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## Contents

Acknowledgements .................................................................................................................. i
Introduction .............................................................................................................................. 1
Background & Planning Process ............................................................................................... 2
Plan Structure ........................................................................................................................... 3
   The Sustainability Plan Framework ....................................................................................... 4
Context for Sustainability ........................................................................................................ 5
Vision for a Sustainable Durango ............................................................................................ 8
Overarching Priorities .............................................................................................................. 9
   Greenhouse Gas Emissions .................................................................................................. 9
   Resiliency ........................................................................................................................... 11
   Health & Wellbeing .......................................................................................................... 12
   Equity ................................................................................................................................ 12
Implementation Strategies ....................................................................................................... 14
Action Reporting ..................................................................................................................... 16
Sectors ..................................................................................................................................... 17
Energy ...................................................................................................................................... 18
   Energy Indicators ............................................................................................................. 21
Transportation & Development Patterns .............................................................................. 22
   Transportation & Development Patterns Indicators .......................................................... 25
Consumption & Waste ............................................................................................................ 27
   Consumption & Waste Indicators ..................................................................................... 30
Water ....................................................................................................................................... 31
   Water Indicators ............................................................................................................... 33
Natural Systems & Ecology ..................................................................................................... 35
   Natural Systems & Ecology Indicators ............................................................................. 37
Glossary and Acronyms ......................................................................................................... 39
Appendix A: Comprehensive Plan Alignment ........................................................................ A-1
Appendix B: 2015 Municipal Sustainability Action Plan Review ........................................... B-1
Introduction

The City of Durango is a community that is committed to, and greatly benefits from, the protection and conservation of our natural resources. We also recognize our role in contributing to state, national, and global commitments to mitigate climate change. Sustainability is central to the purpose and mission of the City of Durango and is integrated into both the city’s 2022 Strategic Plan and the 2017 Comprehensive Plan.

While the concept of sustainability has been maturing over the past several decades, the ideals of building a strong community that values environmental stewardship go much further back. There have been periods throughout Durango’s past when the surrounding environment and the wellbeing of the people living here were negatively impacted by extractive and wasteful practices as well as inequitable and even discriminatory policies. However, the future vibrancy of our community is deeply dependent on the health of our surrounding environment, our responsible use of natural resources, our equitable treatment of our citizens and visitors, and our resilience in the face of a changing climate.

Sustainability is not an end-goal that our community will reach one day, it is an ongoing commitment to principles that help protect our natural environment and ensure the quality of life for present and future generations.

City of Durango 2022 Strategic Plan

Vision
Durango is an authentic, diverse, multigenerational, and thriving community. Our residents value and enjoy our unique natural environment and benefit from the management of our city’s resources in a fiscally responsible, environmental, and socially sustainable manner.

Environmental Sustainability & Resilience
- Reduce the city’s carbon footprint
- Increase availability of renewable energy
- Improve the quality and resiliency of natural resources through conservation and effective management
- Provide solid waste disposal that is oriented toward recycle and reuse

City of Durango 2017 Comprehensive Plan

Core Values
Sustainability: We embrace public and private actions to preserve and enhance our natural and built environments for future generations.

Environmental Stewardship: We honor and respect our natural environment, realizing that our lives are interdependent with the Earth’s well-being.

Guiding Principles
- Minimize our ecological footprint
- Conserve our natural resources, while protecting our lands, wildlife, air quality, and the Animas River
- Flourish through the sustainable use of our natural resources
- Model our growth on the beauty, efficiency, and resiliency of our natural systems

(A full cross-reference to the Comprehensive Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies can be found in Appendix A)
Background & Planning Process

History and the 2015 Municipal Sustainability Action Plan

This plan is built upon years of prior sustainability-oriented efforts and planning. It serves as an opportunity to reinforce established commitments and to reevaluate our community’s approach to sustainability planning and implementation. Most directly, this plan provides an update to the 2015 Municipal Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). As an action plan, the SAP comprised nearly 200 actions categorized across ten categories that guided city sustainability efforts for more than six years. The information in the SAP was fundamental to the update process. Appendix B contains a list of the status of the SAP actions and how they have been integrated into this plan or newly established city plans and systems.

Update Process & Timeline

In the summer of 2019 the Durango City Council voted unanimously to pass Resolution R-2019-32 to adopt the first set of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and renewable energy goals for Durango. Later that fall, the city published its first community wide GHG emissions inventory which evaluated emissions from 2016. City of Durango staff also worked with the Department of Local Affairs Colorado Resiliency Office to develop a municipal Resilience Framework throughout 2019. These efforts initiated the process of a full sustainability plan update, including researching best practices alignment with the LEED for Cities framework (formerly STAR Community Rating which Durango has utilized since 2017).

In the summer of 2020, a working group was formed to advise the city on the planning process. In the summer of 2021, citizens provided feedback on the draft content of the plan, providing hundreds of responses to a survey, and attending a series of six community workshops. In late 2021, City Council passed Resolution R-2021-71 adopting more aggressive GHG reduction goals. A final round of vetting and analysis on the sustainability plan was performed in the winter of 2021-2022.
Plan Structure

Sustainability is a complex topic that recognizes the interconnections between a wide variety of social and environmental systems. From a planning standpoint, sustainability is cross-cutting and concerned with the actions of multiple city departments and spheres of the community. A major focus of the planning process was how to structure a plan that could:

- Align with existing and future city-wide and departmental plans and processes;
- Reduce redundancy and/or misalignment with other sustainability related efforts across the city and greater community;
- Provide transparency through regular and consistent tracking and reporting; and,
- Allow for the flexibility necessary to capitalize on new or unforeseen opportunities.

Through the planning process, it was determined that an action plan would not be the best approach given these priorities. Instead, a new structure was developed consisting of a guiding sustainability framework, an established set of sustainability indicators, and a new tracking and reporting process. The final structure and components of plan are described on the following page.

Guide to Reading the Plan

First, take some time to review the explanation of the plan’s framework on the following page. This is your road map for understanding the different pieces of the plan.

Information on pages 5-15 describes overarching context and the approach to addressing sustainability in Durango.

Details for each of the five sectors, outlined using a common layout, can be found on pages 17-38.

Want to stay up to date on the latest sustainability efforts and progress toward goals? Keep an eye out for the annual action reports and visit the City of Durango sustainability web page for updated information and data. More information on page 16.

Appendix A and B provide full cross-referencing to the City of Durango Comprehensive Plan and the 2015 Municipal Sustainability Action Plan. To reduce the overall size of this document, these appendices may be provided as separate documents when the plan is published in certain contexts.
The Sustainability Plan Framework

The **Vision** outlines the vision for a sustainable Durango.

Four **Overarching Priorities** guide our sustainability work.

The **Implementation Strategies** are the ways to make progress toward our sustainability goals and positively affect the established indicators. In other words, how the work gets done. Strategies are broken into four categories for ease of understanding.

Five **Sectors** are the main categories of our sustainability work. While sustainability is inherently interconnected, categorization is still important and necessary for framing our efforts. Each sector has its own set of principles, objectives, and indicators.

Each sector has a set of guiding sustainability **Principles**.

The sector **Objectives** are the focus areas of work that the city and community will be working on. These help sub-divide the sectors into manageable issues for consideration.

**Indicators** are the primary measurable data for each sector. These are identified as either “critical” and “indirect.” Critical indicators are those which are at the core of the social, economic, and/or environmental impact concerns for that sector. Indirect indicators are important for understanding whether we are on track toward a critical indicator.

**Actions and the Sustainability Action Report:** This plan sets forth a commitment to effective and transparent tracking and reporting. The ongoing action reporting and planning process will identify actions completed each year, priorities for the coming years, updates on indicator data, and sustainability certifications. The process will also include opportunity for public review and input in order to capitalize on the expertise of community members understand community priorities.
Context for Sustainability

What is Sustainability, and Why it Matters

Sustainability has evolved over the past several decades to guide decision making for all types of entities: businesses large and small, advocacy groups, educational entities, and governments at all levels. The modern concept of sustainability does not benefit from a single strict definition, but one of the most commonly cited origins of the topic is the so-called Brundtland Report description: “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

At its core, sustainability occurs at the intersection between natural and social systems; its principles are concerned with the Earth’s natural systems and how human activities utilize and impact those systems for the benefit of our societies. Sustainability is also an intergenerational concept, looking at both the short-term and long-term effects of actions. From the perspective of a community and local government, sustainability helps ensure that we are taking a holistic view toward decision making. It asks us to consider how we are utilizing limited resources and how our actions are impacting the water, air, climate, and non-human living things around us. It also asks us to contemplate what our community will look like decades from now and how our actions today will make things easier or harder, better or worse, for future generations.

Purpose of the Plan

This sustainability plan is designed to guide action within the City of Durango municipality as well as the community as a whole. It organizes multi-layered and inter-related topics, focuses efforts on common objectives, and highlights the major environmental concerns for Durango. It is designed to align with overarching plans such as their city’s Strategic Pan and Comprehensive Plan as well as departmental-level plans. The processes and commitments laid out in this plan will ensure that sustainability principles and goals remain integrated into efforts throughout the city. The plan helps maintain focus on key issues over multiple years while also allowing for flexibility and reprioritization as needed to stay relevant and effective.

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1 Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf
The Scope of Sustainability applied to Durango

There are a variety of frameworks for understanding sustainability which often include the so-called “three-pillars” of environmental, social, and economic systems. Sustainability, however, cannot be thought of simply as an attempt to address all the environmental, social, and economic challenges within a community. In the case of this plan, that approach would expand the scope to rival the city’s Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan, which would be redundant and ineffective. Furthermore, in many contexts sustainability is understood to be primarily concerned with environmental systems and resources, and how those in turn affect social and economic issues. The structure of this plan reflects an emphasis on environmental topics in order to uphold a key function in the overall landscape of the city’s plans and efforts.

Sustainability and Climate Action

Some communities have opted to adopt specific climate action plans in addition to, or in place of, a sustainability plan. Climate actions plans are focused specifically on reducing a community’s climate impact (e.g., reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing carbon sequestration, etc.) and adapting to the impacts of a changing climate (e.g., changing water supplies, increased probability of natural disasters, etc.). During the planning process, it was determined that Durango would most benefit from a sustainability plan that includes a focus on greenhouse gas emissions and climate resiliency alongside other issues. If a more focused climate action plan is deemed necessary in the future, one could be created that compliments this plan.

From Durango’s Comprehensive Plan

“Sustainability is woven throughout the plan because the impacts of our policies and actions ripple through the built and natural environments, affecting the quality of life addressed in each element of this Plan. In terms of the natural environment, sustainability can refer to our use of open spaces; development patterns that minimize the impacts of the built environment; construction techniques in the public and private realms that use “green” alternatives to conventional materials and systems; increased reliance on renewable sources of energy; and an overall philosophy that balances the human impact on natural systems and resources in an effort to achieve positive outcomes for both people and the environment.”
Personal Choices vs. Systemic Changes

Sustainability is often referred to as a “collective action problem.” At both a global and local level, people face issues of consuming finite resources as well generating pollution – what we are taking from the Earth’s environmental systems and what we are putting back in. The impacts on these systems are the result of the combined actions of individuals. When we all turn on the lights in our homes, wash our clothes, drive to work, buy food at the store, and throw things away, the impacts of those actions add up. In part, achieving Durango’s sustainability goals will depend on people, businesses, and organizations all taking responsibility to utilize energy, vehicles, materials, food, water, and our green spaces in conscious and non-wasteful ways. At the same time, social and economic systems strongly dictate what options are available to individuals, and how certain actions are incentivized or disincentivized. It is hard to expect someone to recycle something if it means taking an hour out of their day to drive to the only location that will accept it. It is hard to expect someone to take a bus instead of drive if the bus service doesn’t come near their home. **It is not enough to simply inform community members about actions they can take to support sustainability. A community-wide sustainability plan relies on both individuals as well as institutions like the City of Durango to constantly evaluate how our social systems - services, infrastructure, policies, and codes - can be improved to better enable sustainable choices from everyone.**
Vision for a Sustainable Durango

Durango is a community committed to achieving carbon neutrality, preserving our natural environment, conserving resources, maintaining our unique character, and improving quality of life for the benefit of present and future generations of residents, visitors, and neighboring communities.
Overarching Priorities

The following four priorities are interwoven throughout all efforts to address sustainability:

1. Reduce municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions and increase renewable electricity generation in line with adopted goals.
2. Prepare Durango’s social, economic, and environmental systems to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
3. Secure the health and wellbeing benefits that are gained from reduced pollution and connection to healthy natural systems.
4. Implement actions in a way that equitably distributes the costs and quality of life benefits.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Reduce municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions and increase renewable electricity generation in line with adopted goals.

On December 7, 2021, Durango City Council voted unanimously to pass Resolution R-2021-71 in support of more aggressive community-wide greenhouse gas emissions goals and to commit to the ICLEI 150 Race to Zero campaign. This commitment builds upon the previous goals which City Council voted unanimously to support August 20, 2019 through Resolution R-2019-32. Our current goals are:

- By 2030 - 50% GHG emissions reduction compared to 2016 levels, and 50% of electricity from renewable sources.
- By 2050 - 100% GHG emissions reduction compared to 2016 levels (i.e., net carbon neutral), and 100% of electricity from renewable sources.

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2 Based on our “fair share” commitment through our ICLEI 150 Race to Zero commitment, our 2030 emissions goal is actually set slightly higher at 54%.
The baseline for community GHG emissions was established in the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory which was completed in 2019 through a partnership with the Thriving Earth Exchange and with pro-bono support from local scientists. The report outlines many ways to reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration. In general, reducing resource consumption and restoring ecosystem health (soils, forests, watersheds) are core sustainability principles that will often have the co-benefit of GHG reduction. However, energy consumption and transportation emissions represent a combined 92% of our measured community emissions, and therefore will be the primary focus of GHG reduction efforts in the coming years.

A path toward carbon neutrality will take place over the course of more than two decades, though ideally much sooner. During this time Durango will face a constantly changing landscape of technologies, community priorities, state and federal policies, and economic considerations. While we cannot establish a 20-year plan to follow step-by-step in our journey toward neutrality, we can identify some key themes that will likely hold true:

- We must primarily focus our GHG reduction efforts on energy consumption and sources of energy, including transportation-related energy.
- We must shift toward electricity and away from fossil fuels as our primary method of utilizing and storing energy.
- Our community’s goals are closely tied to those of our energy/electric utilities.
- We will likely have to pursue methods of carbon capture and sequestration to achieve full neutrality.
- Individual choices of what to purchase and consume will have climate impacts beyond the scope of Durango’s measurable GHG inventories.
Resiliency

Prepare Durango’s social, economic, and environmental systems to be more resilient to climate change impacts.

The three headline projected impacts for our region include \textbf{warming temperatures, drought and wildfire, and extreme weather events}. Between 2020 and 2050 the Durango area is expected to see:

- Average temperatures increasing 2.5 - 6.5 degrees F.
- More frequent and more intense heat waves.
- Increasing risk of wildfire and longer wildfire seasons.
- Reduced snowpack, river flows, soil moisture, and available water supply.
- Greater uncertainty and less regularity in total annual precipitation.
- Earlier peak snowmelt and runoff by 1-3 weeks.
- Increasing percentage of precipitation falling as rain instead of snow.
- Increased frequency and severity of extreme precipitation events, more likely in the form of rain and hail.

