

# Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee (ASAC) Minutes

August 13, 2025, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
Hybrid meeting: City Hall, 3rd Floor CCR Room + Zoom Meeting

[Virtual meeting room LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 863 1885 2028 | Passcode: 603918

## Membership Attendance:

Name, Role	Term Exp	Attendance	Name, Role	Term Exp	Attendance
Dar-Lon Chang, Chair	2026	X	Kristin Klipka, Member	2028	X
Kia Ruiz, Vice Chair	2027	X	Krystle Morey, Member	2026	A
Harriet Hall, Secretary	2027	A	Laurel Mattrey, Member	2026	V
Randy Moorman, Council Liaison	NA	X	Mark Jelinske, Member	2027	A
Aaron Coffeen, Member	2026	X	Michelle Martin, Member	2027	X
Alex Pray, Member	2027	X	Rachael Smallwood, Member	2028	V
Emma Boff, Member	2027	X	Marissa LaPorta, Member	2028	V
Haley Hall, Member	2028	X			
Steven Russell, Staff Liaison		X	Arvada Team Guests:		
Eric Lewin, Staff Liaison		A	Katie Patterson, Guest		X
Jaqueline Rhoades, Staff Liaison		X			
Public					
David Vega		X			
X = Present, in person V = Virtual participant A = Absent					

## Minutes

### 5:30 p.m. Convene

- Land Acknowledgement
- Approval of [July 2025 Minutes](#) - Motion and Second - Approved

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

- **David Vega** CU Denver program for Business Sustainability & Festivals Commission;
  - Came today to see how sustainability is applied in the real world
  - Dar-Lon: prompted David to talk about waste diversion
    - David: we work with one company that works with trash at festivals,
    - Has other ideas for festival commission

- Wants to build relationship with ASAC to work on waste diversion at CoA events

## 5:50 pm Old Business/General Business

- Updates from Committee members
  - Alex:
    - Garden in the Box Fall Sale -
      - Expressed support of this program; Arvada is a participant
      - See Resource Central 2024 Report  
<https://impact.resourcecentral.org/all-partners-annual-report-2024>
    - Xcel Energy
      - Alex has done some analysis of Xcel's portfolio data;
        - Link:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WreRh0a0P\\_Ch98N2VI\\_ygy-EzF2Yntbx/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100002042069101786626&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WreRh0a0P_Ch98N2VI_ygy-EzF2Yntbx/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100002042069101786626&rtpof=true&sd=true)
        - Program Participation trends - findings are that electric energy is getting less carbon intensive.
        - Can provide a more in-depth discussion at a future meeting if desired
      - Partners in Energy program: seeing lower participation from business.
    - Need a new committee specific google drive - there is an old version that we need to include the full committee on or new to create a new one.
      - Steven will follow up on this; already thinking of setting up a shared folder; Alex says there may be an existing Google Drive Folder; Steven will look for it
  - Dar-Lon:
    - We're holding social after meeting for informal networking; in lieu of Geos potluck this year
    - Reviving Geos susty committee group for Geos neighborhood; this group used to exist; it died off a few years ago
    - A new neighbor at Geos wants to schedule a tour for ASAC to visit
  - Laurel:
    - Sustainable development standards
      - Lakewood is an example, presented to the ASAC in the past
      - Wondering if there is an option to explore this with the DRCOG or local accelerator programs?
      - Mark is also interested in this area, if he can meet outside of the ASAC meeting time.
      - Steven will follow up on this; will schedule a time for the three to meet and discuss
- Updates from Council Liaison
  - Council just had workshops on Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Rates
  - Recently had a tour of Arvada Water Facility that needs to be fully replaced by 2030
- Updates from Staff Liaison

