

Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee (ASAC) Minutes

May 13, 2026 , 2026, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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

Name, Role	Term Exp	Attendance	Name, Role	Term Exp	Attendance
ASAC Member Attendance:					
Alex Pray, Chair	2027	X	Malea Fajardo, Member	2028	X
Dar-Lon Chang, Vice Chair	2026	X	Mark Jelinske, Member	2027	V
Kristin Klipka, Secretary	2028	X	Michelle Martin, Member	2027	A
Emma Boff, Member	2027	V	Marissa LaPorta, Member	2028	X
Haley Hall, Member	2028	X	Suzie Post, Member	2029	A
Harriet Hall, Member	2027	A	Riley Reid, Member	2029	V
Kia Ruiz	2027	V	Ed Talbot, Member	2029	X
Laurel Mattrey, Member	2029	V			
Arvada Team:			Guests:		
Randy Moorman, Council Liaison		X			
Steven Russell, Staff Liaison		X			
Eric Lewin, Staff Liaison		A			

X = Present, in person | V = Virtual participant | A = Absent

Minutes

5:30 p.m. Convene

- Convened at 5:31
- Land Acknowledgement
- *Approval of April minutes*
 - Dar-Lon motioned, Haley seconded; passed unanimously by voice vote

5:35 p.m. Public Comment (3 min/ speaker)

- No public comment

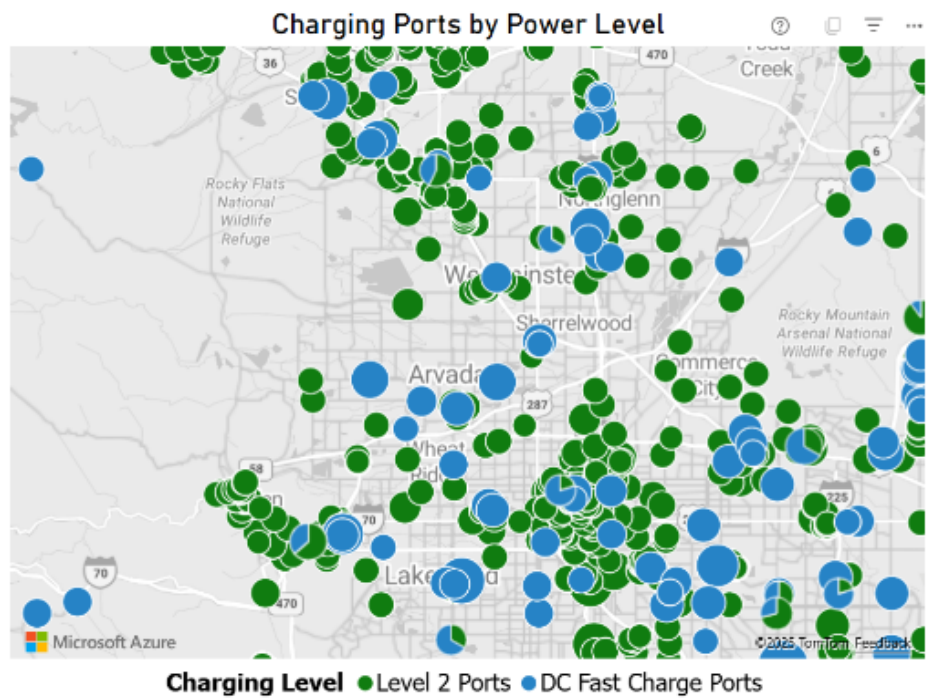
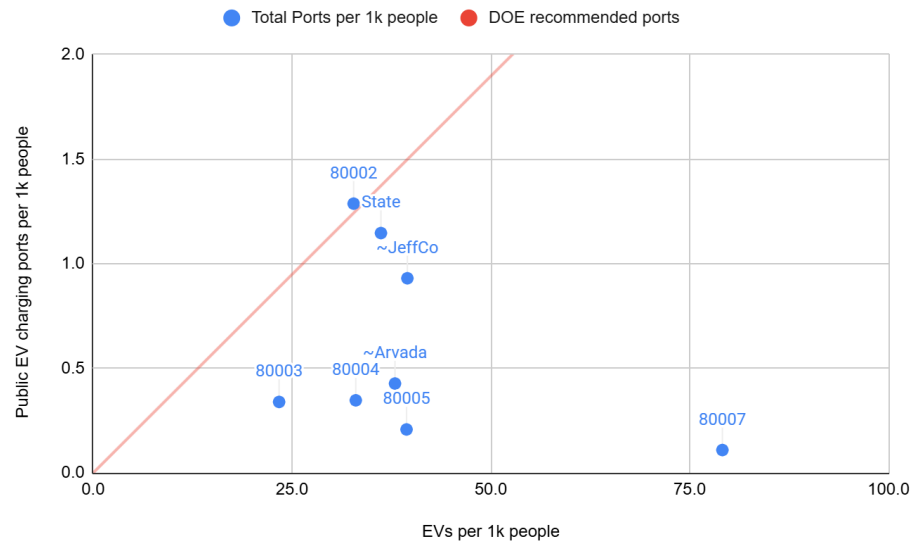
5:50 p.m. General Business