In 2019, the City of Durango partnered with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Resiliency Office in hosting a series of workshops for city staff and community members to develop a municipal Resilience Framework. The strategies and actions outlined in that framework go hand in hand with this sustainability plan to reduce vulnerability, improve adaptability, and build social capital in the face of hazards and changing conditions for our community. Additional topic-specific plans such as the \textbf{2020 Municipal Drought Management Plan} will continue to be developed to address issues associated with a changing climate.

Wildfire and WUI

One of the greatest threats to our community is from wildfire - both in the form of intense smoke as well as fire damage. We have seen two major fires in the past decade (Missionary Ridge in 2002 and 416 in 2018) and two fires very close to town already in 2022. We will continue to see more. This is a reality our community lives with, and one we cannot ignore - all of Durango exists within wildland urban interface (WUI). \textbf{Wildfire risk mitigation efforts and response training must continue to be prioritized.} Regional preparation exercises such as the annual wildfire drills hosted by La Plata County along with a wide collection of key local, state, and federal partners are a great example of this important ongoing effort.
Health & Wellbeing

Secure the health and wellbeing benefits that are gained from reduced pollution and connection to healthy natural systems.

Sustainability and environmental protection are directly tied to human health. Indeed, the mission of the US EPA is to “protect human health and the environment,” and in Colorado the same department oversees both environmental and health concerns - the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE). The most basic concerns with environmental protection relate to regulating, reducing, and/or eliminating various types of pollution in our air and water. However, environmental systems are complex, and sustainability thinking encourages an expanded analysis of all the interconnections that exist between these systems and human health and wellbeing.

In terms of regional air quality, Durango’s most significant concerns are elevated levels of atmospheric methane (the “methane hot spot”) and smoke from local or regional wildfires. There are also localized air pollution concerns - such as breathing in vehicle exhaust, indoor air pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and carbon monoxide from gas-powered appliances, or indoor radon exposure from our soils. When it comes to water, domestic water quality and wastewater treatment are highly regulated, and we must remain committed to meeting excellent standards of compliance. We will continue to ensure the quality of water supplied to our community - as well as the water we return to the river - protects and supports the health of Durango or downstream communities. Beyond air and water quality issues, growing evidence also points to the direct physical and mental benefits of time spent in natural “green spaces.”

Many of health-related environmental concerns relate to issues that are beyond Durango’s city limits. Addressing these issues will require regional, state, and federal coordination and advocacy. Furthermore, our community must continue to incorporate public health protection into emergency response in creative and proactive ways, such as by considering indoor air quality management for our essential community facilities during major smoke events. This is especially important for protecting the most vulnerable members of our community.

Equity

Implement actions in a way that equitably distributes the costs and quality of life benefits.

Throughout the world, the impacts of climate change and resource consumption affect communities disproportionately. Marginalized communities with the least access to resources stand to be hit the hardest. Furthermore, the benefits associated with some sustainability initiatives have historically been unequally distributed because not all voices were represented, and this trend could continue without careful and intentional planning and community input opportunities. In order to address these issues, this plan will integrate equity principles into decision-making and implementation.
Throughout plan implementation, the city will seek to actively address systemic biases and barriers that perpetuate inequity. Addressing sustainability issues in Durango will require participation from all members of our community.

**Key Questions to Consider**
For the City of Durango’s Electric Vehicle Readiness plan, an “equity checklist” was adopted from a similar list developed by the City of Portland and The Greenlining Institute. This list of questions (or similar) should be used to help ensure that actions taken to address sustainability issues in Durango take equity consideration into account.

- **Participation:** Which marginalized or vulnerable populations may be impacted by or could benefit from the initiative? How have you identified these populations?
- **Disproportionate impacts:** Does the proposed action generate burdens (including costs), either directly or indirectly, to marginalized or vulnerable populations? If yes, are there opportunities to mitigate these impacts?
- **Shared benefits:** Can the benefits of the proposed action be pursued, in progressive ways, to reduce historical or current disparities? Are the benefits dispersed not only equally, but equitably?
- **Accessibility:** Are the benefits of the proposed action broadly accessible to households and businesses throughout marginalized or vulnerable populations?
- **Engagement:** Does the proposed action engage and empower marginalized or vulnerable populations in a meaningful, authentic, and culturally appropriate manner? Are community stakeholders involved and engaged in implementation and budgeting?
- **Capacity:** Does the proposed action help build community capacity through funding, an expanded knowledge base, or other resources? Are you sharing as much decision-making power as feasible?
- **Alignment and partnership:** Does the proposed action align with and support existing marginalized or vulnerable population priorities, creating an opportunity to leverage resources and build collaborative partnerships?
- **Relationship building:** Does the proposed action help foster the building of effective, long-term relationships and trust between diverse communities and the City of Durango?
- **Economic opportunity and staff diversity:** Does the proposed action support marginalized or vulnerable populations through workforce development, contracting opportunities, or increased diversity of city staff? Does the proposed action have dedicated set-asides for marginalized or vulnerable communities?
- **Accountability:** Does the proposed action have appropriate accountability mechanisms to ensure that marginalized or vulnerable populations will equitably benefit from and not be disproportionately harmed?
- **Compensation:** Are community members being adequately compensated for their time, energy, and shared experience? Is compensation acknowledged and available when asking for individuals’ and organizations’ time, energy, and experience?
Implementation Strategies

The following strategies summarize the ways in which the ideas in this plan will be implemented. They capture the primary types of work that can be done by city staff in support of sustainability action, and can also frame actions from community entities.

Generating Collective Impact

- Encourage residents and businesses to perform actions and behaviors that positively impact sustainability indicators by way of outreach, engagement, information sharing, and financial mechanisms.
- Host opportunities for the public to provide insight, guidance, and feedback on implementing sustainability actions.
- Have city staff across departments take part in trainings and workshops to foster understanding and support of sustainability principles and the sustainability plan.
- Utilize a collaborative approach across city departments and with external organizations to support implementation of the sustainability plan and actions that have positive impacts on sustainability indicators.
- Seek opportunities to collaborate at a regional level on actions, and advocate to state and federal decision makers concerning sustainability issues.

Ensuring Relevance

- Evaluate and update the sustainability plan every five years, or as needed, to reflect new and evolving sustainability concerns and community priorities.
- Adopt new goals and commitments for sustainability indicators as needed based on accepted scientific evaluation and the desires expressed by community members.
- Perform research and investigation to identify new opportunities and to understand best practices for actions that will have the greatest positive impact on indicators.
- Secure funding for sustainability actions through budgeting processes, grant writing, and other opportunities as applicable.
- Seek out awards and official recognitions to celebrate and recognize sustainability achievements.
- Incorporate equity considerations into all actions taken toward sustainability goals and objectives through the use of checklists and/or other screening tools.
**Integrating into City Systems**

- Adopt internal operational practices that positively impact sustainability indicators in order to lead by example.
- Incorporate sustainability and life-cycle considerations into departmental and citywide planning processes, capital projects, new infrastructure, and city services to support progress toward sustainability goals and generate positive impacts on indicators.
- Develop plans and frameworks in coordination with regional stakeholders addressing resilience, hazard mitigation, disaster response, and emergency management in light of climate change impacts.
- Investigate and adopt changes to the city’s codes which support progress toward sustainability goals and generate positive impacts on indicators.

**Tracking & Reporting**

- Develop reliable and manageable systems for tracking sustainability indicators, and report on progress through a visually appealing and accessible sustainability indicator dashboard.
- Utilize the LEED for Cities framework and certification process, or a similarly reputable program, to help perform gap analysis, identify opportunities for action, and recognize achievements.
- Publish an annual sustainability action report that summarizes actions taken toward sustainability goals and objectives, reviews priorities, and identifies approved funding for actions in the coming year.
Action Reporting

An annual action reporting process lies at the heart of Durango’s ongoing sustainability efforts. Actions taken to affect sustainability within our community will vary: changes and improvements to existing services and processes; community outreach and education; infrastructure projects; updates to city codes and policies; and more. An annual action report will serve as a regular opportunity to invite community engagement and provide transparency regarding these efforts. It is a chance to celebrate successes, acknowledge shortfalls, and reevaluate the path forward. It is expected that the format of the report will evolve over the years based on the desires of community members, city staff, and city leadership. The report will:

- Identify major trends across sectors;
- Celebrate awards and recognition;
- Include a brief update for actions taken;
- Identify the primary affiliated city departments or partnering community organizations;
- Estimate when a project will be completed;
- Identify sources of funding;
- Recognize internal city operations that “lead by example”; and,
- Call-out advocacy and regional partnership efforts.

Indicator Tracking and Reporting

Indicators among various sectors will be the crucial measurements of community sustainability. A major focus was selecting indicators that would remain relevant and realistically measurable for years to come. Committing to a tracking and reporting process will provide key insights into the effectiveness of our collective sustainability actions. The two anticipated avenues to display indicator data will be through the annual action report and an online dashboard.

LEED for Cities

Utilizing a third-party evaluation and certification framework is a well-established strategy for addressing complex challenges. The City of Durango has previously used the STAR Community Rating System which was developed by and for local governments across the US. In late 2018, this system was integrated into the LEED for Cities framework which is part of the suite of LEED rating systems, which are globally recognized for guiding sustainability in green buildings and community development. LEED for Cities will provide another lens for evaluating progress and identifying gaps, and it will keep Durango up to date on nationally recognized best practices. Updates on the LEED certification process will be included in the annual action report as well.
Sectors

The five sectors for this plan were determined through a review of the 2015 Sustainability Action Plan, the city’s Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan, comparable sustainability plans from other communities, the LEED for Cities framework, and feedback from community members and city staff.

The five sectors for the City of Durango Sustainability Plan:

- Energy
- Transportation & Development Patterns
- Consumption & Waste
- Water
- Natural Systems & Ecology

Each of the five sectors has a list of principles, objectives, and indicators which guide the work to be done. Alignment with Comprehensive Plan Goals are also called out for each sector. **Adopted goals are mentioned only where an official Durango City Council goal has currently been approved by Resolution.**

Indicator Tables

The indicator tables under each sector include more detail about these crucial measurements. Where no current data exists, a process for regular data collection will be established. Indicator data will be reported via an online dashboard and/or annual reports. The general goal for any indicator is understood to be continued progress in the direction of the specified target trend. Specific goals on certain indicators may be adopted by City Council in the future, especially where community members express strong concern.

A flat target trend for an indicator suggests that the desired trend could be offset by various beneficial efforts, or that we are already maintaining what is considered a sustainable level for that indicator. For example, we should be aiming to reduce electricity consumption through energy efficiency in order to conserve resources. However, we are also in the process of electrifying vehicles and heating systems in buildings. This is part of an effort to shift away from powering these activities through fossil fuels to powering them with renewable electricity. Thus, it is hard to predict the resulting impact on total electricity consumption, and whether an increase or decrease in electricity consumption is desirable.
Energy

Principles
- Durango’s energy supply is carbon neutral, renewable, resilient, and affordable for all members of our community.
- Homes, businesses, and services use energy efficiently, and local energy production is utilized in support the local economy.

Objectives
- **Energy Supply**
  Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions associated with Durango’s energy supply in an equitable manner while maintaining reliability and resilience to disruption.
- **Energy Use**
  Increase the efficiency of energy use and promote energy conservation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy cost burdens.

Additional Information and Context
Energy underpins nearly everything we do in our modern societies, and yet it can easily go unnoticed. Energy production and generation have enormous environmental impacts; energy consumption is a core component of how economies and communities function; and the burning of fossil fuels for energy is the leading cause of human-caused climate change. As of our 2016 inventory, nearly two-thirds of all community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in Durango can be attributed to the use of electricity and natural gas in residences, commercial buildings, and to power essential services such as water pumping, streetlighting, and wastewater treatment. Efforts to reduce the emissions and costs associated with the use of electricity focus on two primary approaches: reducing energy consumption through conservation and efficiency while increasing the supply of renewable energy. Due to the close ties between energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and the economy, it will be important to identify and measure indicators that show these connections. Identified indicators cover energy-related GHG emissions, energy consumption, and renewable electricity generation, measures of energy efficiency, and the economic GHG intensity - a measure of our GDP divided by GHG emissions - which essentially shows how "GHG efficient" our economy is.

Comprehensive Plan Alignment

**Goal 1:** Preserve, conserve, and sustainably use natural resources so that future generations may enjoy the benefits of Durango’s natural environment.

**Goal 4:** Foster sustainable and resilient development that is compatible with established neighborhoods and contributes to reductions in resource consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and improves quality of life.

**Goal 13:** Continually improve the sustainability of Durango’s housing and neighborhoods.

**Goal 19:** Balance the demand for expanding urban development with the efficient provision of facilities and services.
Conservation and Efficiency

These terms are often used interchangeably, but they are not the same. Generally speaking, conservation is the act of reducing wasteful practices, while efficiency is utilizing improvements in process and technology to achieve the same result (or better) while using less input. Ultimately, the two concepts overlap in what they convey, as both are concerned with reducing the amount of resources we are consuming while still achieving the same desired outcome.

When it comes to utility infrastructure, it can often be more cost-effective to reduce demand than to increase supply, especially for non-profit utilities such as co-ops or municipalities. Rebates from energy providers incentivize people to install more energy-efficient products because it makes financial sense for both the utility and the customer - a true win-win.

Conservation and efficiency will reduce the need for expanding our energy infrastructure and generating capacity. Reducing energy consumption now leads to immediate GHG reductions, and it also decreases the total work required to replace our fossil fuel energy systems with renewables. Even with reduced per capita consumption, however, total electricity use in Durango is expected to increase in the future as a result of population growth and a shift to electricity for home heating, vehicles, and other equipment in place of natural gas and other fuels. According to the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) census data, over 75% of homes in Durango are heated by utility-supplied natural gas with the remainder of homes mostly heated by electricity (wood stoves and propane heaters comprise only a few percent). To reach our 2050 climate goals, a vast majority of space heating and industrial processes must be converted to electricity with any remaining fuel-burning processes being offset through certified programs. This shift toward beneficial electrification will further increase the pressure to transform how electricity is generated, stored, and supplied to our community. It will also require continued analysis and utilization of well-designed offsetting and/or carbon sequestration programs to account for the energy consumption that still has direct GHG emissions. In contrast to electricity, renewable fuel alternatives to natural gas are not currently well established at the community-scale. This plan does not, therefore, consider a transition to renewable natural gas at this time but focuses on efficiency and actions that transition away from natural gas as a primary energy source through the electrification. Additional options for renewable fuels may be reviewed in a future update to this plan.

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3 American Community Survey (ACS): [https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html)
The City of Durango is not a municipal energy utility provider, so the city must coordinate with utilities in our area, particularly La Plata Electric Association (LPEA), to achieve our energy-related sustainability goals. Efforts will be a combination of programs, policies, and codes that incentivize reducing energy consumption while also enabling and supporting a shift in our electricity infrastructure. LPEA currently offers numerous rebates and incentives to its member-customers aimed at reducing electricity consumption and beneficial electrification. The City of Durango can explore options to fill gaps in these programs or further support high-priority areas. The city can support the installation of rooftop solar by making the permitting and inspection process more streamlined, following guidelines such as those outlined in the SolSmart program. The city also has an opportunity to lead by example when it comes to managing municipal energy consumption, increasing on-site renewable energy generation, and designing our facilities and systems to be resilient to disruptions such as fuel cost fluctuations or extreme weather events. Lastly, there is a need for the city to advocate to state and federal policy because the necessary changes to our energy systems cannot accomplished through locally focused efforts alone. In 2021 Durango became a member of Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) through City Council’s adoption of Resolution R-2021-0042. This coalition of local governments across Colorado advocates for stronger state and federal climate policy related to GHG emissions, renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, transportation, and waste.
## Energy Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Critical or Indirect*</th>
<th>Projected Measurement Cycle</th>
<th>LEED Credit</th>
<th>Measurement Scope**</th>
<th>Target Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GHG emissions from electricity and natural gas consumption per year</td>
<td>MTCO2e</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M, C, R</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy consumption per year, electricity</td>
<td>kWh</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M, C, R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy consumption per year, natural gas</td>
<td>MCF</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M, C, R</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable electricity all sources, percent of total supply</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency and essential facilities with backup power, percent of total identified</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable electricity generation within city limits, percent of total consumption</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic greenhouse gas emissions intensity, ratio</td>
<td>ratio</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street/public lighting meeting minimum luminous efficiency, percent of total</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of low income and rental households participating in efficiency programs per year</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household income spent on energy costs, percent</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Critical indicators are those which are at the core of the social, economic, and/or environmental impact we are concerned about. Indirect indicators are important for understanding whether we are on track toward a critical indicator.

