

# Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee (ASAC) Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2025, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
 Hybrid meeting: City Hall, 3rd Floor Ralston Room + Zoom Meeting

**Assigned Minutes Recorder:** Jacqueline Rhodes and Steven Russell

**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	x
Harriet Hall, Secretary	Term Exp 2027	x	Mark Jelinske	Term Exp 2027	x
Aaron Coffeen	Term Exp 2026	x	Michelle Martin	Term Exp 2027	X
Alex Pray	Term Exp 2027	x	Rachael Smallwood	Term Exp 2028	X
Emma Boff	Term Exp 2027	x	Marissa LaPorta	Term Exp 2028	A
Haley Hall	Term Exp 2028	x			
Kristin Klipka	Term Exp 2028	x	Randy Moorman (City Council Liaison)		x
Steven Russell (City Staff Liaison)		x	Arvada Team Guests:		
Eric Lewin (City Staff Liaison)		A			
Jaqueline Rhoades (City Staff Liaison)		x			
A = Absent					
X = Present					

## Minutes

**5:30 p.m. Convene**

Land Acknowledgement  
 Approval of [June 2025 Minutes](#)  
 APPROVED

Passed around contact sheet to verify contact info records

**5:35 p.m. Public Comment**

No Comments. Observer only - Maureen Irby - with a future member interest

**5:45 p.m. Introductions**

- Staff liaison Steve Russell shared introduction and professional background
- ASAC attendees did roundtable introductions

**6:05 pm Old Business/General Business**

- Updates from Committee members

- Krystle - non-functional turf bill goes into effect Jan, new cheat sheets and reference materials. Link: <https://westernresourceadvocates.org/community-hub-landscape-transformation-water-conservation/>
- Mark - reminder that this is the last meeting through Nov, return in Dec due to schedule conflicts. Need to confirm impacts with the Charter. Vice Chair noted that advanced notice was provided two months ago and that this was a worthy related purpose
- Alex - took a backyard composting 101 course; offer to connect us with folks at Scraps; possible future tour or demo from Scraps; will forward info about the composting class
  - Scraps does support local events - e.g. PowWow and Olde Town events
- Next Neighborhood Leaders Meeting
  - Wednesday, 8/27, 6-7:30
  - Arvada Fire Training Center 6651 Indiana St.
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will hold another this Fall
- Updates from Council Liaison
  - TSP: Randy Moorman shared that the July 8 Workshop included updates on shared micromobility and the Transportation System Plan.
    - Meeting Packet Part 1  
<https://library.municode.com/co/arvada/munidocs/munidocs?nodeId=8279bba68073e>
    - Meeting Packet Part 2  
<https://library.municode.com/co/arvada/munidocs/munidocs?nodeId=8279bc4bfbe93>
    - [Arvada City Council - Meeting July 8 2025](#)
    - The Transportation System Plan Workshop was held last night to present the TSP findings. The identified projects and prioritization was discussed. This included bike / pedestrian access, traffic, idling and more
      - Comments received included a desire for a more comprehensive look at the GHG with the completion of projects to present the cumulative impact of these projects on the larger community goals.
    - It was also noted that the Bike Master Plan is 8 years old and future updates are planned. All of the Bike Master Plan projects were included in the TSP project prioritization process.
    - Finally, the ADA Transition Plan update is also underway, need to show the measurable impacts of the TSP projects on advancing the ADA Transition Plan Priorities.
    - Question from Krystle: was equity included in the TSP?
      - Reviewed categories; equity was not included as discrete category