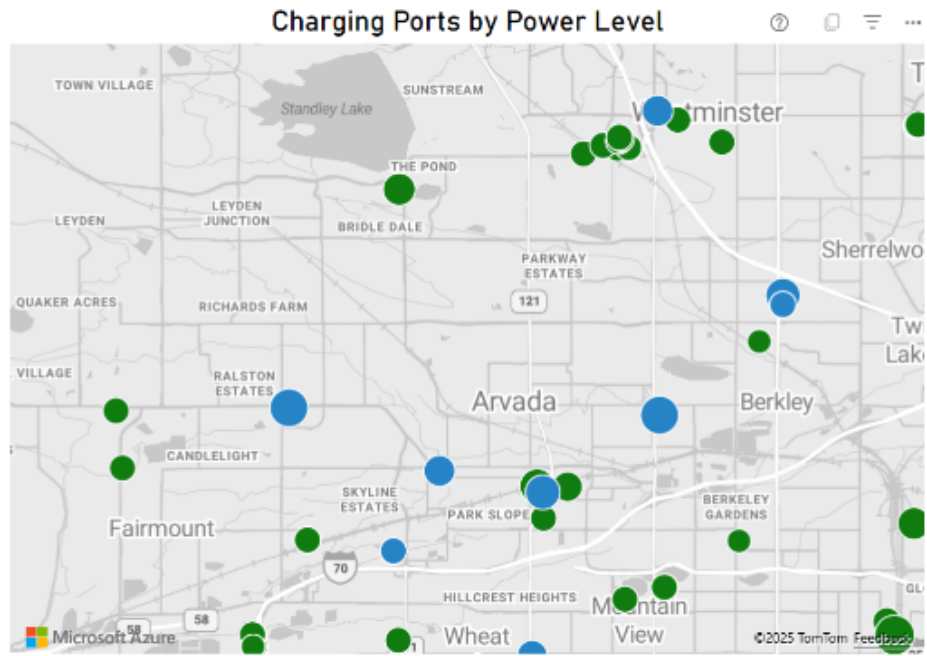
- Updates from Committee members
 - Alex: acknowledged new members
 - Kristi: Went to Arvada Kite Fest, connected with folks from Majestic View Nature Center about collaborating; will cover summer programming in newsletter
 - Alex: valuable connection, a lot of overlap; mentioned Earth day event
 - Emma: when visiting family in Ohio, witnessed a community event that happens every couple months; people put items out on the curb and folks can go around and pick up free stuff; likes the idea of coordinating something like this in advance of bulky item events