** Measurement scope refers to how the measurement data can be further broken down, if applicable.

CW = community-wide, M = municipal, R = residential, C = commercial
Transportation & Development Patterns

Principles

- All members of, and visitors to, our community have access to a fully connected and accessible transportation network that provides outstanding transit, bicycle, and pedestrian options throughout Durango and its surrounding areas.
- Individuals and organizations choose transit, bicycle, pedestrian, various other transportation methods, or zero-emissions vehicles, instead of driving alone in traditional fuel-powered vehicles.

Objectives

- **Multimodal Transportation**
  Create a fully connected transportation network that provides for safe, convenient, and enjoyable transportation that is affordable and accessible to all Durango residents and visitors.

- **Vehicle Emissions & Electrification**
  Reduce emissions associated with vehicular travel by preparing for and accelerating a shift to electric and zero-emissions vehicles and reducing wasteful behaviors.

- **Community Design**
  Structure city code and policies to encourage dense, mixed-use development that minimizes greenhouse gas emissions and supports equitable and sustainable options to get around and experience Durango.

Comprehensive Plan Alignment

**Goal 1:** Preserve, conserve, and sustainably use natural resources so that future generations may enjoy the benefits of Durango’s natural environment.

**Goal 4:** Foster sustainable and resilient development that is compatible with established neighborhoods and contributes to reductions in resource consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and improves quality of life.

**Goal 10:** Establish land use patterns that are coordinated with and make the most efficient use of community facilities, while allowing for equitable funding strategies.

**Goal 13:** Continually improve the sustainability of Durango’s housing and neighborhoods.

**Goal 16:** Increase mobility options for residents, employees and visitors within Durango, and the sustainability of those choices.

**Goal 17:** Maintain a transportation system that safely and efficiently meets the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.

**Goal 18:** Provide employees, residents, and visitors with realistic opportunities to use various modes of transportation.

**Goal 22:** Develop and maintain a trail system throughout the planning area that serves as a recreational amenity and transportation facility.
**Additional Information and Context**

Much like energy, transportation is integral to how communities function, and it enables nearly all economic activity. Effective transportation systems allow people to go about their daily lives as well as travel for vacation and important life moments. However, many aspects of our current transportation systems were not necessarily designed with equity or sustainability in mind. Most notably, a “vehicle-centric” pattern of design in the U.S. for much of the late 20th century has created communities with large swaths of paved surfaces, local air pollution issues, and inequitable access to mobility options. At the same time, though, automobiles can still provide a freedom of mobility that is vital for both economic prosperity and personal independence.

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**Inequity and Inefficiency**

Cars and trucks are so imbedded into our lives that it is hard to imagine not using them. We use them to get to work, to run errands, and to escape on vacations. However, we must recognize that not everyone has regular access to vehicles, and it is also important that we are aware of the inefficiencies and drawbacks of vehicle dependence.

The average personal vehicle costs over $5,000 per year to own and operate when considering, fuel, maintenance, insurance, and depreciation. Even the cheapest vehicles cost several hundred dollars a month to use, all things considered. These costs are more than many people in our community can afford. A transportation system that excludes people that don’t have access to a car is inequitable by design.

Furthermore, cars’ internal combustion engines are extremely inefficient. Of the energy output from burning a gallon of gasoline, only about 15-30% actually moves the vehicle down the road. Then, when considering the weight of a person compared to a car, only about 1% of the fuel use goes to moving the human body. That means when you buy a gallon of gas, 99% of your money goes to things other than moving your body from one place to another.

**Durango must continue to utilize a thoughtful approach to our planning and development patterns including how to accommodate vehicles without sacrificing our quality of life.**

Based off our most recent GHG inventory, the transportation sector accounts for approximately a quarter of total community-wide emissions in Durango. Of transportation emissions, approximately 90% can be attributed to “on-road” transportation with 10% associated with aviation and less than 1% from public transit and off-road vehicles. Actions to reduce transportation emissions focus primarily on reducing emissions associated with on-road travel, particularly single-occupancy fuel-burning vehicles (SOVs). The three objectives in this sector outline the main approaches Durango can utilize to reduce vehicle use and emissions: shifting to zero-emission and electric vehicles; maintaining and improving multimodal transportation options; and designing our community to emphasize the human experience outside of a car.

Electric vehicle (EV) adoption – in parallel with actions that will increase renewable generation and reduce the carbon emissions associated with Durango’s electricity supply – will be crucial to hitting our GHG emissions goals. The city of Durango and La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) adopted a joint Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan in 2021 that establishes targets and actions for municipal and community-wide electric vehicle adoption and infrastructure. The plan includes three primary focus areas: to lead by example by replacing city and LPEA fleet vehicles, expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and encouraging public awareness and adoption through outreach and education. The plan also points to state and federal EV plans that will be directing significant amounts of funding to local entities.
Individuals’ transportation choices are almost completely dictated by the layout of a community and design of the transportation infrastructure and services therein. Transportation options that are safe and convenient in one community can be dangerous and time consuming in another. What’s more, once one mode of transportation is prioritized over another, a feedback loop can set in where more people are drawn to only that option, so more resources are directed that way, thus pushing even more people to choose that option. Laws, codes, and policies shape communities in many ways, but most notably by dictating what buildings and infrastructure can (or must) be built in certain locations and in some cases how they are built. Some of these rules are dictated by state and federal laws and policies, but many are up to Durango to craft and adopt. There are many benefits to zoning and development codes - they can mitigate conflict between neighboring landowners, they ensure adequate accommodation of basic infrastructure, and they protect the health and safety of the public. However, it is well known that laws, codes, and policies can have drawbacks or unintended consequences. Parking minimums are a classic example. Parking can be a contentious issue, and one way to avoid conflict is to mandate the amount of private parking required for a private development. But these requirements can also result in large swaths of paved surfaces and incentivizes the use of SOVs. By guiding land use and installing infrastructure that benefits all types of transportation options, including vehicles as necessary, Durango can increase public health, safety, and wellbeing while maintaining vibrant economic activity and reducing GHG emissions and localized air pollution.

Multimodal Transportation Plan

The city of Durango’s Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP) guides the implementation of projects to move Durango towards a transportation network that integrates all modes of travel and makes transportation more equitable and safer. The plan’s transportation policy focuses on moving people, rather than just moving automobiles. The vision of the plan is to create a fully connected transportation network that provides for an outstanding transit, bicycling, walking, and rolling community in Durango. A measure of this transportation vision is that a middle-school aged child is able to safely and conveniently access transit and bike or walk independently throughout Durango and its environs. The plan has three primary focus areas:

- Connectivity of services and infrastructure
- Accessibility for all community members
- Mobility for all needs and choices

The first MTP was adopted in 2012, updated in 2016, and is currently under revision for another update.
## Transportation & Development Patterns Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Critical or Indirect*</th>
<th>Projected Measurement Cycle</th>
<th>LEED Credit</th>
<th>Measurement Scope**</th>
<th>Target Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GHG emissions from transportation fuel use per year</td>
<td>MTCO2e</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land area dedicated to vehicles (e.g., streets/parking), percent of total in city limits</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single occupancy vehicle (SOV) use (i.e., modal split), percent of total</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation injury/fatal crashes per year within city limits</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle miles traveled per year by residents</td>
<td>miles</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle fuel purchased/consumed per year</td>
<td>gallons</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero emission (incl. electric) vehicles registered, percent of total ownership/fleet</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EV charging at charging stations per year (city-owned stations)</td>
<td>kWh</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicly accessible EV charging stations, community-wide and city-owned</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit riders served per year</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility regional transit coordination contracts among CDOT region 5</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear miles of multimodal network</td>
<td>miles</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Indicator Type</td>
<td>Timeframe</td>
<td>Scope</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people accessing the paved trails system per year</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle and Walk Friendly Community status certification</td>
<td>certification</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single family homes (i.e., housing split by type), percent of total</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household access to transit within city limits, percent within 1/4 mile</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household income spent on transportation costs, percent</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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CW = community-wide, M = municipal, R = residential, C = commercial
Consumption & Waste

Principles

- Durango’s individuals and organizations utilize products and materials in a thoughtful manner, considering the environmental and social impacts of both production and disposal.
- Consumption emphasizes products that are sustainably produced, locally produced, are long-lasting and repairable, are non-toxic, and are recyclable at the end of their useful life.
- Disposal emphasizes reuse, repurposing, recycling, and composting over landfill.

Objectives

- **Sustainable Consumption & Source Reduction**
  Encourage conscious purchase and use of materials and products to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce single-use disposability, and support Durango’s local economy.

- **Waste Reduction & Diversion**
  Reduce the amount of material going to landfill and decrease the greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste disposal by increasing waste diversion rates and expanding productive end-use options for regional waste.

- **Food Systems**
  Support an interconnected food system that is healthy, inclusive, equitable, and resilient to change.

Additional Information and Context

Humans have always consumed and generated waste, but modern societies have taken consumption and waste generation to the extreme. As efficiencies have been gained in resource extraction, material production, and waste disposal, it became cheaper and easier to generate all kinds of things, from the food we eat, to the clothes we wear, to the products and materials used to build our towns. While these advancements have had wide variety of benefits for our societies, they have also vastly increased the impact our material and waste systems have on the environment. **Sustainable materials management involves looking for ways to reduce unnecessary consumption, improve efficiencies in how we produce and utilize materials and goods, and increase the amount we are recycling materials, all in order to reduce pollution and the need for raw resource extraction.**
Waste reduction can be viewed through the waste hierarchy - some actions should be considered before others because they have a larger positive impact. **Actions to reduce waste through buying durable and reusable goods will tend to rely on the choices of individuals.** However, laws and codes can create financial incentives / disincentives or outright regulation on certain materials. For example, the State of Colorado recently passed HB 21-1162 which places a fee on disposable paper and plastic products starting in 2023 and bans single use plastic bags and polystyrene containers starting in 2024. Other important leverage points revolve around how waste is managed. The City of Durango currently provides residential recycling collection services, and commercial recycling service is provided by the city alongside private haulers. Composting collection services are managed by private haulers and the city currently has a partnership agreement with Table to Farm Compost to support the expansion of their services - Table to Farm also owns and operates the largest composting facility in the region. Improving our recycling and composting systems will focus on ways to increase participation while reducing contamination through education as well as behavioral and economic incentives.

In addition to reducing the need to harvest virgin material, recycling and composting also reduce pollution associated with landfill disposal. Organic material breaks down in landfills to create methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Approximately 5% of our overall community GHG emissions are associated with waste disposal, primarily due to the methane emissions associated with organics disposal. Landfill disposal of other items such as hazardous waste and electronics can result in groundwater and surface water pollution if these materials leech into the ground after rainstorms. The EPA requires some safeguards to prevent this pollution which apply to our regional landfill, Bondad. However, the best way to stop this pollution is to prevent those materials from entering the landfill at all - by either avoiding purchasing them in the first place, or by properly recycling them. The City of Durango maintains informational materials and an online tool at [DurangoReycles.com](http://DurangoReycles.com) to explain where
various products can be recycled in our community. City staff are also constantly exploring new opportunities to provide simpler and easier recycling options for residents for a wide range of products. One highlight event is the annual Household Hazardous Waste event which is put on in partnership with La Plata County. This event provides an accessible option for the proper disposal of a wide variety of hazardous and toxic wastes.

**Food issues are also captured in this section because addressing issues with food production, distribution, consumption, and disposal shares many similarities to products and materials in general.** Food production requires vast amounts of land use, water use, fuel use, and (often) fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide use. Just like the extraction and production of other materials, these activities have associated greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and water pollution in the form of runoff. However, the challenges related to food have several added layers of consideration because food is a fundamental concern for human health, wellbeing, and survival. Food systems that send healthy, edible food to the landfill while members of a community go hungry are wasteful and inequitable by design. For the most part, individual community members will decide where they get their food from, and the associated environmental and economic impacts of those choices will fall on the individual. However, collective community efforts can be made to improve the ability for local and environmentally friendly producers to provide food to our community. Furthermore, programs can be designed to provide access to fresh, healthy, and local food to populations in need.

**Embedded Resources**

Food, materials, goods, and products all require resources to be created and brought to consumers. Land is used for harvesting or extraction, water is used to grow crops or in certain manufacturing processes, energy is used throughout the system for production and transportation. Aside from the actual material a thing is made of, there is also “embedded” energy, water, land use, and associated pollution including GHG emissions.

In general, goods that are durable and reusable have lower embedded resources per use than disposable options. A metal reusable coffee mug has more embedded resource than a paper coffee cup, but the metal mug can be used hundreds or even thousands of times. A single metal mug has much fewer embedded resources than a thousand paper coffee cups.
# Consumption & Waste Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Critical or Indirect*</th>
<th>Projected Measurement Cycle</th>
<th>LEED Credit</th>
<th>Measurement Scope**</th>
<th>Target Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GHG emissions from municipal solid waste (MSW) waste disposal per year</td>
<td>MTCO2e</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M, C, R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSW sent to landfill per year</td>
<td>tons</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M, C, R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landfill diversion rate by recycling, percent of total waste generated</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landfill diversion rate by composting, percent of total waste generated</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling loss due to contamination, percent of total recycling received</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public participation in diversion events (incl. medication take back) per year</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste diversion service availability by EPA product categories, count of product types with no diversion option</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household income spent on waste disposal costs, percent</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food insecurity rates, percent of total households</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Water**

**Principles**
- Durango has a resilient supply of affordable clean water, and individuals and organizations are empowered to use water efficiently.
- Water and wastewater treatment utilize sustainable practices and minimize greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Animas River and its watershed support healthy riparian ecosystems and recreation opportunities.

**Objectives**
- **Water Supply & Use**
  Manage Durango’s water sources and consumption through conservation and efficiency so our community and surrounding riparian ecosystems are resilient to the projected impacts of climate change.
- **Water Quality**
  Maintain water quality levels, or improve where needed, in both supplied water and throughout the Animas River watershed.

