

# Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee (ASAC) Agenda

October 8, 2025, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
 Hybrid meeting: City Hall, 3rd Floor CCR Room + Zoom Meeting  
 Meet in PD lobby at 5:20 so staff can let you into the 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	V
Kia Ruiz, Vice Chair	2027	X	Krystle Morey, Member	2026	V
Harriet Hall, Secretary	2027	X	Laurel Mattrey, Member	2026	V
Randy Moorman, Council Liaison	NA	A	Mark Jelinske, Member	2027	A
Aaron Coffeen, Member	2026	V	Michelle Martin, Member	2027	V
Alex Pray, Member	2027	A	Rachael Smallwood, Member	2028	A
Emma Boff, Member	2027	V	Marissa LaPorta, Member	2028	V
Haley Hall, Member	2028	X			
Steven Russell, Staff Liaison		X	Arvada Team Guests:		
Eric Lewin, Staff Liaison		A			
Jaqueline Rhoades, Staff Liaison		X			
X = Present, in person V = Virtual participant A = Absent					

## Minutes

### Convened at 5:33 pm

- Land Acknowledgement
- Approval of [September 2025 minutes](#)
  - Kia motioned, Harriet seconded; Approved by voice vote

### Public Comment (3 min/ speaker)

- None

### General Business

- Updates from Committee members

- Krystle Morey provided an update on the Colorado WaterWise Conference. Steve and Krystle both attended.
  - See all workshop presentations here:
    - <https://coloradowaterwise.org/2025-Presentations>
  - Some highlights:
    - New system for contract growing (trees) that tells nurseries in advance what is desired, so they grow supply based demand. Mobile platform to support. Normal speculative growth model results in significant water waste
    - Youth education on water platform
    - Non-functional turf ban workshop
    - Landscape consultation program (similar to Resource Central); does full landscape consultation
    - Discussion on leveraging water loss audit data; Arvada required to do this in compliance w SB 24-174
      - [https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2024a\\_174\\_signed.pdf?](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2024a_174_signed.pdf?)
    - Presentations on data for landscape type/function using cell phone data/ imagery overlay
    - Presentation on new requirement for comprehensive plans to include water planning element ; Arvada has done this
    - Theme: Lots of turf conversion and native grass
- Kia:
  - Indigenous Peoples' Day is on Monday
    - Recommended going to history colorado for the Sand Creek Massacre exhibit
  - CERT Cohort has space available
    - Attended training at Arvada FD
    - <https://www.arvadaco.gov/684/Arvada-CERT>
- Dar-Lon
  - Geos tour and CASAP party on 9/30
    - Climate and Sustainability Action Party
    - Ran 2 hours, lots of questions and comments
    - 10 present; 6 residents, 4 additional community members
    - This was an interesting model for working with neighborhoods to present and engage around CASAP
    - Recommends replicating this outreach by targeting neighborhoods with a sustainability committee
    - This approach could also help build support for other neighborhoods to create sustainability committees
    - Nov 13 Geos neighborhood hosting Open House with CSAP table at event
    - Benefit of tour: when ppl build community around net zero building, no gas, etc., a lot that arises from this goes beyond the technology/ innovation and builds community
    - Geos holds 4-5 tours/yr
  - Dar-Lon was Accepted to JeffCo sustainability commission
    - 1 of 2 members on 9 member committee
    - For JeffCo at large