- CO EPR program proposal
  - Proposed to CDPHE by Circular Action Alliance, pending approval - planned decision Dec 2025
  - Potentially significant and susty funding opp for various Arvada waste diversion programs
    - Residents will experience rate reduction, and potentially zero cost recycling
    - Funding for dropoff sites
    - Organics program expected to launch in 2026/27
  - Private hauler participation option too
  - Next steps/ actions
    - Public comment opening soon
    - Invite volunteers to read and provide feedback on proposed plan - it's long ; focus on chapter 6
      - Link:
        - <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/64260ed078c36925b1cf3385/t/68642d2c76036d7fba319666/1751395630524/CA+Colorado+Amended+Program+Plan-FINAL+SUBMITTAL.pdf>
      - Curious? EPR 101 webinar:
        - <https://circularactionalliance.org/webinar-archives/v/w9x76nzn7d7hgjp68z9agj7twm8hm9>
- Arvada to host FRSC meeting in October
  - Working with FRSC team to plan a panel discussion on program metrics
- Resource Central contract
  - Expanded lawn conversion program
    - Link: <https://resourcecentral.org/lawn/>
    - Add'l funds added
    - Opened to HOAs, Neighborhood groups
    - Closes end of month (8/29)
  - Replaces non-functional turf grass into xeriscape space; replacement and garden-in-a-box are funded by city, resident or comm group/HOA provides labor to convert, and pays for additional landscape materials and any irrigation retrofit costs
  - Jacqueline: We're determining whether to maintain current level or expand participation in 2026
- Communications
  - Comm Plan drafted
    - Resume susty newsletter (distribution ~ 450)
      - Working towards a content calendar - bimonthly focus on 1-3 ideas that can then populate up into other city channels when appropriate
    - ASAC Monthly susty living tip
    - Community susty highlights/success stories
  - Website overhaul in progress
  - Alex: Not familiar with susty newsletter; can we share an example? Noted that in the past we've struggled to get content for Arvada Report

- Katie Patterson: For a sustainable approach, we will come up with annual content calendar; theme it to the time of year; monthly content 1-3 items
- Glass2Glass recycling pilot
  - High visibility, low cost dropoff bin for glass recycling
    - Aunheiser-Busch-funded program
    - Co-branded with Denver Broncos
  - Opp specs:
    - Large rolloff provided free of charge
    - Only cost to city is hauling, split 50/50 with AB (\$125 cost to City per haul)
    - City needs to choose site for this; thinking for high visibility, high traffic site
    - Long-term program not guaranteed after 2-year contract, but AB has expressed no plans to cancel
  - This is a circular waste stream; glass recycled into cullet and turned back into new bottles
  - Arvada already offers glass recycling in single-stream
  - Need to pick site and process paperwork by (Sept 30)
- DRCOG Building Policy Collaborative
  - Building decarbonization program, collaborative of ~15-20 cities
  - Subaward program: a large pot of funding set aside for munis with appropriate proposal (up to 900k for Arvada)
    - CAN FUND STAFF CAPACITY
  - WW Buildings/code and Facilities to map out multi-project scope
  - LOI due October 31
- Local IMPACT accelerator
  - Lots of overlap with DRCOG, but with focus on policy
  - Passed on round 1 funding due to short timeline. Will participate in round 2, Oct 1 - Nov 17
- CO WaterWise
  - Arvada- New member
  - Ton of water cons BMPs
  - Steven can share some resources from CWW; if this is an interest to you, reach out
- WDAP
  - CDPHE/STEPS - re-engaged with contractor to support Council workshop/ passage
  - Council workshop scheduled for 10/28
  - Going to recommend most of the strategies in document to Council
- CASP update and timeline
  - Steven provided an update on current status of CASP, issues with document, change in approach, priorities, and new timeline
    - Link to slides:
      - [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xz2Kw10SmrmMmebIDP7u\\_ptC0bOR9ttc1fjMauVjnvU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xz2Kw10SmrmMmebIDP7u_ptC0bOR9ttc1fjMauVjnvU/edit?usp=sharing)
  - Q&A