**Additional Information and Context**
A community’s relationship to water depends greatly on local and regional context. Durango sits within the Colorado River Plateau, a mostly arid region that depends on the greater Colorado River watershed. Durango is located close to the headwaters of the Animas River watershed, and the Animas flows through the heart of town. Our primary water supply is the Florida River (a tributary to the Animas), but during peak summer months we also draw upon the Animas for water supply. The Animas has historically been deeply affected by mining, agriculture, and forest management. The impacts of the 2015 Gold King Mine spill and the Missionary Ridge and 416 wildfires on the Animas River still weigh heavily on the community. Current community development and daily activities also impact the Animas through water consumption and the possibility of water runoff contamination. The [Colorado Water Plan](#) and the [Southwest Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)](#) have a major bearing on water management in our region along with efforts from several regional water-related stakeholder groups. Participation in state and regional planning efforts around water will be critical for successful management and conservation of this precious resource.
Clean water and a healthy Animas River watershed are integral to the quality of life and economic vibrancy in our community. Domestic water supply provides the water we drink and use every day. Recreational activities including fishing, river running, and enjoying the Animas River trail attract thousands of people every year. Gardening and agricultural activities rely on a reliable supply of water to grow fresh local food. Beyond human use, the health of riparian ecosystems depends on adequate river flows and minimized pollution. The City of Durango Public Works department provides our community with water for use in homes and businesses as well as for maintaining landscaping, parks, and green spaces. This department is tasked with providing a resilient supply of water that meets water quality standards, maintaining distribution infrastructure minimizing system losses, metering user consumption, and managing our wastewater systems to ensure that water flows away from our community as the same level of quality (or higher) than when it entered. These issues are addressed in the upcoming Water System Master Plan. Strategies for further incentivizing conservation, including rate-setting and regulation, will require ongoing city analysis and stakeholder input.

Durango’s water supply is inextricably linked to upstream snowpack and forest health which are in turn linked to our regional climate and weather patterns. Awareness and understanding of future climate projections will be critical to effectively managing our changing water supply. In 2018, City of Durango staff, commissioners and council members participated in a Vulnerability, Consequences, and Adaptation Planning Scenarios (VCAPS) workshop organized by the Western Water Assessment (WWA). The workshop report identifies climate projections for the Durango region and implications for drought, wildfire, and flooding along with potential future scenarios. The City of Durango Drought Mitigation Plan was developed in 2020 to preserve essential public services and minimize the adverse effects of drought on public health and safety, economic activity, environmental resources, and individual lifestyles during a drought event. The goal of the plan is to remove the “crisis” from the City’s drought response efforts, reduce the hardship caused by water shortages, and raise public confidence in the actions taken to address short- and long-term water shortages. Continued education and training around climate change will drive planning and decision making that supports resiliency in the face of an uncertain water future.
## Water Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Critical or Indirect*</th>
<th>Projected Measurement Cycle</th>
<th>LEED Credit</th>
<th>Measurement Scope**</th>
<th>Target Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GHG emissions from wastewater treatment (not from electricity/gas) per year</td>
<td>MTCO2e</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumption of treated (&quot;domestic&quot;) water per year</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M, C, R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumption of untreated (&quot;raw&quot;) water per year</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic water quality, percent days per year within compliance</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater treatment, percent days per year within compliance</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biosolids sent to landfill per year</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply availability and resilience, annual peak percentage of available water rights not being utilized (i.e., &quot;cushion&quot; of available water)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water withdrawal on Florida, annual peak percentage of streamflow being withdrawn</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-generation energy production per year</td>
<td>kWh</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy use for water and wastewater treatment and distribution per year</td>
<td>kWh</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccounted for water loss, difference between billed consumption and total measured distribution per year</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Scope</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known water loss from flushing, water main breaks, tank draining, and tank overflows per year</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water consumption used for irrigation and landscaping, percent of total annual consumption</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number service locations reporting water quality issues per year</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of stormwater quality facilities (incl. ponds and rain gardens) installed per year</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of locations serviced by smart meters, percent of total locations</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household income spent on water/wastewater utility costs, percent</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Critical indicators are those which are at the core of the social, economic, and/or environmental impact we are concerned about. Indirect indicators are important for understanding whether we are on track toward a critical indicator.
** Measurement scope refers to how the measurement data can be further broken down, if applicable.

CW = community-wide, M = municipal, R = residential, C = commercial
Natural Systems & Ecology

Principles

- The Durango community lives in harmony with its natural environment and the life it sustains.
- Local ecosystems are resilient to climate change and contribute to carbon sequestration and improved air and water quality.
- All members of our community have the opportunity to experience the health and wellbeing benefits gained when surrounded by a healthy natural environment.

Objectives

- **Ecosystems & Open Space**
  Manage Durango’s natural spaces in a way that supports the health and resilience of both human and non-human life in the face of a changing climate.

- **Wildlife**
  Manage and prevent conflicts with wildlife in a way that protects the health, safety, and wellbeing of people, domestic animals, and wildlife.

- **Trees & Forests**
  Maintain and expand Durango’s urban forest in order to provide health, wellbeing, and carbon sequestration benefits. Manage Durango’s wildland-urban interface (WUI) to mitigate the risk and potential impacts of wildfire.

- **Environmental Health Benefits**
  Monitor and respond to the impacts of environmental systems on human health and wellbeing.

Comprehensive Plan Alignment

**Goal 1:** Preserve, conserve, and sustainably use natural resources so that future generations may enjoy the benefits of Durango’s natural environment.

**Goal 3:** Protect sensitive floodplains, hillsides, woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat from inappropriate development.

**Goal 4:** Foster sustainable and resilient development that is compatible with established neighborhoods and contributes to reductions in resource consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and improves quality of life.

**Goal 8:** Retain or enhance the aesthetic value of Durango’s natural and built environments.

**Goal 20:** Develop and maintain a system of open space throughout the planning area that serves as a visual and/or recreational amenity, allows for appropriate human use while serving the wildlife population, and provides adequate habitat to sustain healthy wildlife populations.

**Goal 21:** Develop and maintain an interconnected system of parks, trails, and other recreational facilities.

**Goal 22:** Develop and maintain a trail system throughout the planning area that serves as a recreational amenity and transportation facility.
Additional Information and Context

Durango has a deep connection to the ecosystems that can be found within and surrounding our community. Our community places a high value on the opportunity to enjoy natural spaces. The health and wellbeing benefits gained through exposure to green spaces, clean air, and clean water are well known. Our local economy depends heavily on the ability for residents and visitors to enjoy our parks, waterways, and open spaces.

At the same time, living among and interfacing with these ecosystems can have detrimental impacts on both our human community and the plants and animals that we coexist with. As we build more homes into the surrounding forest, we displace animal habitat and migration corridors and increase the risk of wildfire damage to those structures. As recreation use in natural spaces increases, we further increase the amount of potential disruption to ecosystems. As we install more lights, we can lose our undisturbed view of the night sky. How we manage our waste and transportation systems also creates the potential for wildlife conflicts. **Our impact on surrounding ecosystems and non-human living things should constantly be weighed against the drive for growth and increased amenities for human enjoyment.**

Our interaction with natural systems does not only need to be framed as damage control, however. Community-wide efforts have the potential to be restorative. We can remove invasive species that threaten populations of native plants and animals. We can plant and manage trees and vegetation that create an “urban forest” that provides habitats for a variety of animals while also contributing to human wellbeing. We can protect and restore wetland areas that perform crucial ecosystem functions. As our climate changes, healthier communities and ecosystems will be more resilient to the stresses of changing weather, heat, and water patterns. Preparing for these changes now will help ensure that humans, plants, and animals in the Durango area continue to have the opportunity to thrive.

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**Parks, Open Spaces, Trails (POST) & Recreation Master Plan**

The [POST & Recreation Master Plan](#) was updated in 2019 to provide a roadmap for the City of Durango Parks and Recreation Department in addressing community needs for the next five to ten years. The plan details the current state of the system while identifying focus areas based on a comprehensive assessment of community values and priorities.

Sustainability (environmental and fiscal) is one of the Core Values of the plan, and resource protection is identified as a key management principle. Many of the actions and goals identified contribute to community sustainability and resilience:

- Provision of new park amenities
- Ensuring that parks are approachable, welcoming and feel safe
- Identifying and securing potential acquisitions for open space
- Stewardship and maintenance of existing open space
- Protection of wildlife habitat
- Trash and debris removal
- Vegetation management and restoration
### Natural Systems & Ecology Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Critical or Indirect*</th>
<th>Projected Measurement Cycle</th>
<th>LEED Credit</th>
<th>Measurement Scope**</th>
<th>Target Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open space preservation acreage</td>
<td>acres</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW, M</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree and vegetated cover area, percent of total within city limits</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air quality days out of range/compliance for sensitive groups</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe drought, number of weeks per year</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land assessed and treated for forest health and wildfire risk reduction, acres per year</td>
<td>acres</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visitors to Open Space areas</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home radon tests over 4 pCi/L pre-mitigation, percent of total administered</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark skies sky quality meter</td>
<td>SQM</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of trees in city tree inventory</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecosystem and habitat enhancement and restoration (incl. invasive species mitigation), acres per year</td>
<td>acres</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail stewardship and sustainable development (incl. erosion control and social trail remediation), miles addressed per year</td>
<td>miles</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Measurement Type</td>
<td>Measurement Scope</td>
<td>Data Collection Period</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear incident reports (incl. bear in trash) per year</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog at large incidents per year</td>
<td>count</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households access to parks and open space, percent households within 1/2 mile</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>yearly</td>
<td>CW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Critical indicators are those which are at the core of the social, economic, and/or environmental impact we are concerned about. Indirect indicators are important for understanding whether we are on track toward a critical indicator.

** Measurement scope refers to how the measurement data can be further broken down, if applicable.

CW = community-wide, M = municipal, R = residential, C = commercial
Glossary and Acronyms

**ACS** - American Community Survey: an ongoing survey administered by the US Census Bureau that provides vital information on a yearly basis about our nation and its people.

**CEO** - Colorado Energy Office: the state office with the mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and consumer energy costs by advancing clean energy, energy efficiency and zero emission vehicles to benefit all Coloradans.

**CDPHE** - Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment: the state’s department which provides public health and environmental protection services that promote healthy people in healthy places. CDPHE oversees topics of air quality, water quality, disease management and response, food safety, hazardous waste, and waste management including recycling and composting, among others.

**CDOT** - Colorado Department of Transportation: the state’s department that works to create an integrated transportation system that focuses on safely moving people and goods by offering convenient linkages among modal choices.

**CO2E** - carbon dioxide equivalent: a standard unit for expressing the impact of different greenhouse gases in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide that would create the same amount of warming.

**CRO** - Colorado Resiliency Office: the state office that supports a long-term adaptable and vibrant future for all Coloradans by building stronger, safer, and more resilient systems in the face of natural disasters and other shocks and stressors.

**Diversion** - the common term for keeping waste from going to landfills, often meaning recycling or composting.

**EPA** - Environmental Protection Agency: the US federal agency tasked with protecting human health and the environment.

**GHG** - greenhouse gas: those that contribute to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, chlorofluorocarbons, and hydrofluorocarbons.

**GPC** - global protocol for community-scale emissions: the most current and widely-used standard for emissions tracking and reporting for cities and communities.

**ICLEI** - Local Governments for Sustainability: a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to building a sustainable future. ICLEI developed the USCP and partnered with the World Resources Institute and C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group to produce the GPC.

**kWh** - kilowatt-hour: a measure of electrical energy equivalent to power consumption of 1,000 watts for 1 hour. A typical home uses around 5-20 kWh per day, depending on size and efficiency.
LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, the most widely used green building rating system in the world which was developed by the US Green Building Council (USGBC).

LPEA - La Plata Electric Association: the rural electric cooperative that provides electricity service to Durango and the surrounding area.

MCF - thousand cubic feet: a common measure of natural gas consumption. 1 MCF is equal to 10 CCF (hundred cubic feet) and 1 CCF is roughly equal to 1 therm. CCF and therms are common ways that natural gas consumption is shown on utility bills.

MG - million gallons, a common measurement of water consumption.

Multimodal Transportation - transportation that involves a variety of ways (modes) other than driving alone in a vehicle, such as walking, using a wheelchair or other mobility assistance, biking, or using public transit.

MSW - municipal solid waste: the commonly accepted term for the various items consumers throw away after they are used.

MTCO2E - metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent: the measure of emissions with the equivalent warming potential of one metric ton of carbon dioxide.

MWh - megawatt-hour: a measure of electrical energy equivalent to power consumption of 1,000,000 watts for 1 hour. This is the same as 1,000 kWh, or about the average monthly electricity consumption of 1-2 homes in Durango.

SAP - sustainability action plan: the City of Durango Municipal Sustainability Action Plan was adopted by Durango City Council in 2015.

SOV - single occupant vehicle: a privately operated vehicle whose only occupant is the driver.

Transit - the commonly used term for public transportation such as buses.

VMT - vehicle miles traveled: measure of the total amount of travel for all vehicles in a geographic region over a given period of time.

WUI - wildland urban interface: the common term for the zone of transition between wilderness (unoccupied land) and land developed by human activity - an area where a built environment meets or intermingles with a natural environment. Human settlements in the WUI are at a greater risk of catastrophic wildfire.
Appendix A: Comprehensive Plan Alignment

The following review identifies the Goals, Objectives, and Policies listed in the 2017 City of Durango Comprehensive Plan as they pertain to the sectors of the Sustainability Plan.

Comprehensive Plan Goals for Reference

Goals that have a strong reference to environmental sustainability are listed in **bold**. Page numbers listed as the page number shown on the Comprehensive Plan document, not the .pdf page number.

- **Goal 1**: Preserve, conserve and sustainably use natural resources so that future generations may enjoy the benefits of Durango’s natural environment. Page 21
- **Goal 2**: Maintain Durango’s views of natural hillsides and mountains. Page 24
- **Goal 3**: Protect sensitive floodplains, hillsides, woodlands, wetlands and wildlife habitat from inappropriate development. Page 24
- **Goal 4**: Foster sustainable and resilient development that is compatible with established neighborhoods and contributes to reductions in resource consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and improves quality of life. Page 36
- **Goal 5**: Develop a coordinated growth management strategy in conjunction with La Plata County, the Towns of Bayfield and Ignacio, and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Page 36
- **Goal 6**: Maintain and enhance the diverse, small-town charm of Durango as the City grows, focusing on its high quality of life and unique character. Page 36
- **Goal 7**: Create quality places throughout the City. Page 44
- **Goal 8**: Retain or enhance the aesthetic value of Durango’s natural and built environments. Page 45
- **Goal 9**: Encourage public awareness and participation in community activities. Page 46
- **Goal 10**: Establish land use patterns that are coordinated with and make the most efficient use of community facilities, while allowing for equitable funding strategies. Page 47
• Goal 11: Promote a healthy, sustainable, balanced economy that capitalizes on the community's natural, recreational, cultural and human resources. Page 50

• Goal 12: Preserve and enhance historic and cultural resources that symbolize Durango's identity and uniqueness. Page 52

• **Goal 13: Continually improve the sustainability of Durango's housing and neighborhoods. Page 58**

• Goal 14: Provide for the development of a variety of housing types throughout the Durango planning area that meets the diverse needs of the community. Page 58

• Goal 15: Increase housing opportunities for workforce and special needs housing populations (target populations) through public/private partnerships. Page 59

• **Goal 16: Increase mobility options for residents, employees and visitors within Durango, and the sustainability of those choices. Page 75**

• Goal 17: Maintain a transportation system that safely and efficiently meets the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. Page 75

• Goal 18: Provide employees, residents and visitors with realistic opportunities to use various modes of transportation. Page 81

• Goal 19: Balance the demand for expanding urban development with the efficient provision of facilities and services. Page 93

• Goal 20: Develop and maintain a system of open space throughout the planning area that serves as a visual and/or recreational amenity, allows for appropriate human use while serving the wildlife population, and provides adequate habitat to sustain healthy wildlife populations. Page 99

• **Goal 21: Develop and maintain an interconnected system of parks, trails and other recreational facilities. Page 101**

• Goal 22: Develop and maintain a trail system throughout the planning area that serves as a recreational amenity and transportation facility. (Also see Goal 16) Page 103

• Goal 23: Enhance the quality of life and regional economy by coordinating, focusing, empowering, and celebrating the community's creative and cultural resources. Page 107

• Goal 24: Foster cost-effective services and facilities that enhance the lives of community residents. Page 117

• Goal 25: Strengthen families and improve outcomes for children and youth, and sustain the efforts over time. Page 118
Comprehensive Plan Objectives and Policies – Sustainability Plan Sector Alignment

All Sectors

- **Objective 1.2**: Adopt and implement cost-effective resource management strategies in collaboration with citizens, businesses, La Plata County and other public agencies.
  - Policy 1.2.11: Use the development review process to ensure that development activities comply with local, state and federal environmental laws.

