



A Way of Honoring Arvada's Rich Heritage and Preserving Our Resources to Foster Economic Prosperity, Environmental Stewardship and Community Vitality Today and Into the Future.

Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee (ASAC) Agenda

April 9, 2025, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Hybrid meeting: City Hall, 3rd Floor CCR Room/Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://arvadaco-gov.zoom.us/j/81257366734?pwd=kgIYgGejSiDWy5ZmwfhCzzXfSfLY4o.1>

Meeting ID: 812 5736 6734

Passcode: 008000

Assigned Minutes Recorder: Harriet Hall_____

Membership Attendance:

Dar-Lon Chang, Chair	Term Exp 2026	x	Krystle Morey	Term Exp 2026	x
Kia Ruiz, Vice Chair	Term Exp 2027	x	Laurel Mattrey	Term Exp 2026	
Harriet Hall, Secretary	Term Exp 2027	x	Mark Jelinske	Term Exp 2027	
Aaron Coffeen	Term Exp 2026	x	Michelle Martin	Term Exp 2027	
Alex Pray	Term Exp 2027	x	Tara Kent	Term Exp 2025	
Emma Boff	Term Exp 2027	x	Rachael Smallwood	Term Exp 2025	
Nalini Margaitis (City Staff Liaison)			Randy Moorman (City Council Liaison)		x

Staff in attendance: Jacqueline Rhoades, Eric Lewin

5:30 p.m. Call to Order Dar-Lon called the meeting to order and read the **Land Acknowledgement**

Approval of February and March 2025 Minutes

Alex moved to approve the February minutes, which were approved unanimously. As regards the March minutes which were taken by Emma and given to Nalini and have not been located by City staff, Emma will resend them to Jacqueline and Eric, and will share relevant info from them with this group during tonight's meeting.

5:35 p.m. Public Comment Marian Summer is in attendance and is observing.

5:40 p.m. Old Business/General Business

Updates from Committee members: Dar-Lon reported about his discussion at APA with potential people interested in climate action. They are interested in making public comments at city council, and will coordinate with us. ASAC might want to consider having one of our subgroups be about coordinating with interest groups throughout Arvada.

There is a school board meeting for Jeffco schools tomorrow. There are a number of students signed up to testify tomorrow about adding an end's goal related to sustainability.

Updates from Council Liaison: Randy reported on a conference he attended in Washington DC. There was an excellent presentation from the City of Vancouver with many ideas about how to make a climate action/sustainability plan more accessible to public citizens, council members, etc. that we will discuss later in the meeting.

Updates from Staff Liaison: Jacqueline Rhodes introduced Eric Lewin. He is the new Deputy Manager for Infrastructure, and will be taking the lead in working with ASAC until a replacement for Nalini is hired.

Guest Speaker – Cool Boulder

Heather Bearnes-Loza, Water Conservation Program Manager and Caroline Peterson presented. [Cool Boulder](#) is an effort of the Boulder Climate Initiatives team.

They have an emphasis on working with community members. Their branding team developed connected canopies, pollinator pathways, and absorbent landscapes to help people understand biodiversity as a concept. Their community-based action team was important to the effort representing major collaborative agencies. Their focus was nature-based climate action, with an emphasis on city sponsored community effort. They utilized heat mapping with a focus on cooling down the city.

They have a separate website which has been essential, lets them speak with own voice. Other key aspects include free events and a monthly action alert. The key is to bring in broader public input. See powerpoint for other key aspects of their program. Working with kids is a priority.

They have a large number of partnerships, with collaboration a key. It is hard work but essential to the process. Coordination with the community has also proven very helpful to city staff work

Questions and key takeaways: The systems driver approach is important, and was adopted because focus on energy isn't enough, leaving out ecosystems and materials. It is important to think bigger and more systemically

Randy asked about the data component and heat maps – how was it used and is it working?

They worked with forestry and planning and were able to update data faster so they could see tree loss and gain. The Tree Trust and the city are using the data now. The city will be going forward but they are still in an early stage. You can't rush heat efforts. Longmont now has as a council priority. Everything moves at the speed of trust. E.g. schools planting many trees.

There was a discussion about heat mapping and questions about Arvada efforts. There doesn't seem to have been a lot of attention to it yet, but the city forester is supposed to be in charge of those efforts.

6:30 p.m. Role Clarity

The transition from Nalini was discussed. Jacqueline wants input about how city can best support these efforts. She would like input about the importance of the coordinator. Consensus is we need more than one actually. Someone from staff should take minutes (but not the coordinator). The coordinator is the point person to move things forward, which is essential to get anything done. The sustainability coordinator role was to help us be an **advisory** committee, not a work group. We got consultants to develop plan, but now the message has been "ASAC, go find us funding for the plan." Are we back to being a working committee, not an advisory committee? How does the advisory role work?

6:45 p.m. CASP Feedback and Review

Randy shared Ideas from the Conference he attended in Washington, specifically a presentation from the City of Vancouver. Their vision statement is very clear and well done. The way they frame the issues are very clear and accessible, and may guide us as we do the final version of our climate action plan. We want to make it more accessible to council and the general public. It's a good model for how to communicate using concepts and keywords understandable by the public. Each focus area has a vision, strategy, etc. We have most of this but our plan is missing metrics to measure success. We also need to identify key partners.

(Let's attach a copy of the presentation to the minutes.)

Jacqueline asked whether we want to do all this work now or, do it in an implementation document that we develop later, after first getting the plan approved by council.

Randy thinks getting the plan approved by council may require the sorts of changes and fine tuning first. But it could be worth taking to council and hearing their input, and get direction from them rather than approval. Dar-Lon wonders if we should only flesh out the items we could do without a budget, and then say that we will wait to flesh out the other strategies until we get funding identified.

Is council more interested in action, or in the framework? Should we explain the overall framework but get specific about the plans we will be moving ahead with? Articulate what we can do now, and what we need to find funding for? Council has not heard about the content of the plan, just the process for developing it. So a workshop on what will be the content and goals would be useful. We should review the last presentation to council to see what they have had presented to them.

Jacqueline and staff will pull all the comments into the document and bring back to the next meeting. She is not sure they could really do metrics, but could pull out things that we could

take action on now. It will also be good to discuss with the Parks and Transportation committees, and identify other possible links with city efforts.

7:00 p.m. Waste Diversion Action Plan Updates

Waste Diversion plan

The consultant shared draft report, and will submit to CDPHE. It will be presented to us in future. It will be part of the CAP.

7: 15 p.m. Sub Committees Review

It was decided to table subcommittee discussion, to put it in the parking lot/bike rack so to speak. The chair and vice chair appoint members to subcommittees, but we still don't know what committees. Can we appoint non committee members to subcommittees?? Youth subcommittee? Jacqueline showed us where rules and procedures are on city website.

We should get a download from Tara on her thoughts since she is leaving.

7:30 p.m. Adjournment