- STAFF NOTE: Equity was a consideration in the prioritization scheme; minutes updated post-meeting with note below:
      - Memo from Kelle Van Bruggen: Equity was a component in the TSP. The disadvantaged communities scoring criteria was weighted at 5% and Council wanted to know why that ended up being weighted lower than the other priorities.
    - Comment from Alex:
      - Bike Friendly Community - Arvada holds a Silver Award (since 2021). The perception was that the city has flatlined and that this is an opportunity element in the TSP and Bike Master Plan. Randy: We did a pilot with e-scooters since 2022; it has grown in usage by over 300% growth; council recommended ending "pilot" phase and expanding to the city, encouraging use of e-bikes and "e-gliders"; study demonstrated that users are ending scooter trips at the G line Randy is interested in RTD data on how this may affect utilization of the G line
  - Comprehensive Plan Update will be underway next year. The ASAC was interested in being involved. Randy emphasized the Intersectional nature of these plans.
  - CML Annual Meeting was held week of June 23 and conference materials were shared.
  - [Taste of Arvada Event](#) July 10. Concerns around the level of waste were discussed. Randy offered to have ASAC involved in meeting with the Chamber after the event to discuss waste reduction.
  - An Olde Town Recycling Update was requested, including whether we are seeing contamination and what measures we can report.
  - Waste Diversion Plan presentation is planned for council, and there is hope that ASAC will support.
  - The Republic Services Contract was renewed through July 2028. Provisions were included for producer responsibility to allow for assessment of savings from recycling service fees to reduce rates or add services.
    - Question from Krystle
      - Noted there are strict regulations on what funds can be used for, but can we do community compost with that?
- Updates from Staff Liaison
  - Shared a resource and success story from local students. An environmental education group is using Arvada resources in their lesson plans. An engaged student wanted to share this resource with us. We cannot share it on Arvada's website or social media, so encouraged ASAC members to distribute if desired.
    - <https://couponfollow.com/research/low-cost-ways-to-save-planet>

- Moved CASP to October 28; this timeline is in line with updates and more realistic timeline
  - Q Kristi: can't make comment on workshop night?
    - Jacqueline: Workshops are open to public, can provide comment at business meeting before/after,
    - Randy: it's wise to keep the date and have people come to public comment at business meeting before, then show up to show support at workshop meeting
- CASP update and timeline
  - Steve presented a progress report. Recent Activity included that ASAC comments have been incorporated. The team continues to streamline some of the document sections. The focus was on accessible language. Staff consultations are still underway to verify that current work is accurately reflected in the report. Implementation guidance sections are being added. Adding Management Practices to strategies section. Also adding existing efforts section to emphasize the linkage to other city and system plans. The current target is July 24 to provide the full text draft for ASAC comment. The timeline was presented for the presentation to the council.
    - Question: For on-going metrics and monitoring, how will the progression of CASP goals through the implementation of other plans be shown?
      - Steven: seeking to link existing metrics through internal tracking; i.e. fleet already tracks data like miles driven, gas used, maintenance activities—some of these metrics will inform CASP priorities, we will work internally to ensure we're using the same data
    - Question: Was feedback provided to the consultant Lotus?
      - Jacqueline: this is unclear due to lost documentation during staff transition period
    - Question: How does the timeline align with the other plans?
      - Need to push Waste Diversion Action Plan at the same time
      - Transit System Plan on its own trajectory
    - Question: How do we ensure that metrics tracked with other plans are aligned?
      - Steven: We can work on this in CASP and Internally connect data sources; will use same datasets internally for tracking aligned priorities
        - Comment added: for example, Steven is starting a crosswalk document that notes storage locations, data stewards (contacts), retrieval schedule, mechanisms for retrieval, tracking edits, etc.
    - Question: Who's the "watch dog" and what's the role for ASAC?