- **Objective 1.3**: Conservatively use and reuse natural resources.
  - Policy 1.3.8: Support local initiatives to conserve resources, protect our natural environment and encourage sustainable practices. Continue to use and update the City’s Sustainability Action Plan as a tool to improve the sustainability of City operations and public awareness of private options for more sustainable behaviors.
  - Policy 1.3.9: Update and maintain the City’s Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. Use the inventory to set and track progress towards emissions reduction goals.

- **Objective 3.3**: Minimize loss of life or property to natural hazards such as wildfires and geologic hazards.
  - Policy 3.3.1: Continue to review and update Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Operations Plan in coordination with La Plata County and other regional entities to identify key local hazards.
  - Policy 3.3.2: Monitor local and regional climate trends and predictions and incorporate most recent climate science into planning processes and infrastructure development.
  - Policy 3.3.3: Use local planning and infrastructure projects together with public education and awareness programs to build resilience and enhance individual and community capacity to adapt to uncertain future conditions.

- **Objective 4.1**: Modify zoning, development and building standards to encourage the sustainability of the built environment.
  - Policy 4.1.1: Pursue STAR Community certification through appropriate actions to achieve STAR criteria. While initially pursuing 3-star certification, use 5-star criteria to engage the community in discussions about sustainability in general and climate protection in particular (see [www.starcommunities.org](http://www.starcommunities.org)).
o Policy 4.1.3: Consider greenhouse gas emissions in City planning and decision-making processes.

o Policy 4.1.7: Consider using density, intensity and height bonuses to encourage sustainable, efficient construction methods where they can compatibly be incorporated into development and redevelopment sites.

o Policy 4.1.8: Continue to implement the International Building Code, including the International Energy Conservation Code. Periodically update City Ordinance to adopt the most recent version of ICC codes

- Objective 5.1: Establish collaborative and complementary strategies to address land use, economic development, housing and transportation challenges.
  
  o Policy 5.1.1: Schedule and participate in regular forums to discuss mutual growth challenges.

  o Policy 5.1.2: Seek mutually beneficial ways to address county-wide growth challenges.

- Objective 6.5: Increase the supply of developable light industrial and industrial land.
  
  o Policy 6.5.1: Work with La Plata County to create a light industrial park to allow development of industrial buildings and outside storage and operations that do not cause excessive noise, odor or dust. Outdoor storage and operations shall be screened from adjacent roads and other uses. Light industrial uses that are totally enclosed within buildings, have limited deliveries and company vehicles may be located near residential uses with adequate buffering.

  o Policy 6.5.2: Work with La Plata County to establish a location for industrial uses that are not appropriate in light industrial parks or business parks. Such uses shall not be adjacent to residential uses and must be properly screened from public roads. Industrial uses shall include but are not limited to gravel mining, batch plants, salvage operations, large scale recycling centers, oil and gas processing facilities, etc.

- Objective 8.1: Maintain public spaces as strong visual amenities.
  
  o Policy 8.1.5: Meet or exceed minimum design standards for municipal facilities to provide examples of the community benefits of good building and site design, as well as models for sustainable development practices.

- Objective 8.2: Enhance the aesthetic value and sustainability of the built environment through improved development standards and design guidelines.
  
  o Policy 8.2.1: Use administrative development standards and the design review process to promote high-quality site and building design. Design standards should provide flexibility while promoting enhanced aesthetics, traffic safety, land use compatibility, sustainability, and Durango’s unique character.
• **Objective 9.1: Increase opportunities for public access to the public decision-making process.**
  
  o **Policy 9.1.1:** Encourage citizen participation in the Comprehensive Plan updates, area plan updates, and character district planning efforts. The City will provide opportunities for “grass roots” participation in the annual assessments and the annual updates of budget priorities reflected in the Plan Implementation Program.
  
  o **Policy 9.1.2:** Use public access television as well as web-based options to keep citizens informed of public decisions and processes.
  
  o **Policy 9.1.3:** Work with the media to cover all significant City activities and decisions and provide informational materials.
  
  o **Policy 9.1.4:** Encourage participation from a broad cross-section of the population in elected and appointed boards, committees and commissions.
  
  o **Policy 9.1.5:** Facilitate citizen involvement in public decision-making processes and supporting grass-roots citizen initiatives where appropriate.
  
  o **Policy 9.1.6:** Encourage broad participation in Citizen Advisory Boards that are open to the public on policy issues for recommendation to the City Council.
  
  o **Policy 9.1.7:** Employ emerging technologies, social media, and open data to encourage public engagement and make it efficient, convenient, and as far-reaching as possible.

• **Objective 10.1: Coordinate the timing, location and intensity of growth with the concurrent provision of adequate public facilities.**
  
  o **Policy 10.1.2:** Consider Future Land Use designations when extending utilities. Areas designated for urban uses are anticipated to be served over the next twenty years. Areas not designated for urban uses in the Future Land Use Map should remain at Plan densities until urban services are available or be developed in a manner to support future urban development and the efficient extension of urban infrastructure.
  
  o **Policy 10.1.15:** Require new development to fund its proportionate share of off-site capital improvement costs for transportation, water, sewer, stormwater management and neighborhood parks multi-purpose trails, and to provide all on-site improvements.

• **Objective 10.2: Establish a fiscally responsible annexation program that serves the needs of Durango's residents.**
Policy 10.2.3: Prior to annexations requiring City commitments to invest in public facilities, prepare an annexation plan that evaluates the costs and benefits of the proposed annexation to the City and the property owners and addresses land use, public improvements and other development issues.

- **Objective 11.1:** Encourage sound economic and social conditions by supporting the development and retention of a balanced mix of retail, service, tourism, tech and industrial enterprises in Durango.
  - Policy 11.1.3: Continue public investments in the Main Avenue/Central Business District area to enhance access for residents and visitors. (See also the Downtown Area Plan.)
  - Policy 11.1.4: Support efforts to locate and develop additional business park or industrial land.

- **Objective 13.1:** Reduce energy demand and water use on a per-unit basis.
  - Policy 13.1.6: Consider environmental justice and priorities in the location and design of new as well as the redevelopment of existing housing and neighborhoods.

- **Objective 14.1:** Promote housing affordability for all residents through efficient development patterns as well as design standards that minimize long-term costs to residents, considering up-front costs, operating costs and health impacts of construction materials. The City will also consider diverse housing types and promote development patterns that minimize transportation costs.
  - Policy 14.1.2: Encourage residential development in areas where the necessary public facilities and services can be provided economically and efficiently.

- **Objective 19.1:** Serve anticipated urban development in a cost effective manner.
  - Policy 19.1.3: Work with other utility providers to identify opportunities to increase service efficiencies through joint service provision and coordinated construction arrangements.

**Energy**

- **Objective 1.3:** Conservatively use and reuse natural resources.
  - Policy 1.3.11: Coordinate with La Plata County, La Plata Electric and other entities to promote increased use of other renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass, hydro, geo-thermal, etc.

- **Objective 4.1:** Modify zoning, development and building standards to encourage the sustainability of the built environment.
Policy 4.1.2: Reduce commercial and residential building energy consumption through a cost-effective combination of standards, incentives and other measures.

Policy 4.1.9: Encourage energy and water efficiency retrofit throughout City facilities and the wider community through a combination of regulations, incentives and public education.

- **Objective 8.2:** Enhance the aesthetic value and sustainability of the built environment through improved development standards and design guidelines.
  - Policy 8.2.9: Establish green building standards and/or performance measures that encourage energy efficient building design and construction.

- **Objective 13.1:** Reduce energy demand and water use on a per-unit basis.
  - Policy 13.1.1: Routinely update City energy codes to improve energy efficiency and foster use of renewable energy technologies.
  - Policy 13.1.3: Pursue a range of incentives and requirements to measure and improve the energy efficiency of existing and new housing units.

- **Objective 19.3:** Ensure that electrical, natural gas and telecommunications facilities are adequate to support the current and future needs of residents, businesses and institutions.
  - Policy 19.3.1: Continue to coordinate with La Plata Electric Association and future franchisees to provide safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable electric power throughout the City and its planning area.
  - Policy 19.3.2: Coordinate with LPEA to explore the potential to generate electricity from hydraulic flows in the City’s water mains.
  - Policy 19.3.3: Explore opportunities to use City property for generation of electric power.
  - Policy 19.3.7: Support private property owners’ efforts to develop funding mechanisms to shift utilities underground.

**Transportation & Development Patterns**

- **Objective 1.3:** Conservatively use and reuse natural resources.
  - Policy 1.3.10: Reduce municipal energy consumption in vehicles and facilities in line with Sustainability Action Plan targets.
- Policy 1.3.12: Reduce public and private vehicle emissions through a combination of strategies that reduce automobile usage and promote cleaner transportation choices.

- **Objective 4.1: Modify zoning, development and building standards to encourage the sustainability of the built environment.**
  - Policy 4.1.4: Foster compact human-scaled, walkable/bikeable centers and neighborhoods that connect to transit, offer diverse uses and services, and provide housing options for families of all income levels.

- **Objective 6.2: Achieve neighborhood stability, Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives and economic opportunity through implementation of the Future Land Use Map in conjunction with plan policies and the Land Use Development Code.**
  - Policy 6.2.2: Protect neighborhoods from encroachment of incompatible land uses by ensuring that zoning is consistent with the Future Land Use Map, by developing and implementing area plans, corridor plans and character districts, and by enforcing compatibility standards that address noise, traffic and aesthetics.
  - Policy 6.2.4: Establish standards to ensure that non-residential development occurs at appropriate scales and locations. Standards should ensure that uses (including home occupations) within or adjacent to residential areas are compatible with the residential uses.

- **Objective 6.3: Retain a mix of healthy residential, business and tourism uses in downtown Durango.**
  - Policy 6.3.3: Require proposed development along College Drive and Second Avenue to be compatible with adjacent residences. Compatibility standards should address building design, building height, noise, dust, lighting, parking, setbacks, buffering, solar access and traffic flow.
  - Policy 6.3.5: Encourage a mix of residential and commercial uses in the CBD to increase the community’s housing stock and the vitality of downtown Durango business areas.

- **Objective 7.1: Promote more attractive development and redevelopment along the City's transportation and recreational corridors by embracing the principles of place-making.**
  - Policy 7.1.1: Require proposed development along corridors such as College and 8th Avenue, North Main and Florida Road to develop compatibly with adjacent residences. Compatibility standards should address building design, building height, noise, dust lighting, parking, setbacks, buffering, solar access and traffic flow.
Policy 7.1.3: Encourage a mix of residential and commercial uses along corridors such as North Main, Camino del Rio, 8th Avenue and College, Highway 160 West, and other areas to increase the community’s housing stock.

Policy 7.1.6: Enhance the appearance and safety of the City’s arterial roadways through better site design and public improvements that address the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users as well as motorists.

Policy 7.1.7: Actively participate in the planning and design of State arterial roadway improvement projects and support the development of appropriate landscaping, transit stops and shelters, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and other operational and design enhancements.

Objective 8.2: Enhance the aesthetic value and sustainability of the built environment through improved development standards and design guidelines.

Policy 8.2.2: Foster the compatible integration of residential development with the public spaces, public facilities and businesses to facilitate access and reduce automobile dependency.

Objective 10.3: Encourage growth to occur in areas that can be served by existing facilities.

Policy 10.3.2: Encourage development of compatible infill projects, particularly along arterial corridors and in areas designated for mixed-use, downtown, commercial and high density residential future land uses.

Objective 12.1: Identify, preserve and protect significant scenic, cultural, historical and archaeological sites in Durango for the benefit of existing and future generations.

Policy 12.1.5: Continue to develop and implement strategies that preserve the human scale and historical and architectural character of the City’s older neighborhoods and business areas. Ensure that building and site design result in a compatible interface between residential neighborhoods and business areas.

Objective 13.1: Reduce energy demand and water use on a per-unit basis.

Policy 13.1.5: Enhance mobility options for existing and new neighborhoods through improved bicycle, pedestrian and transit access from homes to goods and services.

Objective 14.1: Promote housing affordability for all residents through efficient development patterns as well as design standards that minimize long-term costs to residents, considering up-front costs, operating costs and health impacts of construction materials. The City will also consider diverse housing types and promote development patterns that minimize transportation costs.
Policy 14.1.3: Encourage high-density residential development in areas that are located near work, retail, service and community facilities (such as parks, playgrounds and schools) to reduce transportation related costs.

Policy 14.1.4: Promote subdivision design that provides bike and pedestrian access to trails and transit routes.

**Objective 14.2: Provide for opportunities for a variety of housing types.**

Policy 14.2.3: Encourage residential development with convenient pedestrian and bicycle access to schools, neighborhood commercial centers and other public facilities designed to serve neighborhood residents. For large developments, on-site development of such facilities will be encouraged.

**Objective 16.1: Increase the proportion of trips that are made by transit users, pedestrians and bicyclists to reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.**

Policy 16.1.1: Support infill development and new development patterns that improve access to the City’s transit, bicycle, sidewalk and trail systems.

Policy 16.1.2: Improve transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities in both the public and private realms.

Policy 16.1.3: Provide incentives, such as fee reductions, parking reductions and density bonuses for developments that have transit, bicycle and pedestrian supportive designs, locations and support facilities.

Policy 16.1.4: Decreased transit headways and expand routes to capture an increased ridership, subject to funding availability.

Policy 16.1.5: Strive to retain the City’s position as a Gold Level Bicycle Community by increasing connectivity on roads, paths and trails.

**Objective 16.2: Reduce vehicle miles traveled per household to reduce traffic congestion, especially by gasoline and diesel powered vehicles, to limit greenhouse gas emissions**

Policy 16.2.1: Encourage businesses and multi-family developments that provide preferential parking for car pools and high-efficiency vehicles.

Policy 16.2.2: Encourage businesses and public entities to provide charging facilities for electric vehicles.

Policy 16.2.3: Coordinate with citizens, businesses and other applicable entities to facilitate car sharing and other creative ways to improve mobility and reduce its reliance on single-occupancy vehicles and the associated costs to people and the environment.
Policy 16.2.4: Encourage businesses to provide facilities and incentives to promote the use of sustainable transportation options.

- Objective 17.1: Develop and maintain a comprehensive transportation system that efficiently carries a variety of modes of traffic within and through the community.
  - Policy 17.1.1: Increase mobility options for all Durango residents through support of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and motorists.
  - Policy 17.1.2: Reduce demands for new transportation facilities through better integration of land uses that enable residents to work, play and shop in closer proximity to their homes.
  - Policy 17.1.3: Ensure that land uses, site designs, and street improvements do not limit future mobility options. Unless there are convenient parallel facilities, all major roads, including appropriate highways should safely accommodate bicyclists, pedestrians and transit.
  - Policy 17.1.4: Require new development to contribute its proportionate share of the costs of transportation system capacity, including the costs of streets, bike lanes, bikeways, transportation-related trails, sidewalks and transit infrastructure.
  - Policy 17.1.5: Collaborate with regional entities to improve intercity public transportation options.