- Randy: Can we include in the implementation guidance an impact now designation versus long-term impact (investment over time)?
  - Steven clarified that this will be captured in the short/long term implementation guidance
- Randy: January 27, 2025 Council Workshop, February Vote; confirm which business meeting
- Dar-Lon: Will the plan prescribe what an annual update looks like?
  - Steven clarified the annual versus full update strategy and measures/results updates versus full update. Most annual updates will be data updates. Topical updates will be carried out on ad-hoc basis. Full updates will be periodical, but haven't defined a specific calendar for this; some flexibility is beneficial
- Emma: Will we have a table of measures over time? Curious about the expectations for what future years will look like.
  - Steven clarified that this is the plan. He has already started a spreadsheet to do this. Goal is for data to paint a picture of change over time.
- Randy: Excellent work and the right direction. What is the buy-in looking like with the interdepartmental meetings? Are the changes happening grounded in the city embracing the work?
  - Steven: for the most part yes, majority of staff have strong buy in and excitement. There is some variability. A few staff have indicated concern around staff capacity. The majority reaction is energy and looking for synergy with existing work.
  - Steven: Main section being amended are the strategies and what are already doing areas of the report. People like talking about this.
- Randy: In the introduction there was a comment around better defining what we are doing this/why it is important. Hit the C40 cities, this is a global problem and biggest impact at the local level.
- Randy: Consumption based emissions additions are welcomed. Boulder comparison was striking as when this was added the GHGs double. Comparing Arvada to Boulder something seemed off, when can we verify?
  - Steven noticed this too. When we do the 2030 inventory, we will look at whether retroactive corrections need to be made to 2023 inventory.
  - Steven: Discussed consumption based methods considerations; some disagreement in industry on best way to measure, causing some variations in methods for consumption-based GHGs.
  - Laurel: If you need more information on Boulder GHG inventory, Laurel can connect Steven with the analyst that worked on this.
    - Steven: will follow up on this and work more closely with neighboring communities.
    - Kristin: Can connect Steven with JeffCO staff as well.

- Jacqueline: Olde Town Recycling Metrics and Next Steps
  - Will provide future follow up report
  - Pilot: launched a few cans; we will provide data on results from cans; was brought up in the past, we will bring back

**6:45 p.m. Activity: CASP work session**

- Split into breakout groups to work on
  - CASP Vision (Facilitator: Steven)
    - Discussed the current vision statement, past versions, and other vision-oriented content removed from the plan.
    - Takeaways:
      - We want a vision that: is specific, quick/easy to read, points to future achievements, gives sense of community, thesis statement, considers children, and connects with people on an emotional level
      - Current version strengths: commitment, resilience, "we" language
      - Current version weaknesses: not catchy, goes down the rabbit hole, conveys GHG is the only thing that matters, is ambiguous or vague, not catchy, stats (zzz), too open ended on city values,
      - Participants also noted: we need a definition of sustainability, city values and motto need to be better woven in,
  - Imagery and success stories (Facilitator: Katie Patterson)
    - Discussed opportunities to incorporate more imagery and success stories into the CASP.
    - For each item, participants discussed what the image should include, where it should be placed, why it should be included, and some sample text and imagery were added.
    - Themes included
      - Arvada Community + Water
      - Transportation in Arvada
      - Regional Context (community benchmarking & comparisons)
      - Baseline metrics
      - Transportation infographics
      - Marshall Fire

**7:20 p.m. New Business**

- Hosting Front Range Sustainability Commission in ~~September~~ October
- Thank you to Kia and Randy for snacks at this meeting.
- Snacks by Emma at next meeting
- See everyone after the meeting for social at the Arvada Beer Garden

**7:30 p.m. Adjourn at 7:26**

# Climate Action and Sustainability Plan

Progress update

*Aug 13th, 2025*





HOUSTON, I HAVE  
SO MANY PROBLEMS

No KPIs/program metrics

Evident that staff members were not sufficiently consulted

Community engagement is low

Prioritization scheme (equity+)

Scheduling with Council

Cramming strategies into work groups does not work as well as hoped



# Two paths

## Path 1: Workshop Oct '25, Vote Nov '25

Push existing content in front of current Council

New Council votes

- Largely vision-driven document
- No metrics/KPIs associated with goals
- Prioritization scheme is shaky
- Staff consultation incomplete, buy-in is low
- Many depts and existing progs not represented in current text
- Community engagement is weak
- Scheduling a little awkward (new Council voting based on previous Council's workshop)

## Path 2: Workshop Jan '26, Vote Feb '26

Extend timeline and fill gaps in metrics, staff engagement, representation; community engagement cycle

Provide Executive Summary & update Council via memo

- Time to assign KPIs to each goal
- Re-assess strategies with updated prioritization metrics/schema
- Comprehensive internal outreach to increase staff buy-in
- Flesh out document to fill in missing programs and strategies across gov
- Conduct final public comment period in Nov
- Pivot focus to WDAP



# Recent Activity

# ASAC comments on new text draft - THANK YOU!

85 comments received

Currently reconciling

I will respond on comment, if I have questions

One theme: request for examples

Thank you!!