- Alex: has witnessed folks putting perfectly good/reusable items in dumpsters at past bulky item events; city used to do curbside bulky item pickup (during which people could unofficially peruse for free stuff), but doesn't do it anymore
- Steven: the bulky item pickup events were popular but extremely expensive from a staff time and pure cost basis. Not very sustainable. The practice has been re-directed to the bulky item dropoff events we currently do.
- Randy: Some communities also do spring cleaning events, which he has seen well utilized; EcoCycle does electronic diversion; other communities have been doing this as well so there are good models to emulate
- Emma: Clarification- the Ohio event is not about bulky dropoff it's community event intended to reuse items before a bulky item event
- Ed: Remembers curbside pickup as well; it's a huge cost to utilities staff, but one of the highest rated resident opps. Given the community's love for this, is there any room to prioritize it?
 - Randy: it's very expensive, and tough to get haulers to do chaser routes to pick up items. Encouraged staff to think about RFP opps, as we approach the 2027 RFP for 2028-33 service.
 - Randy: Also noted that many residents don't know our the contract with Republic includes curbside bulky item for super cheap - cost is per item basis <https://www.arvadaco.gov/1368/Bulk-Pickup>
 - Many businesses and community spaces have electronics recycling:
 - Ed: JeffCo Libraries have electronics recycling events (staff couldn't find online)
 - Randy: SustainAbility does this also <https://www.sustainability-recycling.com/>
 - Alex: Rooney Road offers this as well <https://www.rooneyroadrecycling.org/>
 - Ed: Do we still have shred-a-thons?
 - Kristi: Library did a shred-a-thon last month (and does them semi-regularly) <https://www.jeffco.us/Calendar.aspx?EID=15454>
 - Randy: Arvada United Methodist Church has one coming up as well <https://www.arvadaumc.org/event/vbd857w/2026-shred-a-thon>
- Mark: it might be beneficial to make a community pickup on the smaller scale, i.e. neighborhood-based
- Mark: Joined Denver Energy Code Committee, working on next round of energy code updates; recommends that Arvada stay aligned with Denver. If anyone has any thoughts/concerns to bring to the DECC, let Mark know
- Mark: Do we know the true end-result of single stream recycling;
 - Steven: several years ago, China stopped accepting US plastics for recycling due to high contamination and low quality. The industry has made a lot of adjustments/corrections to address this and it isn't really an issue anymore

- Randy: This didn't actually impact CO directly bc we're so landlocked; Republic has their own MRF in Denver that's very high tech (and recommends members tour the facility). Consider the incentives; as a recycler, you invest in a lot of sorting tech; it's a huge investment, so you're not going to send that material to the landfill. Noted also that guidelines tell residents what materials are recyclable; if an item that goes in a recycle bin is not on the guidelines, it will be landfilled
- Malea: Attended the JeffCo Youth Summit; Happened to be only a few workshops were environmentally focused, but overall good experience. Wants more environmental focus in the future.
 - Dar-Lon: @Malea- any thoughts on the climate careers workshop?
 - Malea: LOVED it and heard positive feedback from others as well
 - Alex: any idea how many students attended?
 - Dar-Lon: About 150 total; this was the 3rd student leadership conf. It had a strong AI focus and only 3/24 workshops were climate-focused; Laurel was a speaker on the career panel
 - Laurel: thought it was great, had about 10 teens with a decent variety of backgrounds; students seemed genuinely interested; Laurel has hosted events like this in the past and was impressed with the number of students who attended on a day off from school
 - Dar-Lon: Also had a JeffCo Sustainability Commission tabling booth at lunch; time was limited but they were able to give away 50 LED bulb kits;
 - Dar-Lon: The event had a good setup; if they can get numbers up for next year then it's possible to do an event that's solely climate-focused
 - Dar-Lon: Also looking for new students to replace the graduating students; they want students to keep pushing to ensure JeffCo's Climate Action Plan has teeth and support
 - Malea: Applied for JeffCo students/parents, hoping to drive this forward when seniors graduate
 - Dar-Lon: organizers are debriefing on June 15, and they will discuss feasibility of a climate-focused event
- Dar-Lon: JeffCo Susty Commission - want to build on success from Student Leadership Conference. At the panel discussion, they had Laura Crocker (lead of Environmental Film Festival); had idea of doing a waste diversion film feat JeffCo schools
 - <https://ceff.net/>
- Dar-Lon: Recommended considering a sustainable neighborhoods program and dedicating staff to this; Lakewood does this (staff mem dedicated); this group could work together to share practices and expand sustainability programs in neighborhoods. A lot can be done at neighborhood level; this is a great opportunity to work with Arvada on decarb programs
- Dar-Lon: JeffCo opened two new staff positions; sent links via email; JeffCo currently has 3 FT staff members, so 2 more would make it 5
 - https://jefferson.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/External/job/Golden/Building-Decarbonization-Specialist_R-9824
 - https://jefferson.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/External/job/Waste-Diversion-Coordinator_R-9963