- Objective 17.2: Improve street system capacity to meet increasing demands for all modes of transportation.
  - Policy 17.2.1: Coordinate with the County and major community employers to implement cost-effective transportation demand management strategies to reduce peak hour traffic. Such strategies may include, but are not limited to, park and ride sites, adjustments to work schedules, transit incentives, ride-sharing incentives and improved bicycle/pedestrian facilities.
  - Policy 17.2.2: Reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicles to alleviate traffic congestion through transit and parking policies.
  - Policy 17.2.3: Design and construct all existing and proposed streets in accordance with Complete Streets and other adopted standards and policies.
  - Policy 17.2.4: Maintain street design and construction standards based on the functional classification. Modify standards to safely accommodate significant physical features, such as waterways, trees, buildings or hillsides.
Policy 17.2.5: Recognize that street design influences prevailing traffic speeds and design streets to support traffic speeds that are consistent with the function of the street and the neighborhood through which it travels. Traffic calming shall be incorporated into street designs, but reliance on speed humps should be discouraged. When designing intersections, evaluate the use of roundabouts, traffic circles and other creative designs to improve traffic flow and public safety.

Policy 17.2.6: Design street and road systems to be safe, costeffective and efficient to maintain, while serving all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users.

Policy 17.2.7: Design streets to balance the need to provide adequate access for emergency services (i.e., police, fire, ambulance), transit services, sanitation services, street maintenance (including snow removal), and utility maintenance with the desire to slow traffic and increase safety for surrounding property owners and other users of the streets.

Policy 17.2.8: Maximize connectivity between streets to increase travel options.

Policy 17.2.13: Coordinate with CDOT and La Plata County to monitor levels of service using the regional traffic model. Use the results to guide land use and transportation policies and practices, as well as to identify road improvements, transit enhancements and trail linkages required to maintain adopted levels of service.

Objective 17.3: Coordinate site development with the region’s multimodal transportation system.

Policy 17.3.1: Minimize direct vehicular access from development facing arterial streets.

Policy 17.3.2: Before improving streets that pass through residential neighborhoods, balance the desires of residents with the need to maintain a street system that safely and efficiently moves traffic throughout the community. The character and function of existing roadways may be maintained through limited access, improved transit facilities, speed limits and/or parking regulations.

Policy 17.3.8: Require new subdivisions to be designed so that the internal local street system provides access from lots to collector streets. Whenever possible, access to arterial streets shall be limited to collector and arterial street intersections.

Policy 17.3.9: Require turnouts for school buses and safe waiting areas for school children along minor arterial and collector streets where they enhance public safety. This policy is intended to be carried out in coordination with the school districts.
o Policy 17.3.10: Limit new traffic demands on local streets through residential neighborhoods. Large-scale multi-family uses generally should not take primary access through a lower density residential neighborhood unless it is by way of a collector or arterial street. Traffic to and from a commercial land use should not be routed through a residentially zoned area unless it is by way of an arterial street.

o Policy 17.3.12: Use improvement districts to provide and replace sidewalks, trails and bikeways in the community. Jointly fund district improvements through property owner assessments, grants and utility or general fund revenues, as appropriate.

o Policy 17.3.13: Plan for transit stop pull-outs and other accommodations for public transit services on minor arterial and collector streets.

• **Objective 17.4: Provide adequate off-street parking in areas where street-pavement is needed for traffic flow.**

  o Policy 17.4.1: Require off-street parking for all new development, redevelopment projects and changes of use where parking demand is increased.

  o Policy 17.4.2: Limit on-street parking when: street pavement width is not sufficient to accommodate desired traffic flow and on-street parking; high on-street parking demands interfere with safe access to adjacent parcels; traffic volumes and speeds are too great to safely allow on-street parking; and special conditions dictate such limitations, such as when snow plowing is required or during special events.

  o Policy 17.4.3: Address public parking demands in the CBD area in cooperation with downtown businesses and property owners benefiting from the availability of public parking.

  o Policy 17.4.4: Enhance the safety of parking areas through improved design. Reduce on-street parking through requirements for the provision of adequate off-street parking.

  o Policy 17.4.6: Evaluate existing parking requirements and design standards and revise as appropriate for Durango.

  o Policy 17.4.7: Reduce parking requirements for residential properties that limit the number of persons per household allowed, and/or provide car share accommodations.

  o Policy 17.4.8: Reduce the parking requirements for businesses that provide shuttle service or other approved transportation demand management strategies.

  o Policy 17.4.9: Establish convenient temporary parking within the City parking lots or a temporary parking area during summer months for RV parking in the CBD.
Policy 17.4.10: Encourage increased use of shared parking areas throughout the planning area.

Policy 17.4.11: Evaluate the use of residential parking permits to protect the integrity of downtown neighborhoods.

Policy 17.4.12: Monitor downtown parking demand and assess the viability of structured public parking.

**Objective 18.1: Develop and maintain a transportation network and demand management strategies that minimize anticipated increases in single occupancy automobile traffic.**

Policy 18.1.1: Update the Multimodal Transportation Plan at least every 5 years to evaluate bicycle, pedestrian and transit needs, to evaluate transit expansions.

Policy 18.1.2: Continue to operate the Durango Transit (T) or Durango Public Transportation System. Ridership will be monitored and residents periodically surveyed to assess system demands and needs. Rates, routes, vehicles and pick-up frequencies will be adjusted as needed to improve the efficiency and appeal of this public transit service. Require dedication of transit facilities within major community activity areas (e.g., large shopping, employment or residential developments).

Policy 18.1.3: The Transit Development Plan should be updated at least every five years to evaluate expansions to the Durango Loop, Trolley routes and the Opportunity Bus. Policy 18.1.4: Develop safe, well-lit and attractive transit stop facilities to enhance the appeal of transit use. Facilities should include well-lit shelters and emergency phones in isolated areas.

Policy 18.1.5: Evaluate alternative transportation demand management strategies to reduce peak hour traffic. Evaluate the establishment of a park and ride site, limits on downtown employee parking, a ride sharing program, improved bicycle parking facilities and other transportation demand management alternatives.

**Objective 18.2: Develop a multimodal trail system that is safe, convenient and pleasant for commuting, shopping, educational, cultural and recreational purposes.**

Policy 18.2.1: Develop and maintain this trail network as a sustainable transportation network and a recreational amenity. On-street bikeways and pedestrian facilities will be constructed in conjunction with planned road improvements. Provide incentives for dedication of key trail segments in the river corridor and in other parts of the community where dedication requirements are not viable.

Policy 18.2.2: Connect activity centers such as schools, parks, employment centers and shopping areas, with safe trails, bike lanes and bike routes. Incorporate educational trail kiosks to address travel safety, environmental and energy conservation.
Policy 18.2.3: Integrate the trail system with public transit to facilitate further use of both systems.

Policy 18.2.4: Separate bicycle and pedestrian trail facilities from arterial roads where space and funding allow, or provide protected bike lanes/separated sidewalks.

Policy 18.2.5: Encourage new development to provide facilities for bicycle and pedestrian users such as secure bike parking, storage and employee locker and shower facilities.

Policy 18.2.6: Incorporate trails with greenway preservation and development projects. Where drainageways are preserved, enhanced and restored, consider trail development projects, when appropriate.

Policy 18.2.7: Construct underpasses, overpasses or other safe and convenient facilities where trails cross major streets and highways. Construct grade-separated crossings of major streets and highways. Underpasses should be well lit and as wide as possible.

Policy 18.2.8: Light all designated hard-surface trails and all underpasses.

Policy 18.2.12: Require new developments to provide trail linkages to adjacent neighborhoods.

Policy 18.2.13: Apply AASHTO standards to hard surface multi-use trail construction to the greatest extent practical.

Policy 18.2.14: Ensure public safety by patrolling the trail system with police officers and park rangers.

Policy 18.2.15: Encourage trail use and reduce trail conflicts with signage and education and promotion.

Objective 18.3: Develop an interconnected bike lane network on existing streets, roads and highways that is safe, pleasant, efficient and convenient.

Policy 18.3.1: Use AASHTO and Complete Streets standards for development of bike lanes. Where streets are not wide enough to allow for a standard bike lane of 5-foot width, consider narrowing travel lanes and bike lanes. Stripe and sign bike lanes on all roads with ADT counts of 4,000 or greater.

Policy 18.3.2: Develop highly visible and protected bike turn lanes where desirable and feasible.

Policy 18.3.3: Install traffic-activated signal detectors that are sensitive to bicycles, including those located in leftturn lanes. Bicyclists should not be required to dismount to activate a signal.

Policy 18.3.4: Provide traffic calming measures on neighborhood streets to increase the safety of all mode users.
- Policy 18.3.5: Provide signage to inform motorists of the presence of bike lanes and routes and allow bicyclists greater right-of-way at narrow curves and roundabouts.

- Policy 18.3.6: Establish a network of striped bike lanes on existing streets and highways that enhance the safety and convenience of bike riding.

- **Objective 21.1: Develop a network of passive and active green belts and greenways consisting of open space, parks and trails.**
  - Policy 21.1.1: Coordinate with trails interest groups to secure and construct a trail system that is consistent with the parks and trails map identified in the Comprehensive Plan. Modify routes, on an interim or permanent basis, to promote system connectivity and traffic safety.
  - Policy 21.1.6: Take advantage of defined corridors, such as the Animas River, the railroad tracks and the steep slope of College Mesa, to create pedestrian paths and bicycle trails.

- **Objective 21.3: Complete the Animas River Trail as the major north/south trail artery in the planning area with a connection to the SMART 160 Trail.**
  - Policy 21.3.1: Explore a variety of methods in conjunction with property owners along the Animas River to secure trail easements and dedications where feasible.

- **Objective 22.2: Enhance non-motorized access between Downtown Durango and the Animas River, and elsewhere in the City.**
  - Policy 22.2.1: Develop safe and accessible pedestrian/bicycle linkages across Highways 550, 160 and 160/550. (Also see the Downtown Vision and Strategic Plan)
  - Policy 22.2.2: Acquire riverfront property between 9th Street and 12th Street for parkland and open space and a pedestrian underpass crossing Camino del Rio.
  - Policy 22.2.3: Develop the SMART 160 Trail as a multi-use trail between the southern terminus of the Animas River Trail and the Grandview/Three Springs area.
  - Policy 22.2.4: Develop a safer crossing of Main Avenue at 25th Street near Durango High School.
  - Policy 22.2.5: Coordinate with 9R to get more children to walk or ride their bikes to school by expanding the Safe Routes to School program.
Consumption & Waste

- **Objective 1.3: Conservatively use and reuse natural resources.**
  - Policy 1.3.1: Serve as a regional leader and cooperate regionally to develop waste reduction programs and facilities, expanding the scope of local and regional recycling efforts and the use of recycled products.
  - Policy 1.3.2: Develop and adopt a Zero Waste Management Plan.
  - Policy 1.3.3: Structure City programs, including refuse and cleanup billing practices to encourage waste diversion efforts and promote a zero-waste culture.
  - Policy 1.3.4: Coordinate with SWCCOG and other entities to monitor waste stream composition through waste audits. Use audit results to establish long-term progress toward Sustainability Action Plan waste reduction targets.
  - Policy 1.3.7: Provide education and leadership by promoting conservation, reuse and recycling of resources in the wider community and raising awareness of public and private opportunities to pursue more sustainable behaviors.

- **Objective 8.1: Maintain public spaces as strong visual amenities.**
  - Policy 8.1.6: Support the establishment of community-based gardens on appropriate public and private lands to foster the production of healthy, sustainable food.

Water

- **Objective 1.1: Coordinate with local, State and Federal agencies to monitor and continually evaluate threats to the City’s natural resources and quality enhancement opportunities.**
  - Policy 1.1.2: Promote Federal, State, Tribal and other efforts to identify the impact of different sources of pollution in the Animas River and pursue strategies to minimize significant risks of pollution.

- **Objective 1.2: Adopt and implement cost-effective resource management strategies in collaboration with citizens, businesses, La Plata County and other public agencies.**
  - Policy 1.2.1: Require development to protect or mitigate impacts on natural resources, including surface and groundwater contamination, soil erosion or contamination, air quality degradation and loss of vegetation.
  - Policy 1.2.2: Continually evaluate and refine the City’s Stormwater Quality Management practices and requirements, including the riverfront development review process, to achieve cost effective outcomes, improve the quality of runoff and comply with Federal standards. Follow best management practices for grading and
construction to minimize erosion and sedimentation from public and private construction sites and completed development projects. Promote the use of permeable pavement and other porous paving materials in the development or redevelopment of parking areas.

- Policy 1.2.5: Include water quality impacts when evaluating open space acquisitions and when designing roadway, snow storage, stormwater management and other public improvements.
- Policy 1.2.6: Favor natural or landscaped drainageways over built drainage systems whenever the natural drainageway can accommodate anticipated runoff. Where projected runoff cannot be accommodated by natural drainageways, seek improvements that retain the natural characteristics of water courses and floodplain areas to the greatest extent feasible.
- Policy 1.2.12: Work with citizen groups, including the Animas River Task Force and City Council appointed advisory boards on activities along the Animas River Greenway.

- Objective 1.3: Conservatively use and reuse natural resources.
  - Policy 1.3.5: Continue to monitor water use in the community. Periodically review utility rates and fees for all customer classes, maintaining a tiered rate structure.
  - Policy 1.3.6: Use a tiered rate structure in concert with infrastructure improvements, public education and other policies to reduce water losses, encourage conservation and make progress towards goals identified in the Sustainability Action Plan and STAR Communities criteria.

- Objective 3.2: Protect people, property and water quality by limiting inappropriate development in floodplains and wetlands.
  - Policy 3.2.1: Minimize grading and construction activities within the Animas River and local stream floodplains. Permit development within tributary floodplains when consistent with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines, City floodplain requirements and City stormwater management standards.
  - Policy 3.2.2: Limit development in the floodway to bridge crossings, utilities, trails and river access improvements. Low intensity recreational uses may be authorized by the City for development in the floodplains.
  - Policy 3.2.3: Do not allow the creation of new lots with buildable areas located within floodplains.
• **Objective 4.1:** Modify zoning, development and building standards to encourage the sustainability of the built environment.
  o Policy 4.1.9: Encourage energy and water efficiency retrofit throughout City facilities and the wider community through a combination of regulations, incentives and public education.

• **Objective 7.1:** Promote more attractive development and redevelopment along the City’s transportation and recreational corridors by embracing the principles of place-making.
  o Policy 7.1.9: Provide wetlands and water retention, where feasible, along the river corridor to capture and slow runoff into the Animas River

• **Objective 8.2:** Enhance the aesthetic value and sustainability of the built environment through improved development standards and design guidelines.
  o Policy 8.2.10: Ensure that development is located and designed to minimize contaminants in stormwater runoff and flooding potential.

• **Objective 10.1:** Coordinate the timing, location and intensity of growth with the concurrent provision of adequate public facilities.
  o Policy 10.1.20: Continue to use tiered water consumption charges to encourage conservation and efficient use of water resources.

• **Objective 11.1:** Encourage sound economic and social conditions by supporting the development and retention of a balanced mix of retail, service, tourism, tech and industrial enterprises in Durango.
  o Policy 11.1.7: Continue efforts to preserve recreational water rights, whitewater park development and maintenance of instream improvements including bank restoration.