- Sustainability Coordinator will be responsible for implementation tracking and use the ASAC for support
- Comment from Dar-Lon(?): There is still an interest in letters of support; we need a solid executive summary and 1 pager we can use to start selling the concept
  - Steven: we will work on this
- Question from Kia: with new timeline, are we pushing too far out? If we do workshop on 10/28 do we have time for a vote?
  - Jacqueline: This timeline would put up for vote after new council elected; we can take this back to clerk and ask about adjusting schedule
  - Randy: it's been a long time since they saw CASP, so workshop session is necessary
- Comment from Randy: one of the things that struck RM is a need for a vision that is digestible by community; i.e. "By 2030, Arvada will look like this" ; a storytelling description
- Comment from Randy: approach by sector is positive development; what are the goals/objectives and how do strategies feed into
  - Steven: In restructuring the strategies section, we have added overarching goals to document

### **6:30 p.m. SWOT Workshop and Subcommittee Discussion**

- Steve presented the SWOT framework slides, including: ASAC Charter Purpose, asked for feedback on the exercise to respond with the charter purpose in mind.
  - The exercise goal is to identify themes among responses to prompts for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
  - Observations: commonality, opportunities for action and a weakness not enough action. Threats at federal level.
  - Committee members organized stickies and discussed themes in the responses
  - Responses transcribed and organized by theme: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vqTiU1VsnlhBVytBVsZkSb1uCe4sAN\\_LF\\_48-KuK2M4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vqTiU1VsnlhBVytBVsZkSb1uCe4sAN_LF_48-KuK2M4/edit?usp=sharing)
- Snacks discussion - should there be snacks at the future meetings? Discuss during August meeting.

### **7:15 p.m. New Business**

- August potluck
  - Call for special meeting ?
    - Decided not to host special meeting, rather, have snacks at 8/13 meeting at City Hall, and plan for informal social meetup at the new Arvada Beer Garden after the 8/13 meeting

- Plan for meeting is to work on a Call to action and letters of support for the CASP
- **Motion Passed.**
- Hosting Front Range Sustainability Commission in September
  - Meeting Rooms for 40-60
    - Possible spaces:
      - AAC Community Room - need to verify capacity
      - APEX 72nd Community Room
      - APEX Field House
      - Arvada Center + Microgrid - Feature the project information - In early 2021, the City of Arvada was selected as one of 6 sites in the state of Colorado for the Xcel Community Resilience Initiative (CRI) at the Arvada Center. The program is at no cost to the City, however, the benefit is quite large. The system represents the micro-grid concept of future power delivery and storage by Xcel Energy in the development of their sustainability energy goals. The system will provide full battery back-up power to the Arvada Center during an electrical outage for up to 8 hours. The system will also allow Xcel Energy to supply critical power to their grid during heavy demand loads.
  - Verify budget requirements for catering
  - Kia will share contact information with Steve

**7:30 p.m. Adjourn**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm**

# and Sustainability Plan

Progress update

*July 9th, 2025*





# Recent Activity

# ASAC comments Incorporated

71 comments received

Virtually all comments incorporated

Thank you!!

Comment No.	Document Page	Document Section	Sub-section	Comment	Response
				<i>are actually unknown</i>	
34	31	CASP Implementation Strategies	Timeline	<i>This seems to imply that no "new strategies" would be started until after 2030</i>	This timeline feature has been deleted; all strategies have been labeled with the GHG emissions reduction goal it works towards. All should begin when feasible.
35	32	Energy and the Built Environment	EBE1	<i>Can these [acronyms for City departments] be included in the abbreviations or provide a key in this section?</i>	Acronyms for City departments will be spelled out
36	32	Energy and the Built Environment	EBE1	<i>There can't be that much of an upfront cost (SSS) to promote something happening [agreed from AR</i>	Will be addressed through strategy reevaluation process.
37	32	Energy and the Built Environment	EBE1	<i>...cost, why shouldn't we do what's already</i>	Will be addressed through strategy reevaluation process; we will check the consultant's work to ensure that "promotional" or "educational" strategies are a relatively high feasibility
38	33	Energy and the Built Environment	EBE1	<i>...paragraph</i>	Strategy will reflect either specifically partnering with Xcel or list a few local organizations to take into consideration. This will be reflected in next edits.
39	33	Energy and the Built Environment	EBE3	<i>...program similar to HB24-1370 would have to be Since the City by January 31, ready for a future</i>	Resolved; section features "prepare for future program similar to" and describes the program.
40	33	Energy and the Built Environment	EBE3	<i>Add to ... provide reference to this</i>	Provided a definition of the program
41	33	Energy and the Built Environment	EBE3	<i>Add: with technologies such as networked geothermal heat pumps.</i>	Will add language of additional clean energy examples
42	33	Energy and the Built Environment	EBE3	<i>Comment on above comment: This is one very specific example. suggest adding add'l clean energy examples like community solar or make a more general statement.</i>	See above.
43	33	Energy and the Built Environment	EBE3	<i>Add the state [to responsible parties]?</i>	Resolved
44	34	Energy and the Built Environment	EBE4	<i>Delete cells and replace SSS with "SSS"</i>	Resolved