The screenshot displays a Google Docs interface. The document title is "ASAC copy of CASP Body Draft". The main content area shows a "Table of Contents" for the "Arvada Climate Action and Sustainability Plan". The table of contents lists sections and their corresponding page numbers:

<b>Acknowledgments</b>	4
<b>Message from the Mayor</b>	7
<b>Executive Summary</b>	8
<b>Introduction</b>	9
Vision for a Sustainable Arvada	9
Community Guidance	9
State, Regional, and Local Collaboration	10
<b>Where We've Been</b>	12
Sustain Arvada	12
A Foundation for Ambitious Climate Strategies	12

The right sidebar shows a "Comments" panel with two visible comments:

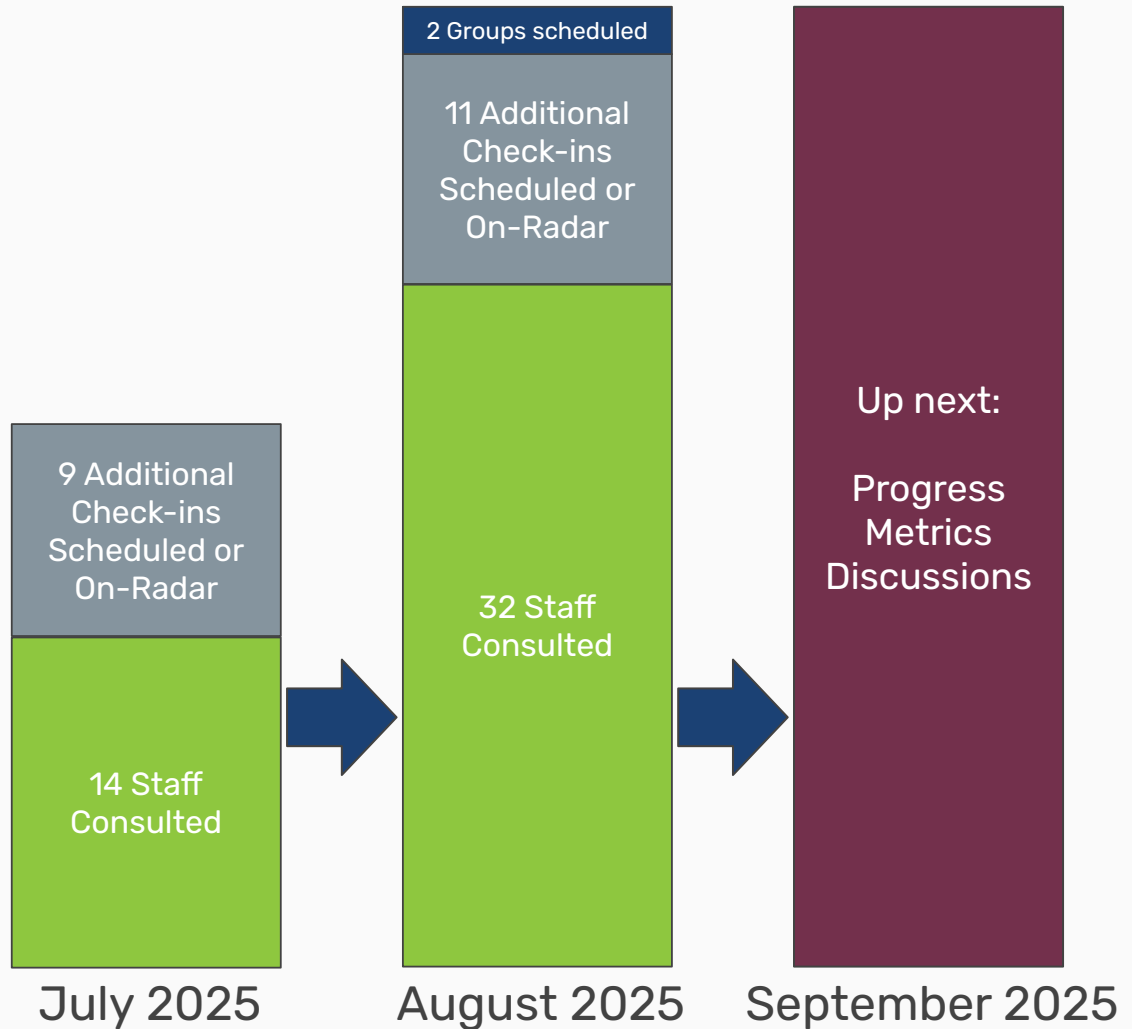
- Haley Hall** (7:04 AM Today): "Can we link to source for this as well?"
- Krystle Morey** (8:06 PM Jul 31): "this is a bit odd, it sounds like the plan didn't say anything, and we did the things it didn't say."