• **Objective 13.1:** Reduce energy demand and water use on a per-unit basis.
  o Policy 13.1.2: Use building codes, landscaping standards, fee structures and other measures to reduce water demand in new and existing homes.
  o Policy 13.1.4: Pursue a range of incentives and requirements to reduce water demands for existing and new housing units.

• **Objective 19.1:** Serve anticipated urban development in a costeffective manner.
Policy 19.1.1: Provide water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities to all urban development within the planning area when commitments for annexation have been secured.

Policy 19.1.2: Water, wastewater, and stormwater system extensions to serve new development shall be funded by new development. Maintain water system impact fees that recover the full capital cost attributable to new development. Improvement and maintenance costs attributable to existing development shall be borne by all rate payers.

Policy 19.1.4: Oppose the establishment of new independent water or sewer systems or districts within the planning area, except: for the specified purpose of making improvements which will be transferred to the City when the cost of improvements is paid; or for services provided by LAPLAWD pursuant to an agreement that addresses issues related to service area, connections to the City’s system, comprehensive plan consistency, consistency with City and Durango Fire Protection District standards, development review processes and other service matters.

Policy 19.1.5: Any development that is served by City water within the City’s Planning Area, no matter who is distributing it, within the City’s Planning Boundary must be consistent with the City’s Future Land Use Map, Comprehensive Plan policies and development standards.

Policy 19.1.6: Coordinate with La Plata County to establish consistent improvement standards and funding strategies for water, storm, and sewer providers throughout the planning area.

Policy 19.1.8: Evaluate the use of raw water and/or treated effluent to meet irrigation needs in parks and for other largescale water uses not requiring potable water. Costs for this service should be recovered through user fees.

Policy 19.1.9: Reduce per capita water demands and wastewater generation through on-going conservation efforts addressing education, use practices, fixtures, and system maintenance.

Objective 19.2: Ensure that water, wastewater and storm drainage systems are adequate to meet basic and emergency needs of development.

Policy 19.2.1: Maintain a water supply and distribution system that will meet existing and future domestic and fire protection demands for the urbanizing area.

Policy 19.2.2: Coordinate with the South Durango Sanitation District to ensure that wastewater management systems meet existing and future domestic demands in the urbanizing area.
Policy 19.2.3: Maintain stormwater management systems that will meet existing and future domestic demands in the urbanizing area.

Policy 19.2.4: Continue to implement the Water Efficiency Management Plan to help defer capital investments in increased supplies.

Policy 19.2.5: Systematically upgrade all undersized pipelines in the City as repairs, expansions and other capital improvement projects provide the opportunity. All replacement pipelines shall be sized to provide adequate volumes of water to meet established fire flow standards at full development.

Policy 19.2.6: Require all new development and redevelopment within the City to meet or exceed the City Master Storm Water Master Plan and Drainage Criteria.

Policy 19.2.7: Where natural drainageways cannot effectively accommodate stormwater runoff, use the street system as a key element of the storm drainage collection system. Curbed streets may provide drainage outfall for adjacent properties.

Objective 19.3: Ensure that electrical, natural gas and telecommunications facilities are adequate to support the current and future needs of residents, businesses and institutions.

Policy 19.3.2: Coordinate with LPEA to explore the potential to generate electricity from hydraulic flows in the City’s water mains.

Objective 21.3: Complete the Animas River Trail as the major north/south trail artery in the planning area with a connection to the SMART 160 Trail.

Policy 21.3.2: Acquire key parcels for riverfront trail segments where public river access is critical.

Policy 21.3.4: Maintain public ownership of public lands along the Animas River.

Policy 21.3.5: Protect the Animas River corridor from additional commercial or industrial encroachment.

Natural Systems & Ecology

Objective 1.1: Coordinate with local, State and Federal agencies to monitor and continually evaluate threats to the City’s natural resources and quality enhancement opportunities.

Policy 1.1.1: Monitor studies from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (“CPW”) Department and appropriate federal agencies to identify wildlife population trends and opportunities to minimize adverse interactions between people and the City’s land and aquatic life.
Policy 1.1.3: Monitor and participate in State and Federal air quality studies and initiatives as appropriate.

Policy 1.1.4: Monitor Forest health in coordination with the Colorado State Forest Service.

**Objective 1.2: Adopt and implement cost-effective resource management strategies in collaboration with citizens, businesses, La Plata County and other public agencies.**

- Policy 1.2.1: Require development to protect or mitigate impacts on natural resources, including surface and groundwater contamination, soil erosion or contamination, air quality degradation and loss of vegetation.

- Policy 1.2.3: Coordinate with the State, residents and employers to reduce significant local and regional sources of air pollution. Continue to enforce the City’s anti-idling policy for municipal vehicles and reevaluate the policy to reflect shifts in city operations and fleet.

- Policy 1.2.4: Support growth and water resource management strategies that help maintain the aesthetic, recreational and environmental value of the Animas River Greenway (which includes the river, the riparian zone, and the trail system) and the SMART 160 trail corridor. Coordinate these efforts with the Animas River Task Force and other applicable interests.

- Policy 1.2.7: Coordinate with La Plata County, State and Federal organizations to implement effective strategies to maintain healthy wildlife populations in open spaces surrounding the community, balanced with human use of open space. Such strategies will include the protection of key habitat and migration corridors and the provision of facilities to reduce wildlife deaths on highways.

- Policy 1.2.8: Pursue regional and local strategies to preserve the Animas River Greenway, SMART 160 trail corridor and all trails within the City limits as recreational and environmental amenities for future generations.

- Policy 1.2.9: Ensure that mineral and gas extraction activities are consistent with the conservation of other natural resources and are compatible with adjacent land uses and local governmental directives.

- Policy 1.2.10: Continue efforts to control and manage noxious and exotic weeds and management of appropriate plant species in the City of Durango.

- Policy 1.2.12: Work with citizen groups, including the Animas River Task Force and City Council appointed advisory boards on activities along the Animas River Greenway.
Policy 1.2.13: Allow wood burning fireplace inserts and stoves in residential units only when such units meet or exceed emission standards for EPA Phase II Wood Burning Devices. Allow no more than one open fireplace within hotel and lodge lobbies and restaurants.

Policy 1.2.14: Maintain an up-to-date GIS-based inventory of natural resources (including floodplain, wetland and critical riparian habitat data), monitor the impacts of growth on those resources and use the data to refine the City’s Land Use Development Code.

Objective 2.1: Identify key parcels needed to preserve a natural greenbelt along hillsides and ridgelines.

- Policy 2.1.1: Limit development on steep slopes of 30% and greater. Do not allow new lots to be created on steep slopes or that take access through steep slopes.
- Policy 2.1.2: Maintain setbacks from protected ridgelines and other design standards to retain the natural appearance of skylines that are visible from primary public streets.
- Policy 2.1.3: Minimize and manage ambient noise and light levels to protect public health and the integrity of ecological systems. Continue to review and enforce light standards identified in the Land Use Development Code and to foster dark sky compliant lighting throughout the community.
- Policy 2.1.4: Retain the natural appearance of hillsides by encouraging dedications of conservation easements for land on steep and moderately steep hillsides, and by minimizing hillside cut and fill for buildings, roads or other development. Facilitate clustering of development to implement this policy.
- Policy 2.1.5: Require landscape improvements to reduce the visual and environmental impacts of such work in areas where cut and fill is necessary to provide safe access to development.
- Policy 2.1.6: Oppose efforts to use publicly-owned hillside lands for private development or enterprises unless the City finds that the public benefit exceeds the negative impacts and the parcels are not identified as key elements of the scenic backdrop.

Objective 3.1: Secure and maintain a relatively continuous band of open space through or around the City of Durango to provide habitat areas and corridors for the movement of wildlife populations that work in conjunction with human use in those spaces.

- Policy 3.1.1: Preserve public and privately owned open space corridors in coordination with La Plata County, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Department, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and other land owners.
Policy 3.1.2: Support cost-effective habitat conservation strategies such as dedications, targeted acquisition of land or development rights, and mandatory clustering of development.

Policy 3.1.3: Work with La Plata County, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, CPW, the Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project and the Colorado Department of Transportation (“CDOT”) to incorporate design alternatives that provide safe routes for wildlife crossing State highways or reduce the need for wildlife crossings.

- **Objective 3.2: Protect people, property and water quality by limiting inappropriate development in floodplains and wetlands.**
  - Policy 3.2.1: Minimize grading and construction activities within the Animas River and local stream floodplains. Permit development within tributary floodplains when consistent with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines, City floodplain requirements and City stormwater management standards.
  - Policy 3.2.2: Limit development in the floodway to bridge crossings, utilities, trails and river access improvements. Low intensity recreational uses may be authorized by the City for development in the floodplains.
  - Policy 3.2.3: Do not allow the creation of new lots with buildable areas located within floodplains.

- **Objective 3.3: Minimize loss of life or property to natural hazards such as wildfires and geologic hazards.**
  - Policy 3.3.4: Limit development in or near identified natural hazard areas, unless mitigating measures are undertaken to minimize the risk of injury to persons and loss of property.
  - Policy 3.3.5: Enforce building safety codes to ensure that development can reasonably withstand impacts from natural occurrences such as heavy snowfall and flooding.
  - Policy 3.3.6: Work with La Plata County to develop methane seep setback and avoidance strategies to protect people and development from methane seep dangers.
  - Policy 3.3.7: Ensure that safe and adequate access is provided to wildfire-prone properties prior to development approvals.
  - Policy 3.3.8: Require defensible site designs that minimize the risks to life and property development in wildfire-prone areas.

- **Objective 7.1: Promote more attractive development and redevelopment along the City’s transportation and recreational corridors by embracing the principles of place-making.**
- **Policy 7.1.4**: Continue to refine river corridor development regulations to enhance the compatibility of this valuable recreational corridor with adjacent development.

- **Policy 7.1.5**: Develop standards and guidelines to address the scale of development along the Animas River Trail and the interface between the trails and adjacent development so development includes active building and site design along the trail which enhance trail safety and aesthetics.

- **Policy 7.1.8**: Protect views of the City’s hillsides when traveling along City corridors

**Objective 8.1: Maintain public spaces as strong visual amenities.**

- **Policy 8.1.1**: Retain key open spaces in their natural condition where feasible. Where improvements are made in open space areas, those improvements will be designed and located to minimize their visual impacts from public areas.

- **Policy 8.1.2**: Design, construct and maintain parks as visual and recreational amenities. Parking areas, trails, structures and landscaping shall be designed and improved with an emphasis on aesthetics and sustainability.

- **Policy 8.1.3**: Require low maintenance, site-appropriate street trees and, where appropriate, planted medians to enhance the street environment.

- **Policy 8.1.4**: Encourage the State to allow for and improve landscaping within State rights-of-way and on other State-owned land.

**Objective 8.2: Enhance the aesthetic value and sustainability of the built environment through improved development standards and design guidelines.**

- **Policy 8.2.3**: Limit visibility of existing and future outdoor commercial and industrial operations from roadways, the Animas River, public facilities, residential neighborhoods and tourist related commercial development sites through landscaping and other attractive screening techniques.

- **Policy 8.2.4**: Require that medium and high density residential projects have usable open space incorporated into the project or off-site open space that is reasonably linked to the project.

- **Policy 8.2.5**: Apply landscaping requirements to promote land use compatibility, to increase screening of outdoor storage and operations areas and to provide visual relief within large parking areas. The City will retain flexibility within its landscaping code to encourage design variations and promote public safety.
• Policy 8.2.6: Continue City efforts to retain mature trees within development sites. The intent of this policy is to ensure that healthy, mature trees are not removed and replaced with saplings or other immature landscaping.

• Policy 8.2.7: Promote the use of signage that is consistent with community character and appropriate for the size, location and use of the site. Reduce unnecessary visual clutter produced by large, garish, brightly lit and overabundant signage.

• Policy 8.2.8: Achieve compliance with the City’s dark skies standards through the capital improvements program, and appropriate zoning requirements applicable to all non-residential and multifamily uses. Additionally, apply dark skies requirements to all new single-family residential development and major renovations and encourage compliance for existing single-family dwellings.

• **Objective 11.1: Encourage sound economic and social conditions by supporting the development and retention of a balanced mix of retail, service, tourism, tech and industrial enterprises in Durango.**
  
  o Policy 11.1.2: Invest in parks, recreation, trails and open space and river whitewater park amenities that serve residents and visitors.

  o Policy 11.1.7: Continue efforts to preserve recreational water rights, whitewater park development and maintenance of instream improvements including bank restoration.

• **Objective 17.2: Improve street system capacity to meet increasing demands for all modes of transportation.**
  
  o Policy 17.2.4: Maintain street design and construction standards based on the functional classification. Modify standards to safely accommodate significant physical features, such as waterways, trees, buildings or hillsides.

• **Objective 18.2: Develop a multimodal trail system that is safe, convenient and pleasant for commuting, shopping, educational, cultural and recreational purposes.**
  
  o Policy 18.2.6: Incorporate trails with greenway preservation and development projects. Where drainageways are preserved, enhanced and restored, consider trail development projects, when appropriate.

  o Policy 18.2.9: Native plantings should be incorporated with trail corridor projects. Consider trail alignments that minimize traffic noise for the trail user. Use features such as walls, berms and landscaping in the design of trail segments to reduce noise levels on trails. Screen unsightly features from trails where feasible. Plantings, walls, fences and berms shall be incorporated in trail design where appropriate.
Policy 18.2.10: Provide pedestrian amenities along trails in City parks, such as: picnic tables, benches, shelters, lighting, pullout “overlook” at key locations, stream and river access points, restrooms, historic and environmental interpretive information, directional signage, dog waste bags, trash cans, and drinking fountains.

- **Objective 20.1:** Develop an open space system consisting of green belts, greenways, special feature parcels, parks and trails that together will serve one or more of the following purposes: 1) preserve scenic vistas; 2) serve as buffers between land uses; 3) provide increased human access to adjacent public lands, the Animas River and other drainage corridors; 4) provide a mix of active and passive use areas; 5) preserve and enhance important wildlife habitats and migration routes; 6) provide opportunities for environmental education; 7) protect habitat corridors for movement of wildlife in Durango and/or 8) preserve and develop an interconnected trail system throughout the planning area.

- Policy 20.1.1: Prohibit the conversion of public open space land to private development except where land exchanges enhance the environmental value of public open spaces.
- Policy 20.1.2: Formally request that all State and Federal agencies managing lands within the City’s planning area consult with the City regarding any plans for changing management objectives or ownership of public lands.
- Policy 20.1.3: Pursue private dedications of open space land or conservation easements in areas adjacent to public open space, the Animas River or in other locations that support the community’s open space objectives.
- Policy 20.1.4: Work cooperatively with other public and private groups to help establish greenbelts and preserved open areas in and around the City consisting of a network of public lands, hillsides and private lands.
- Policy 20.1.5: Consider retention of lands that are not suitable for development (e.g. steep grades, poor soils, floodplain areas, etc.) as open space areas, or, where appropriate, the development of recreational uses.
- Policy 20.1.6: Preserve areas of outstanding scenic and/or natural beauty and, where possible, include these areas in a permanent open space system. The City will be a partner with numerous local, state and federal agencies and organizations, including, but not limited to the CPW, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), San Juan National Forest, Bureau of Reclamation, State Land Board, Ft. Lewis College, La Plata Open Space Conservancy, Trails 2000, La Plata County, and other interests in the development of these open space preservation strategies.
- Policy 20.1.7: Preserve open space buffers around development areas, provide recreational opportunities and visual amenities, and protect ecological systems. Open spaces, greenways and green belts will be used as buffers and to link activity centers, recreation areas and other open spaces with neighborhoods and the community in general.
Policy 20.1.8: Review all utility and public works projects for consistency with the City’s open space goals, objectives and policies. Wherever feasible, utility corridors, easements, drainage crossings, transportation corridors and associated development projects shall be designed and constructed to achieve the City’s open space goals and objectives.