- Dar-Lon: JeffCo is looking at creative funding mechanisms to advance sustainability
- Dar-Lon: Shout out to Haley for Earth Day proclamation on 4/21; multiple folks from the public also spoke out
- Dar-Lon: May 5, Geos neighborhood group and Arvadans for Progressive Action two group endorsements
- Alex: CEO HEAR prog - has spent ~27 million, all of their funds for Front Range. Implementation was high so one year's worth of program funds only lasted 4 month. The abrupt end of the funding has caused some whiplash in contractor community because they were just starting to ramp up to install heat pumps; they are still hoping to do more installs even without the funding source. HEAR is also launching a multifamily program soon
- Alex: Joined mailing list for Arvada focus group for feedback on City a long time ago and just got contacted again - outreach asks things like 'what's going well,' 'what can be improved on,' etc.. People have varying opinions but one big item was communication, and how people get it different ways (Arvada Report, Arvada Press, CC meetings, Insta/social media); Alex's takeaway is that multi-pronged outreach approach is ideal
- Kristi: Charge Ahead CO grant (CEO program) opening next week; City can apply for public facing EV chargers; separate prog for fleet charging; program includes apartment complexes. Fleet Zero is the fleet program. Both have rolling applications. <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/charge-ahead-colorado>
<https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/fleet-zero>
 - Randy: What about public spaces, parks, old town? We need to do some catch -up on charging opps for public.
 - Laurel: Note re Charge-ahead: municipalities have to cover the cost of connecting power line to the station; recommends targeting a few high profile locations for charging stations
 - Alex: Public L2s are a good target; the infra may already be in place for lighting, etc.
 - Alex shared some data on EV charging stations; Arvada has a big hole in the region. There are a lot of EVs in Arvada, but not enough charging stations. State of CO and JeffCo are pretty aligned with DOE recommendation for ratio of EVs to public charging infra. The zip code with Olde Town is aligned with DOE guidance, but rest of ARvada zip codes do not.





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- Randy: Did the new building code require this?
 - Alex: yes
 - Mark: it requires infrastructure and capacity, but not necessarily the install; aka “electric ready”. Doesn’t address publicly accessible chargers
- Alex: It’s a chicken/egg situation, generally lagging
 - Mark: “Follow the money” - is it a city amenity or contracting a third party that needs to make money?
 - Kristi: JeffCo has a model in parks where bathrooms have solar power that charges EV infra; recommended pursuing similar strategy at Arvada’s parks
- Ed: asked about building code- are there requirements on devs to provide charge stations in LDC or similar? When a development plan comes to city, this is an opportunity because City has leverage; consider making an incentive/ requirement for putting it on development review. Provided the example of a senior living center that got 6 charging stations
 - Randy: The development review process doesn’t leverage permits in this way
 - Mark: It all starts at building code, which can be amended to incentivise for redevelopments; if money/effort is being spent there, the City can add to the reqs for developer
 - Mark: this is also the step for munis to take to enable resiliency hubs/energy grids
 - Mark: and this should include what the city itself is doing, need to also discuss guidelines/guardrails ; what does this group here encourage/advise? Need to first understand if we’re providing a city amenity (City’s expense) or requiring apartments to install in parking garage (developer’s expense)

