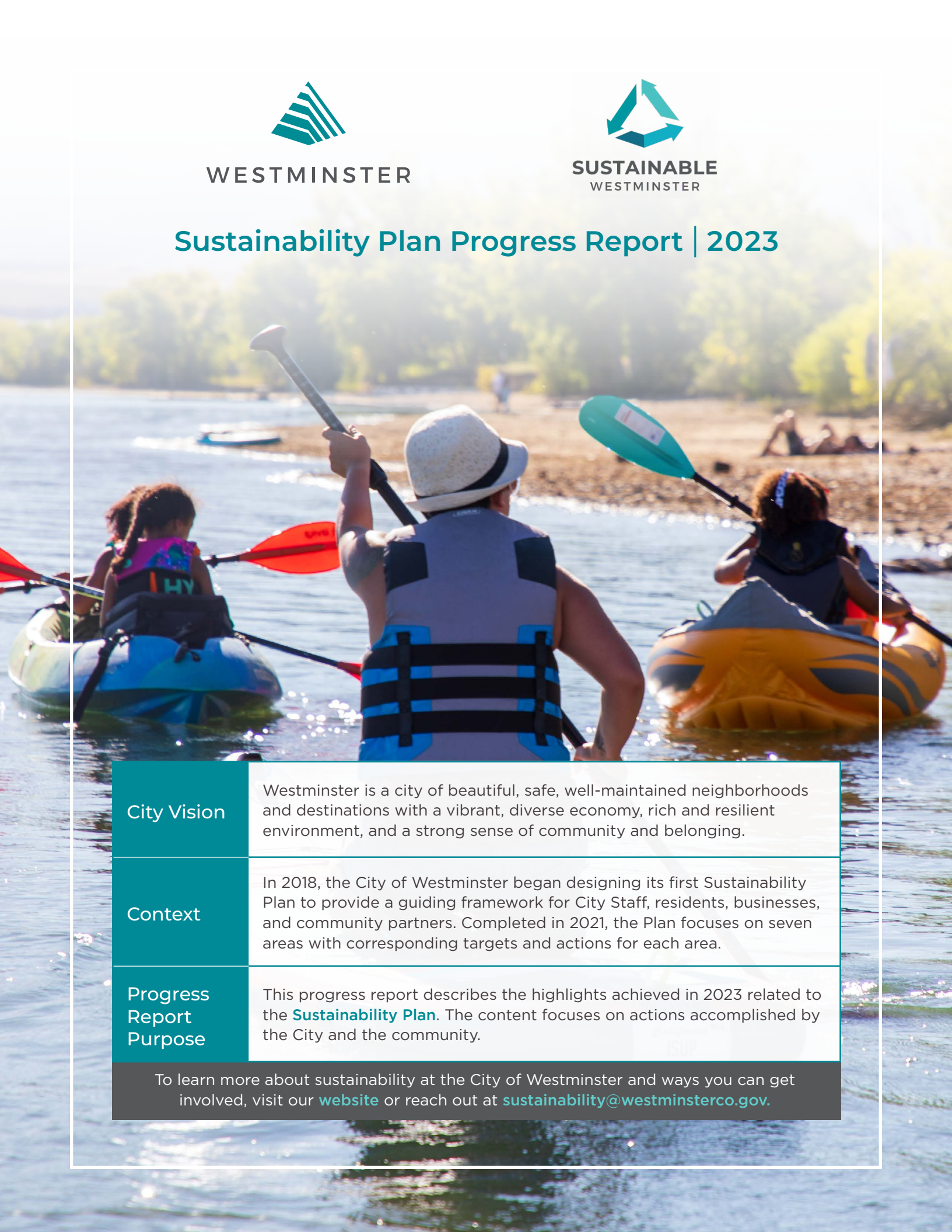


WESTMINSTER



SUSTAINABLE
WESTMINSTER

Sustainability Plan Progress Report | 2023



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 with corresponding targets and actions for each area.

Progress Report Purpose

This progress report describes the highlights achieved in 2023 related to the **Sustainability Plan**. The content focuses on actions accomplished by the City and the community.

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.

120%

70% of the City’s office buildings source **120% of their electricity from renewable energy sources** through SunShare solar garden subscriptions, resulting in **\$136,120** in energy bill savings.

Pursue opportunities to decrease energy utility costs for low-income households.

300+

Through 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. **10 limited-income households** received energy efficiency upgrades administered by EOC. Similarly, **over 50 homes** received energy efficiency assessments through Xcel Energy’s Home Energy Squad program. In addition, **250 households** received free LED lighting kits. In total, these initiatives delivered **\$70,000 worth of energy saving services** to residents.

Provide residential energy education and engagement.

375

In partnership with Solar United Neighbors, a national solar nonprofit, the City has hosted its third solar co-op. **375 Westminster residents** participated, 80 of which installed solar on their homes. Participants saw a **~25% savings** from participating in the co-op compared to an average price for solar installation and were also able to access an additional **30% savings** through the federal tax credit.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Get a free home energy squad plus assessment from Xcel Energy that may reduce your utility bills and increase the comfort of your home. This is a **\$600 value** provided for free. [Sign-up here](#) with the promo code **WESTMINSTER2023**

You may be eligible for **thousands of dollars in Federal and State tax credits and rebates** for home energy efficiency enhancements. [Learn more here!](#)

Throughout 2024, 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.