A large "DRAFT" watermark is visible across the center of the document.

# Staff Consultations

Scope expanded to fill gaps in CASP

Beginning to discuss metrics



# Design phase

Pre-design meeting 7/22

Full design October '25

Setting up design template now

Sidebars/callouts throughout

Hexagonal design elements

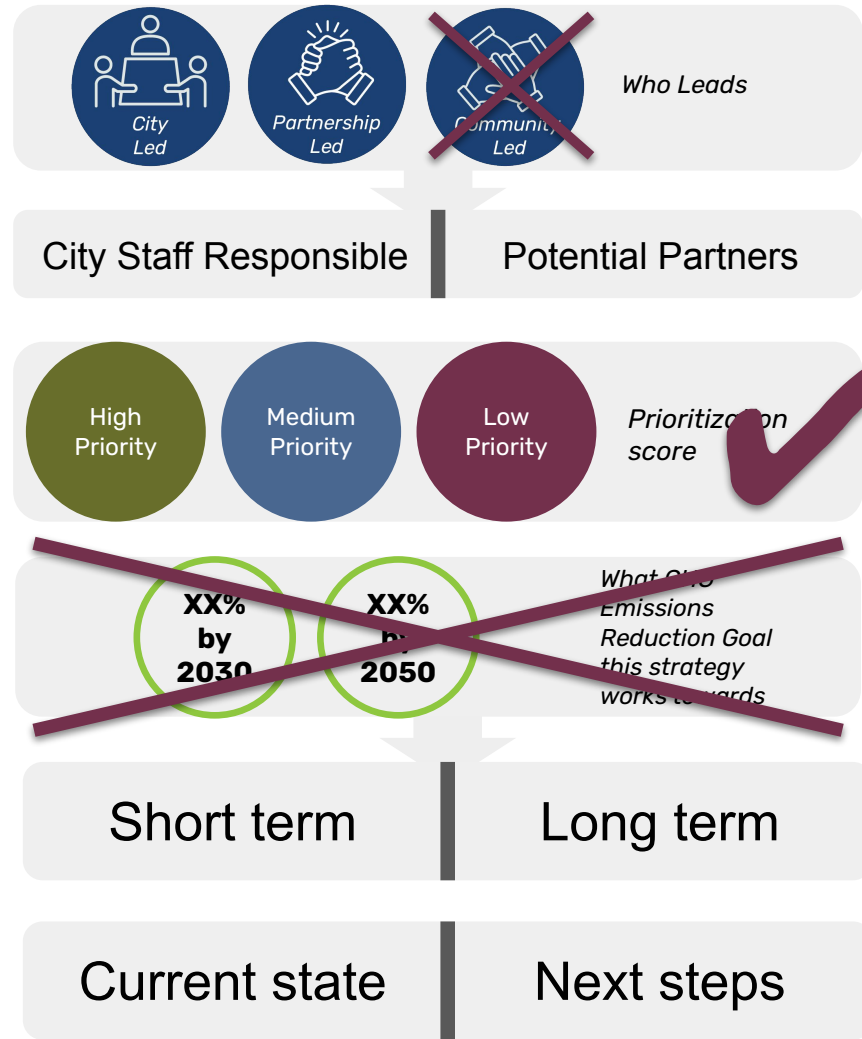
Color coding strategy groupings

We need imagery!