# Streamlining Continues...

Introduction -> Community Guidance, **\*Guiding Principles, Vision Statement, Goals**

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Ground Setting -> Previous Sustainability Plans (Where We've Been), GHG Community and City Inventory (Where We Are), **\*How We Developed Ambitious Climate Strategies** (Where We're Going)

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**\*Five Sectors** -> **\*Utilities, Buildings, Transportation, Land Use, Community Development**

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**\*Implementation Guidance** -> What GHG Goal Each Strategy Works Towards, Partnership Guidance, Prioritization Metrics

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CASP Strategies -> **\*Streamlined strategies**, labeled with implementation guidance, **\*Estimating Impact** (modeling 12 strategies emissions reduction potential)

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Conclusion -> Re-emphasizing importance of climate action, **\*How We'll Stay Accountable**

**\*New/updated element of CASP**



# Streamlining Continues...

56pg → ~30pg

# Staff Consultations

Building internal validity

Verifying accuracy

Capturing info not in text

Filling gaps in guidance

Recognizing existing activities



## Consulted (14 staff):

- City Manager's Office
- Infrastructure Communications
- Transit: Bike/Ped & Mobility
- Facilities
- Engineering
- Sustainability
- Community and Economic Development
- Parks

## To be consulted (9 staff):

- Fleet
- Utilities: Waste management
- City Attorney
- Traffic
- Stormwater
- Development review



# More In-Progress

# Providing Guidance for Implementation

Internal and external partners required will be listed for each strategy. Symbols will also quickly and easily indicate the following:



City  
Led



Partnership  
Led



Community  
Led

*Who needs to lead the strategy for implementation*



High  
Priority



Medium  
Priority

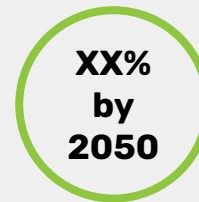


Low  
Priority

*Prioritization score the strategy got based on the 5 metrics*



**XX%  
by  
2030**


















**XX%  
by  
2050**

*What GHG Emissions Reduction Goal this strategy works towards*

# Being Clear about Priority Metrics

The 5 prioritization metrics will be explained and given symbols, so each strategy is clear about what metrics it was assigned.



<b>GHG Impact</b>	High 	Moderate 	Little/None 
<b>Natural Resources</b>	Restores & protects 	Limited impact 	Neutral or negative 
<b>Feasibility</b>	Feasible + Aligned w/ Priorities 	Minor roadblocks 	Major roadblock/ no control 
<b>Cost Impact</b>	Budget available & high ROI 	Some strain & moderate ROI 	Min. benefit & high strain on budget 
<b>Equity</b>	Co-benefits 	Benefits All 	Neutral or negative outcomes 

# Strategy Sections

## 7 Topical/Conceptual Sections

- ↳ 5 Practical Sections  
(based on work unit)
- ↳ 6 Practical Sections  
(based on wu + management)

Added “Management Practices”