- Footprint of JeffCo includes entire city of Evergreen
  - 100k available left this year for micro-grants
    - Response was too late for Arvada to apply, but will keep an eye on this opportunity in the future
- Updates from Council Liaison
  - Attending the Colorado Municipal League city council candidate training tonight
  - The council will be having a workshop on the city budget on Oct 14
  - Waste Diversion Study workshop is Oct 28
- Updates from Staff Liaison
  - WDAP workshop on 10/28
    - Resource Recycling Systems light touch project funded to incorporate final edits, prepare workshop materials, co-present at workshop
    - Most supported initiatives will be incorporated into CASAP
  - Olde Town Recycling Pilot update
    - Steven gave a presentation.
    - High bin contamination rate (63%), staff labor hours
    - Link to detailed memo: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QJ57hgArKyaWjqgUVIS6NDn\\_es8Et\\_gn/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QJ57hgArKyaWjqgUVIS6NDn_es8Et_gn/view?usp=sharing)
    - Influences in contamination more time between visits, more contamination
    - Marissa questioned basis on the disposal hole size - as a visual for what is appropriate to place in the bin
    - Marissa asked about the color of bins - blue versus green or even bright green - is it possible to paint a different color?
    - Comment: Bear control cans reduce contamination as well; lends credence to concept of forcing people to stop and think
    - Recommendation: Clearing bins prior to (and after?) events
    - Common contaminants noted in staff comments: dog poo and cigarettes
      - Question on whether the dog poo receptacles should be placed near bins as well
    - Council response: asked about data; Steven provided data
    - Olde Town reinvestment plan is coming down the pipe, we can incorporate some redesign in the reinvestment plan
    - Steven will check on ability to change color
  - Building decarbonization update
    - "Tentative thumbs up" from DRCOG on our proposed plan to fund 2 staff positions and purchase a document management software package
    - Staff positions (likely contracted):
      - HVAC/Building Electrification Specialist; Role: Support building electrification in Arvada through specialized knowledge
      - Building Decarbonization and Energy Code Specialist; Role: Support development review process with specialized knowledge of LECC and implementation
    - Full application due 10/31
  - Interest in tours of Sustain Ability Westminster site, Scraps site?
    - Yes: Alex, Haley, Kia
  - Arvada hosting FRSC meeting in November 5 at Arvada Aquatics Center

- Volunteers? Tour at 5:40, Event at 6
  - Haley will cover table, Krystle will take notes (but may be late)
- Tour: Kim Vagher, City Facility Manager will talk AAC design and LEED Silver certification; Kristi Marosey will show off facility operations
- Topic will be on sustainability metrics (Panel with Longmont, Industry Professional, and Westminster)
- Maria will send email to the outreach list, please send Steven or Maria your questions
- CASAP update
  - Steven gave a presentation
  - New name CASAP
    - Noted that resilience in both climate action and sustainability action, examine this important link
  - Timeline updates
  - Definition of Sustainability based on feedback from last workshop; ASAC provided additional feedback on the new definition:
    - Term "Harmony" - do people really want this with the environment? Is "balance" better? "Harmony" may have too much cultural attachment/ values system attachment and may be seen as too woo-woo by readers
    - Jacqueline: term "Residents"? We should be more inclusive ; anyone who has a connection to the area
      - Kristi recommended "Residents" → "Community members": "Instead of residents, I like the word community members because it encompasses more people who participate in the Arvada than those who have an address here."
    - Kia: Push economy up into starting line; take out of center into start. Flip the order of the "by" and "while" items
    - Dar-Lon: "Guides decisions" sounds weak - stronger language - priority for making decisions
      - Marissa suggestion: "sustainability is embedded into decision-making"
    - Emma: Any purpose/value about staying open minded and being open to continuous learning... suggested language: "Adaptability" or "Always evolving"
  - GHG Benchmark
    - 2015 inventory uncovered can act as new benchmark; moving the starting point enables us to claim much more ambitious GHG reduction % goals.
    - Michelle and Haley requested to review these data
  - Goal prioritization scheme updated
    - 5 staff and Chair/Co-Chair are scoring based on updated prioritization scheme
    - Spreading out the review across multiple individuals allows for us to control a bit for subjectivity