# Improving Implementation Guidance

Revising implementation guidance:  
Enhancing precision  
Fleshing out responsible parties  
Assessing usefulness  
Being realistic and accurate  
Noting current state/ next steps



# Revising Prioritization Metrics

Prioritization score metrics:

Need to re-score all strategies

Problems w Equity metric

Problems w GHG Impact metric

Opportunity to revise schema



Currently discussing:  
What prioritization  
metrics make sense?  
Base in Comp Plan  
priorities?

# Program Success/ Progress Metrics

Metrics at goal level; associate with strategies when approp.

Initial prompt during Staff Engagement meetings; Follow-up for specifics

Establish retrieval schedule & methods, source, POC, description

Focus on existing data; plan for add'l when needed

Me: Everything is right on track!  
The track:





**On Deck**

# Next Steps

Prioritization scoring

Section about  
existing efforts

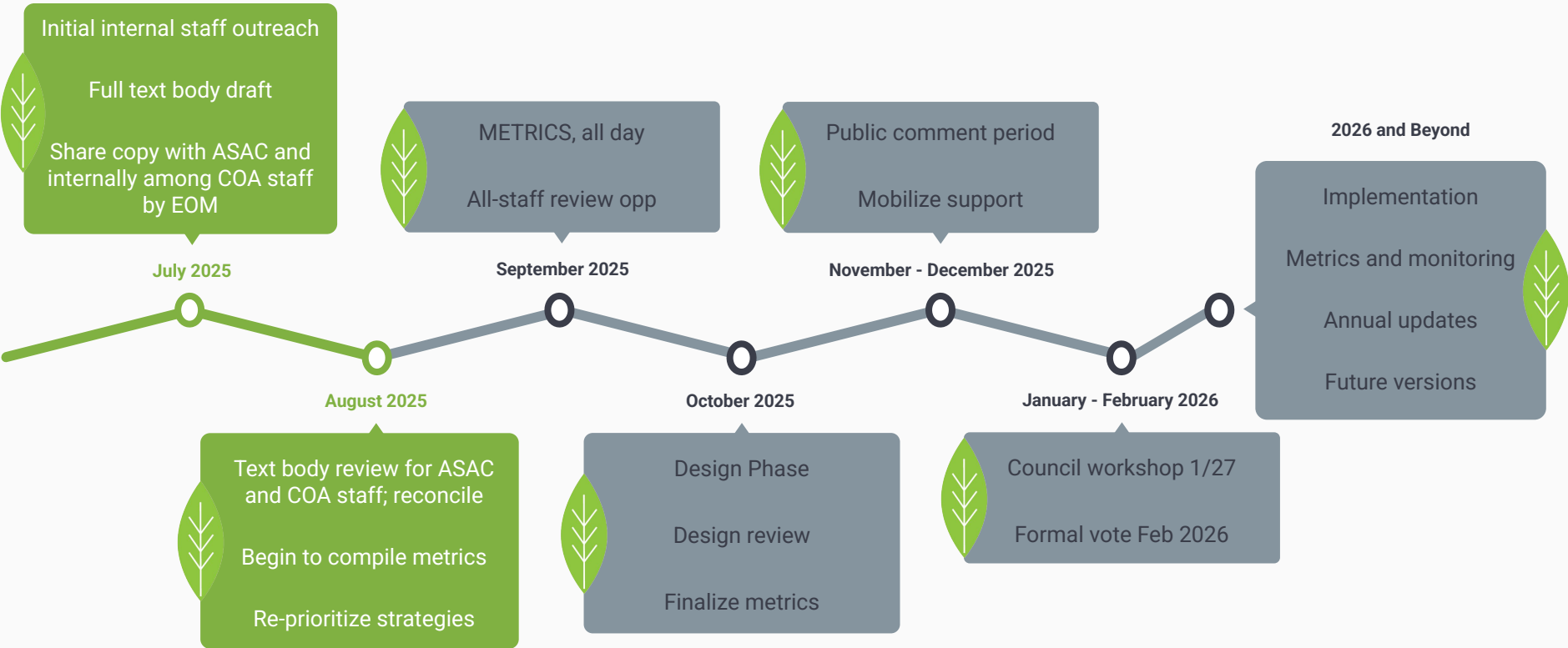
Final text review

Design phase

Public comment  
period

# Updated Timeline for Finalizing CASP

Still ambitious, but reasonable





# Questions?