Under consideration: split out  
Waste Management & Diversion



# Next Steps

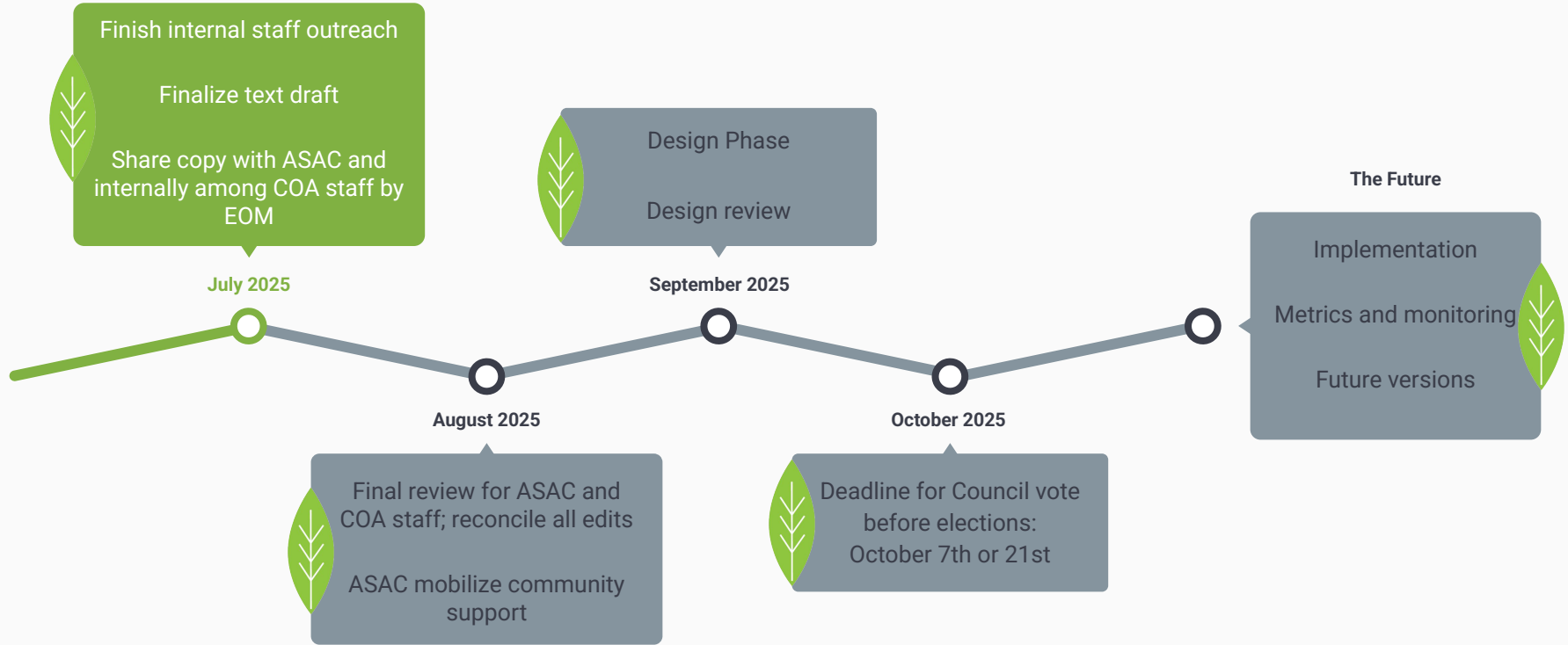
Prioritization Scoring

Section about  
existing efforts

Final text review

Design phase

# Ambitious Timeline for Final Reviews and Approval





# Questions?



- Expertise
- Wide variety of expertise
- Wealth of knowledge
- We are a SMART group!
- Experience & smarts
- Good writers on team
- Many members are very attentive.
- There are a lot of diverse backgrounds, networks, and areas of focus within the committee that help to bring in so many perspectives and helpful insight.
- I have a background in data analysis, greenhouse gas accounting, and guidance on voluntary public disclosures (for private sector).