**6:30 p.m. New Business**

- Absences & Bylaws

- Dar-Lon: we haven't talked much about bylaws, but they actually do have some rules we haven't really enforced or talked about
- Steven shared the requirement for Committee Members to attend greater than 2/3 of general meetings; multiple Committee Members are under this threshold, which is why we're talking about absences
- Dar-Lon wishes to start with a clean slate - reset expectations and move forward
- Kia in favor of clean slate when the new cohort comes in
- Kia feels in the future we should ensure this is discussed during recruitment?
- Staff held a workshop with council re: board/committee/commission member survey results and best practices apply to boards and commissions
  - Link: [Council Workshop September 9](#)
- Dar-Lon: asked for feedback on bylaw changes, procedures
  - Steven: There is a provision in the bylaws for Committee to make amendments; Council can also make amendments
- Kristi: "One goal for the next cohort could also be to have a mini ASAC orientation packet with norms and expectations"
- Kia: Question to new Committee Members: when you entered this new role, did you feel up to speed? What was missing? Did you feel integrated?
- Dar-Lon: 3 yr ago, new members got a binder with bylaws, expectations; didn't have sustainability coordinator at that time;
  - We also had a lunch to welcome new folks,
    - Purpose was to orient new folks and establish history
- Laurel: it would be useful to have some clarity in bylaws about what advising city council means; this is unclear currently
  - Also, can we establish a regular check-in with Council?
- Dar-Lon: at JeffCo sustainability commission, they present goals/ committee purpose; this is something we could consider: defining what we aim for as a committee
- Laurel: Nature of committee has changed, so clarification on general role and expectations would be good for new write-up
- Aaron suggested adding to the agenda to review what committee member expectations/metrics are
  - Also requested staff routine (i.e. minutes, attendance, etc.) could include sharing an attendance record in the meeting agenda (or individually with committee members)
- Kristi recommended setting yearly smart goals to achieve each year (i.e. pass the CASAP)
  - Kristi (chat): "SMART Goals in case folks aren't familiar with the acronym: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound."
  - Could this also mean an annual work plan?
- Michelle: need to define what we're expected to do, how we're expected to advise
  - Last year for Michelle there were not clear action items, just lotus sessions and vague discussions. It was hard to understand how Committee Members were contributing to action and left her feeling uncertain on next steps
- Dar-Lon felt the same; it was unclear how each focus session built into the next and how that was incorporated into CASP.

- Dar-Lon wants to build on something bigger; for example the Defining Sustainability workshop had a meaningful impact on CASAP; would like to see more activities like this, as well as having closure on things we did in the past
- Kristi: "Agree that action items are helpful!"
- Steven: there was something in the council workshop about establishing work plans; we will implement this for ASAC
  - Jacqueline affirmed this was part of the discussion and agreed
- Kia: curious if council is receptive to sustainability. Feels it would be nice to have a better relationship and more engagement. Wants to move beyond throwing information at the Council; would like to know they are receptive to it.
- Harriet: this is the conflict between advising role and expecting us to do things; if we "do" things, that's not advisory
  - Dar-Lon: agreed and pointed out that doing fundraising crosses the line
  - Kia: this goes back to expectation setting, establishing role now that we have strong dedicated staff
- Dar-Lon: when Laurel was chair, she gave an annual update to council
  - Laurel: Inherited this practice from committee; it happened in fall; would like to confirm it's something we do since we haven't done this over the last couple years.
    - ASAC also prepared a memo and letter with the presentation
- Steven: what would you LIKE to see from the relationship with council, changes to bylaws, etc.?
  - Dar-Lon: what did we do in the past along these lines?
- Harriet: in the past there's been a lot of growing pains, figuring it out as we go; in the past, a waste hauling subcommittee was formed and committee coalesced around this, culminating in single hauler ordinance. All the things that we had to do to get there is a good role for ASAC;
  - Noted that single hauler passage was a single focus and folks who weren't behind it fell off (stopped engaging)
  - Dar-Lon: can you talk about the handoff to the city staff?
    - Harriet: after initial push it became more the city's job than ASAC's, but staff asked for help from ASAC, so there were citizens not just city staff supporting. Staff expanded collaboration in response, increased reporting back, and ASAC was able to achieve more mobilization. It was an exciting project and getting it done felt good
  - Dar-Lon: would like to get us there, focusing on exciting projects that had to get done. This year has been difficult due to delays, and an "amorphous phase" of not knowing what we're doing. We need to get people excited about our work
- Kia: Brought the conversation back to absences
  - Steven is getting some word from upstairs; connected with City Attorney.
    - Explained that procedure in bylaws includes the Member submitting an explanation for absences in writing, leaving the room, having the committee consider the absence excuse and then voting whether to recommend Council remove the member.