275th

The **Save. Act. Grow. Earn. (SAGE) Sustainable Business Program** assisted its **275th local business** (about **10% of Westminster businesses**) on sustainability initiatives. **~\$50,000 in grants** were awarded for projects that ranged from solar window tinting and energy efficiency upgrades to compost services and community gardens.

150+

The City launched the **Building Energy Upgrade Program (BE UP)** which provides **free support** to owners/managers of the **150+ buildings** sized **50,000+ sq. ft.** in Westminster to meet the requirements of the state's Building Performance Standards and **save money through energy efficiency upgrades.** Building owners and managers can **learn more and register here.**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Shop SAGE: Check out local businesses **on our website** that are SAGE certified and be sure to give them a try!

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



Health & Wellness

TARGETS

200+

Collaborate to improve regional air quality.

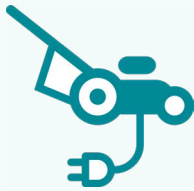
Working with Drive Clean Colorado, the City hosted its **third showcase of electric vehicles and e-bikes** at the Orchard Town Center's Farmers Market where **over 200 residents** learned about the benefits of electric vehicles.

5

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

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environment Design, is an internationally recognized green building standard, and Downtown Westminster is home to **5 LEED-certified buildings** — the Alamo Drafthouse, the Origin Hotel, Aspire Apartments, Ascent Apartments, and Eaton Street Apartments. In addition, Downtown Westminister's Center Park will have bike parking, trees, shade structures, and seating amenities through the help of a \$150,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation. [Explore more about Downtown here!](#)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



You can contribute to cleaner air by using **electric lawn and garden landscaping equipment**. Get up to 30% off an electric and battery-operated lawn mower at your local store. [Learn more here.](#)

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!**



Housing & Neighborhoods

TARGET

Increase opportunities for creating community and neighborhood engagement.

7

The City launched the **Neighborhood Sustainability Services Program** which acts as a concierge service for HOAs and organized neighborhood groups to access City and partner resources. Staff are currently working with **seven neighborhoods** to identify and complete unique projects that improve neighborhood quality and provide cost and resource savings. Each neighborhood will receive a **\$2,000 grant** from the City to support their project.

100,000

The City hosted over **50 community events** such as Westy Fest, neighborhood parties, holiday gatherings, and more. Over **100,000 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:

89% of Westminster residents live within a ½ mile of a park!



Materials & Waste

TARGETS

Enhance city environmental management systems and practices.



The City **bolstered its waste collection infrastructure and educational services.** New trash and recycling bins were placed at the City Park Recreation Center and at City Hall. Additional bins will be provided to all remaining City facilities in 2024.

140

City environmental management systems and practices continued to be enhanced. For example, **140 staff** were trained on spill prevention and stormwater illicit discharges.

Increase the community-wide waste diversion rate.

6,500

The limb drop program diverted **6,500 cubic yards of tree branches diverted from the landfill.** All of this material was mulched and given away to residents for free.

~4,000

Westy Fest featured **r.cup, a reusable beverage container** that allowed attendees to enjoy local craft brewers in a zero-waste manner. As a result, **~4,000 single-use cups were eliminated** which equaled **54 lbs. of waste** diverted, **102 lbs. of CO2** eliminated, **1,230 gallons of water** saved, and **300 kWh of energy** saved. In addition, through a partnership with Scraps Compost, the event achieved an **~85% waste diversion rate.** Broken down, this looked like: 820 lbs. of compost, 340 lbs. of recycling, 32 lbs. of candy wrappers to be terracycled, and 210 lbs. of trash.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Visit the the City's new staffed recycling drop-off facility located **within a 10-minute drive for more than 80% of Westminster residents.** The City is partnering with SustainAbility Recycling 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.

200

Bike to Work Day in 2023 was a “wheely” good success with **200 cyclists** stopping by the City’s station to learn about **clean commuting options and resources** available to Westminster residents.

The **Sheridan Underpass at the RTD station** opened to connect to the growing Downtown area.

8% | 4%

The percent of workers who took alternative modes of transportation to work **increased to match pre-pandemic levels**. For example, **8% of workers carpooled** to work and **4% of workers took public transit**.

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

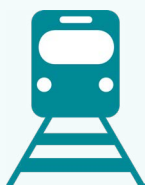
24

The City’s first on-street EV charging station was installed in the Downtown; this adds to **24 publicly accessible, City-owned charging stations**.

100

In total, **100 publicly accessible EV ports** are located throughout Westminster.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Heading to a Nuggets, Avalanche, Rockies, or Broncos game? Don't stress with parking in Downton Denver and traffic, and consider taking RTD's **Flatiron Flyer bus** or the **train from Westminster Station**.

Did you know you may be eligible for over **\$15,000 in tax credits** for a new electric vehicle? [Check out our EV webpage to learn more!](#)





Natural Resources & Environment

TARGETS

Expand the urban tree canopy coverage.

2,500

The City provided the first round of preventative treatments against **Emerald Ash Borers** for **2,500 ash trees** in the public right-of-way.

60

The City launched a pilot program that provided **60 households** located in limited-income areas with a **free tree** in their front yard and **2 years of maintenance**. The City will expand this program to serve **another 500** limited-income families through a **\$230,000 grant** awarded by the US Department of Agriculture.

130

The **ReLeaf Westy** tree sale provided **130 diverse, drought-tolerant trees** to community members.

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

110

Systemwide water use **declined** in 2023 with a per capita system-wide water use of **110 GPCD**.

572

In 2023, **572 Westminster customers** participated in water conservation programs. Participation in these programs 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!](#)

Sign up for the City's many [water conservation opportunities here.](#)

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