## **Advocacy, Volunteering, and Commitment to Action**

- Willingness to attend events
- Willingness to participate in subcommittees
- Willingness to lobby for change
- Advocating for continued progress
- This group pushed to get the single trash provider!
- [We are] making a difference
- Public comments to City Council
- City events volunteering
- Showing up to meetings (other than ASAC) with helpful background information.
- I think there are so many examples of folks contributing in a very meaningful way. I would especially highlight a few specific people that have shown up to council meetings and provided great representation and comments, as well as taken really helpful and organized notes for the rest of the ASAC committee.

## **Knowledgeable, and Supportive Staff**

- Wealth of knowledge on city staff and their time spent on sustainability
- Staff is engaged and eager to support (recently)
- Staff: manages progress of initiatives between meetings
- Forward thinking staff focused on doing the right thing
- Staff: provide honest feedback on viability and resources needed for initiative implementation
- Arvada staff does JEDI/DEI pretty well internally
- Staff is open to new ideas
- The staff has been great about bringing in resources, guest speakers, coordinating events and follow-ups.

## **Strong Community Connections and Engagement**

- Community linkage & involvement
- Good experience with community engagement when given the opportunity

- Resources & connections | Individual professional networks of each member
- I am connected to a number of local, state, and national resources with my work
- Organizing Community to support sustainability initiative
- Outreach to Arvada organizations
- Connection with other local govs & groups
- Participation with other sustainability groups
- Pushing for community engagement, such as with waste hauler program

## **Collaboration, Team Culture, and Values**

- Comraderie
- Collaboration
- Collective commitment to incorporating DEI
- Diverse backgrounds

## **Passion and Motivation**

- Passion
- Passionate about the topic. Every member of ASAC is passionate about sustainability
- Engaged and passionate members
- Fresh perspectives
- Not afraid to ask questions
- Approach with curiosity
- Demonstrated success of programs

## **Policy and Planning Alignment**

- Familiarity with codes and how cities run
- Success with waste hauling effort
- Back up proposed goals & strategies with attendance/comments at City Council meetings
- Known for CASP
- Positive feedback: acceptance of CASP

## **Everything Else**

- Consultants gave feedback re our planning efforts
- I operate well in structures and processes when there is clarity in roles, structures, and processes
- Seems like lots of engineers/science focused careers to be created and more people focused careers that can help implement a change



- Lack of direction/ guiding principles
- Often have plans for big things but don't follow through
- Lack of focus - We have so many great ideas - we often struggle with being effective/ productive
- struggle w/ finding things to focus our energy on
- It's hard to focus on actionable items
- Weakness- struggle with: action & implementation
- Lack clear action items
- [We need to] pick one or two actions and focus to get across the finish line
- Struggle
- Even with an agenda, sometimes conversations and discussions can get really side-tracked. There are occasions where folks feel really passionately about a topic and end up steering the conversation down a somewhat existential and overwhelming rabbit hole, with problems and issues that are far beyond our control or influence. It makes identifying solutions or actionable items difficult.
- I think there's often a lot of ideas that are brought up in discussions and planning, but there is definitely room for improvement in how we execute and follow-through on those ideas. We may need to emphasize feasibility a bit more.

## **Resource Constraints (Time, Money, Attention)**

- We lack funding for the CASP
- Funding
- We all have busy lives
- Time! Commitment to do the groundwork/ outreach in the community
- Inconsistency with leadership from city staff
- Inconsistent staff support (up until now?!)
- Discontinuity of staff support & understanding of where were supposed to be helping
- Lacking resources
- Personally, I know I struggle to have time since I was so sick during my pregnancy
- Limited data
- Understanding funding availability
- Complaining rather than advising
- Lack of resources
- It's important to be ambitious with climate goals, but I think it's also important to be realistic about budget constraints, competing short-term priorities for the community, the impact of the political landscape, the bandwidth of the staff, time requirements for goals...