- Harriet: is the bylaws procedure to excuse by vote? This is probably what we should do. If we're going to enforce it we should start now; this may mean losing people, which would be good to know before the process.
  - Consensus reached that we should follow guidance from the City Attorney and bylaws, then after following the protocol start with a clean slate and higher expectations for attendance moving forward.
- Potential list for neighborhood leadership network
  - <https://www.arvadaco.gov/482/Neighborhood-Programs>
  - <https://www.arvadaco.gov/1096/Neighborhood-Leader-Network>
  - <https://arvada.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=a3bd7b65d1104b80949b91e86d249b37>
  - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/15tQ0xFtq1yIJnzxBdNhW7r5yEzaPNyONlrXRTxiFVg/edit?usp=sharing>
  - <https://www.arvadaco.gov/1262/Neighborhood-Grant-Program-Guide>
  - Kia introduced the neighborhood leadership program;
    - Each neighborhood has a program. This is for coordinating things like red flag law change, etc.
    - Each neighborhood is also eligible for a block party grant; can be used to set up block parties, little free library, etc.
    - Kia is leader for Sierra Vista neighborhood and did a thermal justice grant for SV elementary school, which has had trouble getting shade trees to establish in the playground. Used the grant to put in an umbrella structure, party, and sunscreen. Tied the grant to climate bc things are heating up.
    - There's currently a neighborhood that just got a grant for fire mitigation.
    - Would be cool to give the program a list of sustainability ideas for the grants, like the Cool Boulder program and Longmont, which do residential programs like citizen science, pollinator gardens, cultural impact for climate action.
    - As we're talking about outreach/tabling, it would be great to have neighborhood groups clusters ready to go;
    - We should produce a list of projects in line with CASAP that would help activate neighborhoods to align well with climate and sustainability action
  - Kia: let's start a list, run it by Brady, and possibly present to NL program meeting
    - Committee agreed this is a great idea and brainstormed some ideas:
      - Dar-Lon: shared tool library
      - Laurel: neighborhood compost
        - Dar-Lon: Geos does this and negotiated a great rate at \$9/home/month
      - Kia: VCN has been pushing for sustainability and resilience; read out the grant description
      - Harriet: Arvada does Xmas tree dropoff; halloween pumpkin collection
      - Harriet: for older neighborhoods w lots of trees, bushes, big lots, etc, a lot of yard waste goes into trash that should be composted
        - Steven believes Arvada's reduced price yard waste rolloffs go to compost; need to verify
      - Kristi: "There could be a potential to partner with community gardens like Rose Roots or Arvada Community garden for composting/yard waste or something"

- Steven will start a document and send link in minutes
- Marissa: How do I find who my neighborhood leader is?
  - Link to list:  
<https://www.arvadaco.gov/1096/Neighborhood-Leader-Network>
- Kia: Introduced idea for a parking lot as a part of our meeting protocols
  - This will be a mechanism for holding great ideas to come back to without diverting item discussion
    - Dar-Lon: Parking lot is a great idea. It seems like we keep hitting the end of our agenda, but when possible, this would be a nice way to recap with any remaining time
    - Kia: also could encourage individuals to follow up on items individually as well
    - Kristi: I like the idea of having somewhere to organize ideas/track initiatives. We might be able to use trello for this as well!
- Harriet motioned to adjourn early, Haley seconded. Approved by voice vote