- The Committee would like to invite Fleet manager and Facilities manager to an ASAC meeting and asked Steven to coordinate.
- Updates from Staff Liaison
 - New members!
 - Sent some links via email and will post a welcome letter to drive when time permits
 - Met with Councilmember Rebecka Lovisone
 - Steven: Had a great meeting with Lovisone, who had many ideas around committees working together. Supportive of collaboration, empowering committees, and Community Ag support
 - July is parks month - events will be held; watch for invites
 - Supportive of restoring annual discussion with CC
 - Discussions about roles, structures, policies
 - She empowers ASAC to amend bylaws as needed and create operation manual
 - Discussed sustainable funding sources and creative measures to fund sustainability
 - Cmr Lovisone's refrain: "Make the sustainable choice the easy choice"
 - Curious about Pollinator Districts ; recommends connecting with MVNC and The Butterfly Pavilion
 - Held an internal Earth Day event for staff, will hold public event next year
 - Bulky item
 - Waste diversion estimated at 24.25%
 - Landfill tons: 164.29
 - Est tons of diverted mattresses 40.38
 - Scrap metal tons diverted: 12.22
 - Future opportunities for further diversion:
 - Bike diversion
 - Alex: there used to be a bike recycler on 64th & Wads that had a mission/volunteers, nonprofit focused on bicycle safety and education ; also knows he once dropped off a bike at a streets facility on old wads
 - Kia: There's a program to fix bikes in June in Arvada
 - E-waste
 - Compost
 - Donation
 - Challenges:
 - Operational/ traffic flow
 - Staffing is a challenge (and contractor staffing)
 - Mattress recycling is expensive and difficult to predict/budget for
 - Candelas neighborhood prog
 - Candelas sustainability trust: Home builders invest in a trust during construction, then the trust is leveraged in future to fund sustainability upgrades at homes and community spaces in Candelas. Fascinating model to fund future sustainability initiatives:
<https://www.vauxmontmd.gov/files/5af1ee992/Candelas+Sustainable+Development+Plan.pdf>

- Alex: Just for home upgrades? Steven: lots of different sustainable actions can be taken. Managed by Candelas sustainability committee
 - Marissa: could be good to share with Neighborhood Leaders Network
 - Ed: who pushed this initiative? Steven: unknown
- Hispanic Access Foundation, El Aire Que Respiramos program: Unfortunately way more expensive than anticipated. Cost is over 40k, which is out of budget for now.
- RAQC
 - Steven is re-assessing budget after budget workshops. Sustainability program will make meaningful contribution, but not the full requested amount this year
- Waste diversion update
 - 4/28 Workshop: Direction from CC to explore compost dropoff pilot; launch asap; work toward RFP option for compost
 - Composting dropoff pilot
 - Have been developing compost pilot model with Scraps for several months. Staff now have concerns about competition; will need to do 3 quotes
 - Aiming for \$5-10/month price tag
 - Learning from Lakewood model
 - Lakewood staff was super helpful, provided a lot of guidance for Arvada to emulate. Steven is working on scheduling a site visit with leadership
 - Logistics:
 - Self-managed, full service
 - 4 sites, geographically dispersed
 - Split costs on infrastructure
 - Likely subsidize cost for first # signups
 - Community engagement focus:
 - Educational workshops
 - Waste audit events
 - Marketing on both sides
 - Purchase promo packages and incentives for early adopters
 - Significant data sharing, will equip us with better info before rolling out city-wide curbside program
 - Splitting events out of pilot
 - Adding waste diversion at July 4 event(!!) and evaluating additionality at other events
 - Ed: Is contamination a concern?
 - Steven: this is always a concern in waste diversion programs. This pilot design includes lots of education/outreach that will hopefully reduce contamination
 - Kristi: connecting with community gardens would be a great place to start
 - Haley: would pilot end after next waste hauling contract?