## **Resistance to Engagement**

- Better outreach to communities on sustainability resources
- Community engagement
- Arvada residents who enable feedback are hesitant to change

- Negative feedback: we are a bunch of tree huggers
- We have not been an area leader with sustainability
- Unclear whether we are capturing the voice of the community

## **Bureaucratic Issues and Gaps in Institutional Support**

- Understanding City Council priorities
- Difficulty understanding city process
- Inefficient: move at the speed of bureaucracy
- Weakness - Blind spots: not knowing how the city really works
- More council support (except for Randy who is awesome!)
- Coordinating with other Arvada advisory groups, like Parks & Transportation
- Have struggled with the changing roles of the ASAC and our collaboration with staff
- Extensive time period to implement changes
- Slow

## **Gaps in Programs, Tools, and Incentives**

- Lacking a community advisor that can support residents in accessing programs
- Lacking any sort of rebate/ incentives for energy efficiency and electrification
- Have lacked a clear plan around sustainability and climate action
- Very little focus on water
- Missing focus on resiliency and adaptation to the climate change already happening
- Gaps or blind spots

## **Reputation Risk**

- Negative feedback
- Do people see us as 'just tree huggers'?

## **Everything Else**

- Personally, I don't have a degree in sustainability specifically
- On a personal level, as somewhat of an introvert in this setting, this has sometimes made it challenging for me to know how to contribute in a meaningful way.



- I think there may also be opportunities for developing some digital tools/dashboards as both an interactive informational tool to convey the need for some initiatives, as well as a way that the public can track progress towards any goals.

## **Youth and School Engagement**

- Getting students and youth involvement
- Youth engagement - ex: local schools
- Coordinating with JeffCo School District and Arvada Schools
- I think there has been a lot of good effort/outreach towards collaboration with neighboring communities, and youth engagement. Could there be more opportunities for projects involving students?

## **Partnerships with Other Committees, Cities, and Institutions**

- Partnering with other sustainability communities
- Having other boards refer projects to us
- Getting Arvada green businesses involved in City initiatives
- Actionable partnerships w/ other cities/ sustainability groups
- Participation in CC4CA!!
- Collaborating with other committees
- Relationships with other committees
- Thinking of how to develop partnerships after we listen to a presentation
- University partnerships
- Increased coordination/communication with other municipalities
- Increased county/state involvement/consultation

## **Better Use of ASAC as a Resource**

- Better leverage ASAC to design/implement programs and strategies
- Under-utilized resource: US! We agreed to volunteer up to 8 hrs/month
- ASAC can be an independent space of knowing where resources overlap and connecting resources
- Expand our activities to work with other City committees
- Collaboration/ input in other committees
- Better leverage ASAC to advise other committees and plans

## **Grant Funding and Incentives**

- Getting state grants
- Applying for pilot programs
- Effectively sharing Xcel's rebates and incentives with OUR community members
- Grants! Getting on the ball with opportunities
- State grants
- Heavy participation in the DRCOG CPRG grant program

## **Influence on Policy and Planning**

- Meeting individually with Council members
- Involvement in Building Code updates & Comprehensive Plan (Land use!)
- Expand to focus on sustainable city planning & operations
- New Council in November
- Comprehensive plan
- [Leveraging] the governor's WIGs

## **Leveraging Cultural and Social Trends**

- Trends to add more holistic equity into city operations also align well w/ sustainability's overarching goal
- Opportunities - Trends: -state and other municipal movement towards sustainability
- Our city has a legacy of "environmental privilege" that is unique to a number of other cities with our reserves & green spaces

## **Recognition and Role Modeling**

- Highlight & elevate what is already happening in our community. Awards?
- Lots of opps. even within City Hall to set a good example of sustainability (City Council drinking out of disposable plastic cups)

## **Environmental Justice and Equity Initiatives**

- Opportunity for land back - w/ environmental stewardship in Indigenous hands
- Class differentiation, we have some wealthier areas that can offset resources for less-resourced areas
- Underserved needs: More affordable housing that is sustainably designed
- There have been a lot of conversations recently related to health risks and shade structures. Could there be opportunities for creating shaded areas with a focus on tree canopy or urban forestry efforts in heat-vulnerable or underserved areas?