**7:30 p.m. Adjourn at 7:18**

# Olde Town Recycling Pilot

October 2025 update

# Context

Started January 2025

9 bins placed throughout Olde Town along Grandview and Wadsworth

Arvada Parks Team services bins; taking effort to sort waste by hand

Recycle bins are same style as landfill bin, but



## **By the Numbers**

Bin Housings Deployed: 9

Pilot timespan: Jan 2025 - Current

Total Bins Diverted: 38.5

Total Bins Contaminated: 65

Total Hours of Staff Labor: 31.5

Overall Bin Contamination Rate 62.8%

# Results



Very high “bin” contamination rate

High expenditure of staff time  
with diminishing returns

Limited relationships evident

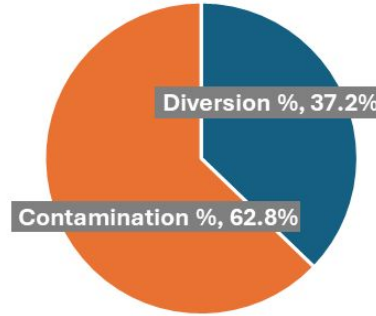
Limited anecdotal data

# Bin Contamination

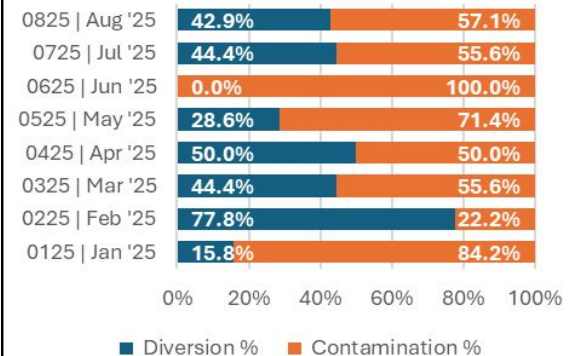
Overall high rate of contamination

High variability between months

Overall Bin Contamination vs Diversion

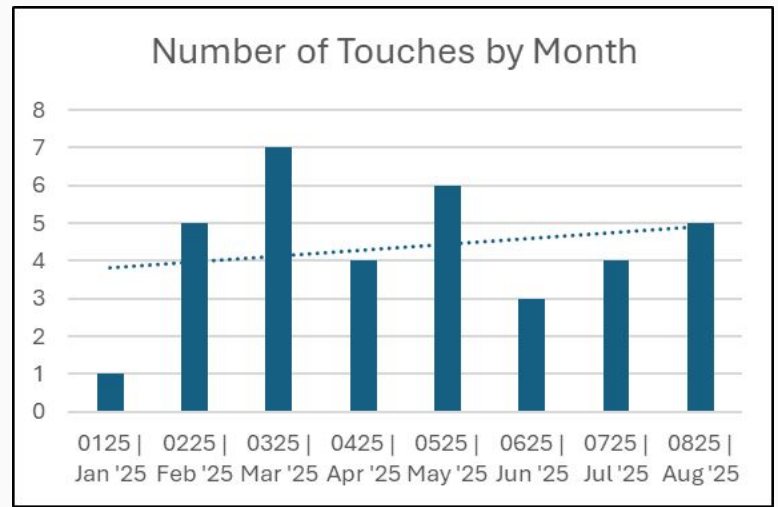


Contamination Rate (% of bins) by Month



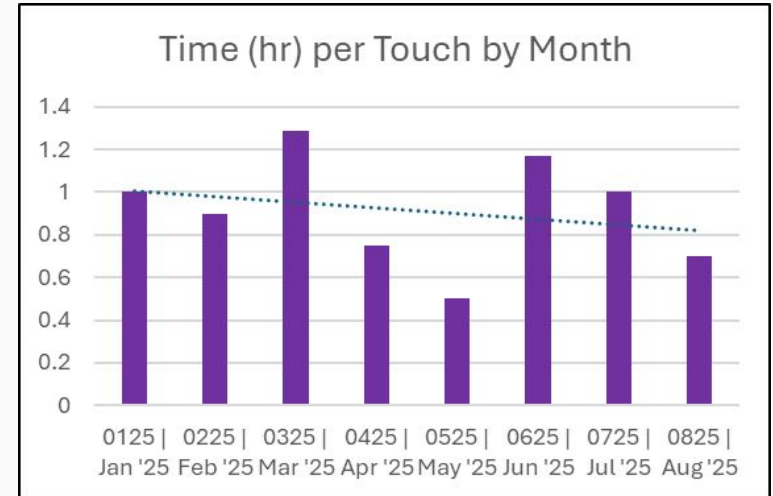
# Insights by Month

Limited insights on staff labor overall



# Insights on Labor

Some indication staff may be growing more efficient in servicing bins

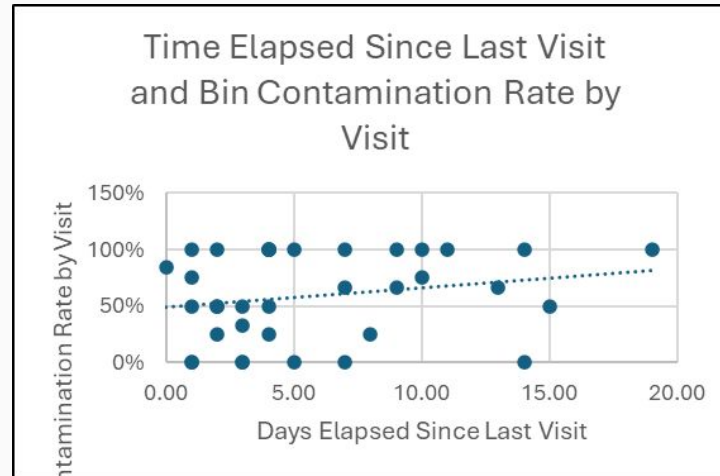
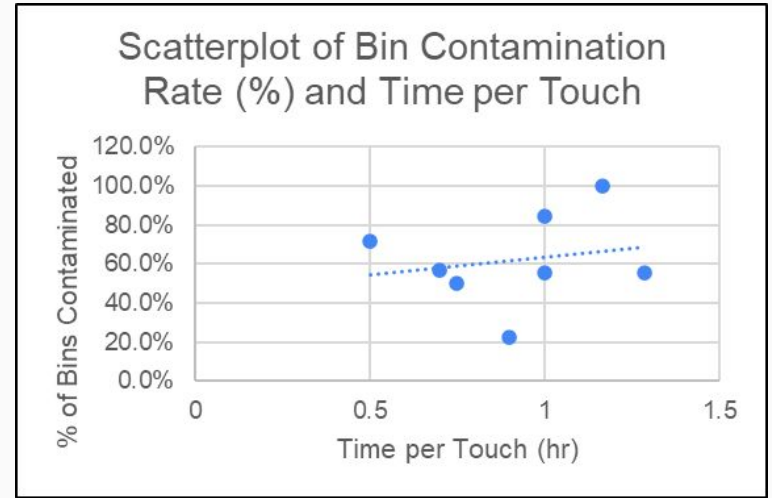


# What Influences Contamination?

Weak but observable relationships

More time between visits, more contamination

Time per touch has diminishing returns



# A few issues...

Pilot uses “bin” as unit of measurement rather than weight

Landfill weight not tracked

Placement of bins is more aesthetic than functional

Timeline and evaluation protocol not specified

Signage is ok but could be improved

# What is a “Bin”?

Staff not provided with any sort of scales for weights

Bin is post-sort

No clarity on how full each “bin” is



# Bin placement

Aesthetically pleasing

Spaced out



# Bin placement

Not forcing conscious decision-making at point of deposit

People likely to deposit items in the closest bin



# No Landfill Weights

Simply cannot calculate diversion rate, only contamination rate

$$\text{Diversion Rate} = \frac{(\text{Reduce} + \text{Reuse} + \text{Compost} + \text{Recycle})}{(\text{Landfill} + \text{WTE} + \text{Incineration} + \text{Reduce} + \text{Reuse} + \text{Compost} + \text{Recycle})}$$

**Diversion Material Weights**

**Total Material Generated Weights**



# Signage

Graphical, limited text

Text below eye-line/under lip of container, or low contrast

Semi-ambiguous

Graphics are fading over time



# Recommended Next Steps

Continue the pilot, BUT...