- Steven: Inclusion of compost in next RFP is likely. Looking to emulate Edgewater's approach to RFP which allows smaller companies to just bid for compost or for a company to sub-contract
 - Steven: No reason for it to end after rollout of curbside program; this could still stay open for others (especially multi-family residents) who are not eligible for waste service
 - Ed: including restaurants?
 - Steven: not for now, just residents
 - EPR
 - Application submitted, waiting for consultation
 - Staying "front of pack"
 - Negotiating an advance payment model; this will inform how quickly we can roll out EPR participation
 - BPC
 - Working with purchasing to contract the two building electrification positions
 - Our CBO was on a panel discussion re: LECC; ASAC got a shout out
 - Continuing participation in policy workshops
 - Comms
 - Hand off the keys for newsletter to ASAC in coming months
 - Request under review for branded tabling/outreach materials
 - Earth Day Proclamation on 4/21- kudos to everyone who showed up to accept the acknowledgement!
 - Comp plan committee
 - Still accepting applicants to Comp Plan Advisory Group until 5/15
 - Budgeting process
 - Budget retreat time: dept level discussions today and tomorrow
 - Established some new line items (This is Steven's first program budget cycle with the City, so climbing a learning curve)
 - There are some weird carryovers from last year budget (still paying Lotus, admin transfers, pay/benefits allocated to wrong accounts)
 - Proposed many items, incl updated GHG inventories
 - CASAP
 - All text reviews complete!! Reconciling final edits!!
 - Potential impact scores - Thank you Alex, Dar-Lon & Kia!! Waiting on one staff response, then can compile final scores!
 - Design process initiated
 - Looking at 6/16 for presentation to Council
- Updates from Council Liaison
 - Randy: Echoed welcome to new members ; impressed with quality of applicants and members
 - Randy: Had a meeting with urban forester and discussed tree canopy; encouraged thinking about this as a climate solution; shared Cool Boulder program model and discussed need for volunteers - a lot of the buildout of the tree canopy needs to happen on private property. If ASAC members are interested in engaging, connect with urban forester.
 - Randy: Today is the last day of the legislature. Some highlights:

- EV battery stewardship bill which creates an industry for recycling EV batteries passed!!
- Bad right to repair bill (created many loopholes and exemptions) held off. Manufacturers made the case that things like hardware, servers, routers, etc.. were critical infrastructure that couldn't be repaired and ppl would have to go through manufacturer to do so; held off push to roll that back
- Skip the stuff bill - passed!! Restaurants cannot automatically hand you serviceware, sauce packets, etc. without customer request or restaurant offering first. Encouraged members to communicate with restaurants when they experience receiving this anyways. EcoCycle will also roll out an education program
- Ed: Data center bills failed ; are these coming back?
 - Randy: no clear answer, but expects them to come back
 - Ed: We need to regulate this; strong personal feeling
 - Randy agrees
- Randy: Expressed gratitude to all who have been coming to City Council meetings to express support for sustainability/CASAP. It has been noticed and has led to good, positive talk about it-keep it up!

6:45 p.m. New Business

- New member intros
 - All members intro self; name, tenure on ASAC, background on sustainability; least favorite color
- New member survey: Alex prepped a new member survey that will fill in some data gaps about who our members are and where priorities and skills lie.
 - Steven will send out with minutes
- Outreach at CC meetings:
 - Discussed strategic outreach to Council via Public Comment.
 - Mark available for 6/2 meeting.

7:30 p.m. Adjourn

- Adjourned at 7:39