## **Fleet Transition**

- Expand: electric vehicle charging stations
- Is there an opportunity to influence any leased fleet vehicles towards electrification?

## **New Arvada Staff**

- Excited to have a new city staff member as our liaison!
- Leveraging Steven's role more?

## **Everything Else**

- Missed opportunities: water treatment plant
- Missing opportunities - many/most AURA projects
- CAP
- COE



- We are most vulnerable w/ political division – just a few extreme dissenters can intimidate and derail efforts
- Again, I think it's important to set ambitious goals and targets, but also think it can be a problem if there is a lack of implementation strategy or actionable plans. I think this can lead to a lack of trust and confidence in community programs in general. If we don't have a way to roadmap how we'll meet specific goals or targets, then it can be risky to set them in the first place. It's more difficult to rally support of council or public for vague or economically unfeasible initiatives.

## **Budget Constraints and Economic Pressures**

- City's financial sustainability
- State and city budget challenges - limited sources of funding, competing priorities
- Budget challenges over the next couple of years
- City budget
- Currently: most metro area cities are facing budget reductions
- Funding
- More imminent concerns overshadowing climate action: economy, affordable housing
- More limited potential for grants/funding
- The more sustainable option is not always the most cost effective (for now)
- A lack of sufficient dedicated funding and budget allocation for longer term initiatives.

## **Federal Instability and Hostility**

- Federal hostility toward climate action and sustainability
- Federal government
- Federal funding
- Federal policy
- Federal instability
- Federal tax credits disappearing
- Federal government eliminating funding/ grants
- Federal immigration policies threatening participation from equity-based residents
- Federal funding to states & local govt at risk
- Loss of federal funding/support for sustainability projects
- An end to incentives from the federal government

## **Community Resistance and Reputational Risk**

- Community resistance to change
- Waste hauling still hated by segment of Arvada population
- Risk of being viewed by council & other boards as unreasonable and not helpful
- We are always at reputational risk with spending any money on anything where people do not see instant gratification

- Do a lot of residents still invest in fossil fuel industries and other industries causing social harm?
- We are not popular w/ the investor class
- [Most vulnerable:] Community participation
- [Reputation risks:] Implementing the plan

## **Coordination and Communication Challenges**

- Lack of communication b/w other citizen advisory committees could lead to duplicating or less efficient or effective work
- At risk of not building/maintaining institutional knowledge
- A focus on flashy plans and not the tough work of getting things going
- Submitting to doom & gloom - we can only act locally as a group
- Making sure our jobs don't have conflicting interests to our effort within ASAC

## **Fossil Fuel and Industrial Pushback**

- Fossil fuel industry hostility to switching to clean energy
- Heavy industry hostile to clean energy
- Industry trends: Focused on maximum profit... struggled to find a company to replace gas furnace with heat pump

## **Distrust of Climate Solutions and Greenwashing**

- Greenwashing through unproven technologies like carbon capture and geoengineering
- We are challenged by expensive tech solutions working for carbon offsets and big answers instead of simpler approaches like avoiding food waste
- Publishing CASP exposes us to risk if we don't accomplish everything timely
- Without adequate supporting data or measurable KPIs, a lot of the "pie in the sky" ideas and efforts could be perceived as greenwashing, and if we don't have any real benchmark/baseline data, it's also more challenging to support any claims of success or progress towards goals.

## **Technology-Related Risks**

- AI energy & water consumption
- Disruptive tech: AI

## **Environmental Policy and Program Setbacks**

- Removal of Water Sense program
- Push for water conservation resulting in rock as a primary landscape
- Threats- Industry trends: utility cost structures
- Derailment of solar industry b/c of tariffs and loss of tax credits
- CO is behind in diversion rates because of perception that recycling ends up in landfill anyways
- Of course the current administration, rollbacks of regs, general public perceptions and pushback on climate messaging... These are good examples of very large scale issues that are very real, extremely daunting, and also in a lot of ways, beyond our realistic scope and abilities to address in ASAC.