Move landfill and recycling bins right next to each other

Equip staff with suspension scales

Weigh landfill weights

Make retrieval cadence more regular

Clear bins before large events

Move bins away from problem hotspots

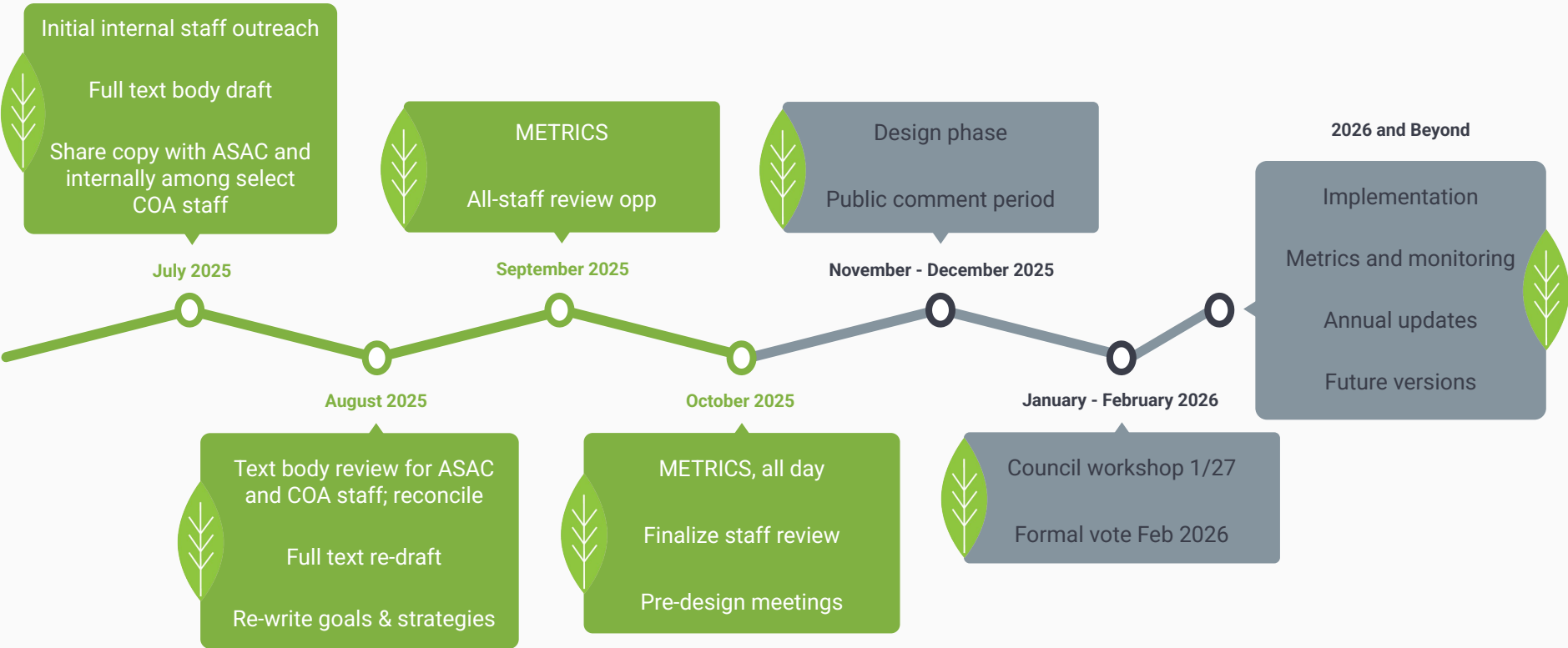
Add signage about common contaminants

# CASAP

# ~~CASP~~ Update

# Updated Timeline for Finalizing CASP

Still ambitious, but reasonable



# Recent updates

Full text body & reviews

Executive Summary Drafted

Climate Action  
AND Sustainability Action

Environmental Access & Equity

Defining Sustainability

GHG benchmark

Prioritization

Additional staff outreach

# Climate Action AND Sustainability Action

*As the effects of climate change continue to grow more real, and as the scientific consensus has become broadly acknowledged, individuals, communities, organizations, and governments around the world are working urgently to reduce emissions and build resilience. **This is Climate Action.***

***Sustainability Action** is the deliberate effort to reduce environmental damage, strengthen community resilience, and ensure that natural, social, and economic systems can thrive together over time. It aligns today's choices with long-term well-being, enhancing quality of life, supporting clean air and water, fostering healthy lifestyles, growing a strong local economy, and preserving a thriving, biodiverse environment, all generating prosperity for generations to come.*

# What is Sustainability?

## DRAFT

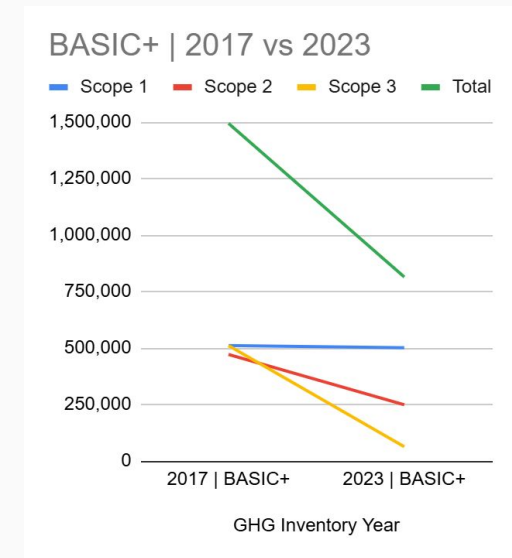
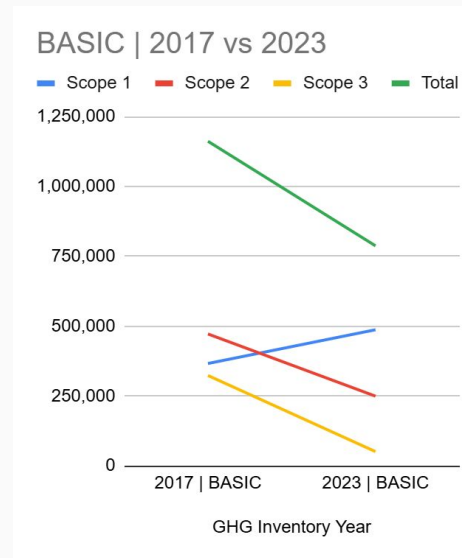
“In Arvada, sustainability is our commitment to care for the environment, foster equity, and build resilience so that both current and future residents can thrive. It means living in harmony with our environment by preserving air, land, water, and wildlife, while supporting a strong local economy. Sustainability guides decisions at the City, helping to strengthen our community and secure long-term prosperity.

# GHG Emissions: Moving the Benchmark

Originally 2023 baseline, but  
2015 inventory discovered

Reworking to set 2015  
emissions data as new baseline

Will allow updated CW Goals:  
50% by 2030 and  
75%-85% by 2050



# Where We're Going: Prioritization

## Quality of Life

- The goal increases health and wellbeing of Arvadans
- The goal increases economic security of Arvadans
- The goal improves community connections to services, parks, etc.
- The goal beautifies the community

## Equity and Inclusion

- The goal increases equity by intentionally including people from historically marginalized or disadvantaged groups (scale: no impact → proactive)
- The goal increases accessibility for individuals who may face barriers due to language barrier, disability, etc.

## Climate Action

- The goal has the potential to reduce GHG emissions in Local Gov Inventory
- The goal has the potential to reduce GHG emissions in Community-Wide Inventory
- The goal has the potential to lead to an immediate climate action benefit (vs longer-term)

## Natural Resources

- The goal reduces natural resource consumption directly or indirectly (excluding biogenic carbon storage)
- The goal conserves or preserves wildlife and green space
- The goal conserves water, conserves energy, and/or reduces waste

## Cost and Efficiency

- The goal has a low net cost of staff time and financial resources, relative to BAU
- The goal is politically feasible and unlikely to cause backlash
- The goal has the potential for a high return on investment
- The goal future-proofs Arvada against higher costs down the road

# Thank you!

Steven Russell

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