Policy 20.1.9: Use Comprehensive Plan maps as a guide to identify and secure land and facilities needed to retain the quality of life for the community’s residents -- humans and wildlife.

Policy 20.1.10: Consult with CPW on all development proposals that could have an impact on wildlife habitat and/or forage diversity to strategically locate housing clusters in a way to minimize negative impacts to game and nongame wildlife and to minimize human-wildlife conflicts

Objective 20.2: Work cooperatively with private landowners to promote open space preservation and access.

Policy 20.2.1: Help establish a land stewardship education and incentive program for existing landowners with property within identified open space areas. These education efforts should be provided in partnership with organizations like the La Plata Open Space Conservancy, Colorado Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the CPW.

Policy 20.2.2: Encourage clustering of dwellings on a portion of development sites where the remainder of the site can be reserved for open space.

Policy 20.2.3: Encourage voluntary land dedications, conservation easements, and other forms of open space preservation.

Policy 20.2.4: Pursue fee-title acquisition of open space lands only after all other preservation techniques have been considered.

Policy 20.2.5: Review all new developments to identify opportunities for consistency with the POST&R Plan, as well as the potential for new trails and trail connections.

Objective 20.3: Maintain and continue to develop funding programs and opportunities for open space preservation and maintenance.

Policy 20.3.1: Use all available funding sources for open space preservation and maintenance.

Policy 20.3.2: Explore all available opportunities to team with private individuals and agencies such as GOCO, the Trust for Public Lands, etc., to secure additional funds for open space preservation.
o Policy 20.3.3: Encourage public participation and consultation with the Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Citizens Advisory Boards regarding funding for parks, open space, trails and recreation.

- **Objective 21.1:** Develop a network of passive and active green belts and greenways consisting of open space, parks and trails.
  
o Policy 21.1.1: Coordinate with trails interest groups to secure and construct a trail system that is consistent with the parks and trails map identified in the Comprehensive Plan. Modify routes, on an interim or permanent basis, to promote system connectivity and traffic safety.
  
o Policy 21.1.2: Participate in the development of a full, balanced and readily accessible program of recreation areas, activities and facilities.
  
o Policy 21.1.3: Improve access to neighborhood park facilities in areas that are presently under-served by existing facilities.
  
o Policy 21.1.4: Plan for future development of neighborhood parks to coincide with proposed residential development.
  
o Policy 21.1.5: Pursue opportunities to reclaim and enhance open space and encourage recreational use of public lands along the Animas River and in other areas where such uses are appropriate.
  
o Policy 21.1.6: Take advantage of defined corridors, such as the Animas River, the railroad tracks and the steep slope of College Mesa, to create pedestrian paths and bicycle trails.
  
o Policy 21.1.7: Work with neighborhood groups to provide useable open space in areas where facilities are lacking.

- **Objective 21.2:** Develop and maintain a system of parks and recreation facilities, open space and trails that adequately serve the needs of the community.
  
o Policy 21.2.1: Provide recreation facilities that are consistent with local standards and National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) guidelines.
  
o Policy 21.2.2: Use parks and recreation facility level of service (LOS) standards to plan for adequate parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of the City’s population.
  
o Policy 21.2.3: Require new residential development to contribute its proportionate share to the establishment of neighborhood parks through park improvement fees and land dedication requirements.
Policy 21.2.4: Continue to regularly update the parks, recreation, open space and trails capital improvements plan that inventories existing facilities, identifies proposed facilities and acquisitions, estimates improvement and acquisition costs and maintain dedicated funding for parks, open space trails and recreation improvements.

Policy 21.2.5: Identify appropriate locations for parks, recreational facilities, open spaces and trails as part of the POST&R Master Plan update process, which should occur every 5 to 7 years with broad public participation.

Policy 21.2.6: Ensure that new development is consistent with the Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Master Plan.

Policy 21.2.7: Obtain land for parks and recreation facility sites through public investment, private contributions, developer dedications or fees-in-lieu and implementation of a development impact fee program. Development projects should contribute to the acquisition or improvement of parks and recreation facility sites proportionate to the demand created by the new development.

Policy 21.2.8: Coordinate parks and recreation facility development and improvements with other service providers, including but not limited to school districts, the County and the State.

Policy 21.2.9: Account for existing and projected deficiencies when planning for facilities.

Policy 21.2.10: Monitor demands for the City’s recreational facilities and plan for expansion or the construction of additional facilities when feasible.

Policy 21.2.11: Implement the Durango Animas River Corridor Management Plan and provide sustainable put-in/take-out locations along the river.

Policy 21.2.12: Develop and manage recreational facilities in collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation for public use at Lake Nighthorse.

Objective 21.3: Complete the Animas River Trail as the major north/south trail artery in the planning area with a connection to the SMART 160 Trail.

Policy 21.3.1: Explore a variety of methods in conjunction with property owners along the Animas River to secure trail easements and dedications where feasible.

Policy 21.3.2: Acquire key parcels for riverfront trail segments where public river access is critical.

Policy 21.3.3: Require land dedications for trail construction in the development review process.

Policy 21.3.4: Maintain public ownership of public lands along the Animas River.
- Policy 21.3.5: Protect the Animas River corridor from additional commercial or industrial encroachment.

- **Objective 22.1: Provide a variety of trail experiences for trail users.**
  - Policy 22.1.1: Develop loop trail opportunities along the Animas River Greenway.
  - Policy 22.1.2: Develop loop trail opportunities from Durango neighborhoods to surrounding mesas and ridges. Acquire land and easements necessary for park access from adjacent neighborhoods.
  - Policy 22.1.3: Require new development to provide trail linkages to public lands nearby. Natural features such as drainages and ridges may, if appropriate, be the preferred alignments for these trail segments.
  - Policy 22.1.4: Consider acquisition of property as it becomes available along drainageways, ridgelines and other natural features for open space and trail development.
Appendix B: 2015 Municipal Sustainability Action Plan Review

The following provides a summary of how the actions from the 2015 Municipal Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) have been incorporated into the 2022 Sustainability Plan. Because the structure and content of updated plan does not match that of the 2015 SAP, this list is designed to provide some continuity between the two plans. Many of the ideas and actions in the 2015 SAP are still very relevant to our community, while some may be less relevant at this point.

For the status of a given action, the following language is used:

- **Complete**: for actions with a definite point of accomplishment that were achieved
- **Ongoing - On Track**: for actions which do not have a clear end-date or end-goal, and which are currently being addressed, and efforts are going well
- **Ongoing - Needs Attention**: for actions which do not have a clear end-date or end-goal, and which need more attention or resources in order to meet the desired outcome, or which need to be readdressed in order to be effective and relevant
- **No Action / Not Achieved**: for actions where the city has either not accomplished the outlined goal, or where there has been little or no action
- **Unclear**: for items where the status of the action could not be confirmed

Regarding how the actions are incorporated into the updated Sustainability Plan, the following language is used:

- **Yes**: there is a clear link between the identified action and what is outlined in the new plan
- **Yes - Modified**: the spirit or desired outcome of the action is included in the new plan in one form or another
- **No - Complete**: for actions which have been accomplished and are no longer relevant to be included in the new plan
- **No - Addressed Elsewhere**: for actions which are no longer relevant to the scope of the new plan, but which the city is addressing by other means, for instance through the content of the city’s Strategic Plan
- **No - Unclear Responsibility**: for actions that are not included in the new plan because the way in which they could be currently addressed is unclear or could not be determined at this time
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Included in 2022 Plan Update?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Civic Engagement</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 1.1: Promote civic education among city employees</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote volunteerism and community service through various opportunities for employees</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure that communication and information is transferred to all levels of the organization</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide lunch and learn sessions and other civic education opportunities for city employees</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 1.2: Foster community trust by demonstrating open and transparent governance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide digital access to documents and information though the city's website, SIRE, and city Span 10</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt a code of conduct and code of ethics to uphold the public interest and further the public trust in all aspects of city government</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>No - Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve transparency and accountability through showcasing sustainability results</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop an annual reporting protocol for showcasing sustainability progress that can be shared with city employees and the community</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 1.3: Utilize a variety of tools to educate, inform, and engage the public</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote community volunteerism</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support collaborative participatory processes that result in greater democracy and community building</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empower all sections of the community to participate in decision-making, and consider the social and community impacts of decisions</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an online citizen engagement platform to supplement and diversify public participation and increase public trust in governance</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolster outreach efforts to educate the community on sustainability-related topics</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Community Design**

**Objective 2.1: Preserve Durango's unique community character and natural environment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue to integrate natural systems into community development to provide ample parkland and public spaces</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement the organically managed lands program</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote the use of permeable pavement and other porous paving materials (i.e. pavers, pervious concrete, porous asphalt, etc.)</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strive to protect wildlife habitat and migration corridors, restore natural vegetation, and adequately buffer culturally and environmentally sensitive lands from development</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect the region's visual and scenic resources by preserving city hillsides, ridges, and hilltops</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimize and manage ambient noise and light levels to protect public health and the integrity of ecological systems</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 2.2: Ensure that city facilities, programs and services are reasonably accessible to all citizens**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop and implement an ADA Transition Plan for city facilities that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide reasonable accommodations for all individuals accessing city programs and services</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain a network of parks, open space, and public spaces that provide equitable, convenient access for residents throughout the community</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support programs that help business enhance accessibility</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a grievance process/procedure for ADA &amp; Civil Rights violations</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to offer rebate and refund programs to ensure city programs are financially accessible to low-income, persons with disabilities and seniors</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 2.3: Implement “smart growth” principles**

| Encourage high-quality development to foster a unique, attractive community with a strong sense of place | Ongoing - Needs Attention | No - Addressed Elsewhere |
| Encourage compatible infill and redevelopment with a mix of housing types in neighborhoods close to employment centers, commercial areas, and where transit or transportation alternatives exist | Ongoing - On Track | Yes |
| Adopt policies to support green building standards and practices | No Action / Not Achieved | Yes - Modified |
| Preserve open space, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas | Ongoing - On Track | Yes |
| Structure city program to ensure stable, affordable, attainable workforce housing | Ongoing - Needs Attention | No - Addressed Elsewhere |

**Employees**

**Objective 3.1: Foster a safe, healthy, and productive work environment**

<p>| Maintain a high-quality employee benefit package | Ongoing - On Track | No - Addressed Elsewhere |
| Expand employee wellness program to improve mental and physical health | Ongoing - On Track | No - Addressed Elsewhere |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Addressed Elsewhere</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Require annual employee safety training</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide funding for PPE / job related safety equipment</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide opportunities for employees to participate in worksite community gardens</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with EAC to improve employee satisfaction and city-sponsored activities</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 3.2: Support an effective organization with a high-performance workforce**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Addressed Elsewhere</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepare workforce succession plan</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain appropriate staffing levels to ensure high-quality service delivery</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise personnel regulations</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain continuous learning opportunities and programs for employees (i.e. Leadership Academy, Tuition Reimbursement Program, CPM etc.)</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand employee appreciation/recognition</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand professional development opportunities for employees</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide a robust staff training program</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide a portal on the HUB to allow employees to report needed sustainability improvements and share their ideas</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain competitive employee compensation</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Update employee evaluation system, Track Star</strong></td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 3.3: Create an organizational culture of sustainability**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incorporate Sustainability Action Plan into new employee orientation</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporate the city's sustainability values into organizational culture and values</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage Core Team in Sustainability Action Plan implementation, tracking, and verification</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage facility managers to use Plant Footprint to track and manage energy and water use and costs</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporate climate and sustainability literacy into the city's training programs</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offer incentives to encourage employees to commute by modes other than single-occupancy vehicles</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflect sustainability goals and objectives in capital projects planning process and the annual budget document</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Energy**

**Objective 4.1: Improve and optimize energy efficiency and energy performance of municipal operations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce organization-wide energy use by 5% below 2005 levels by 2015</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce organization-wide energy use by 25% below 2005 levels by 2025</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectively manage and reduce municipal energy use</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase accountability and awareness of employee municipal energy use</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by municipal operations</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete a 2010 and 2013 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory by 2015</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pursue Energy Star and other facility benchmarking programs</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilize green building best practices in all new builds, remodels, and renovations</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When financially feasible, purchase 100% green electric power for city facilities</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete a Facilities Master Plan</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase on-site renewable energy production to 5% of annual municipal energy consumption by 2017</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pursue at least one net zero energy building by 2030</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>No - Unclear Responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 4.2: Increase efficiency and overall performance of municipal fleet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce annual fleet GHG Emissions</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and hours of operations, and increase fleet fuel economy</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce fleet petroleum consumption by 2% by annually (2016-2020)</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase high efficiency vehicles (HEV) and light-duty alternative fuel fleet purchases</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase departmental accountability for municipal fleet usage</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>No - Unclear Responsibility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 4.3: Structure city programs to encourage efficient and effective energy use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide incentives and promote programs to increase local renewable energy generation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide incentives for residential and commercial energy audits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide incentives to help residents and businesses implement energy efficiency improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide access to programs and resources that encourage energy conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt International Building Codes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider adopting an energy efficiency code for buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide access to alternative fuel infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote diverse transportation modes, including walking, bicycling, and transit that are safe, low-cost, and reduce vehicle miles traveled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand multimodal transportation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Infrastructure**

**Objective 5.1: Demonstrate responsible stewardship of the city's infrastructure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflect sustainability goals and objectives in capital improvement planning process and annual budget</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In partnership with LPEA, install LEDs in all new street, trail lights and parking lot lights, and develop a strategic plan to retrofit existing lights with LED bulbs</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider energy and water consumption implications when designing and installing new infrastructure components</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop, maintain, and invest in infrastructure improvements that meet the needs of a growing community</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement infrastructure maintenance practices and programs to extend the service life beyond industry standards</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Objective 5.2: Pursue capital investments that are cost-effective over their life-cycle, are resource efficient, and are consistent with the city’s sustainability goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design and maintain a network of green infrastructure features that integrate with the built environment to manage stormwater, promote ecosystem functions, and improve resiliency</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategically invest in telecommunication infrastructure</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where possible, for new installations, install LEDs and solar-powered lighting along the Animas River Trail (ART)</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporate life-cycle costing into capital improvement projects (life-cycle costing shall include life-time energy inputs, costs, maintenance, replacement, decommissioning, and disposal)</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>No - Unclear Responsibility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective 5.3: Identify and track savings and rebates generated by energy efficiency projects and budget funds on an annual basis to implement sustainability projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Track and report rebates and savings generated by energy efficiency projects on an annual basis</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify revenues derived from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, and, where possible, consider reinvesting a portion of the savings in specific upgrades to infrastructure systems that will increase energy and water efficiency</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>No - Unclear Responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On an annual basis, as part of the budget cycle, recommend funding to implement the priorities outlined in the Sustainability Action Plan</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Innovation

### Objective 6.1: Encourage creative and innovative solutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Encourage and reward departments and divisions that employ creative, effective, and innovate approaches to enhancing the city’s sustainability</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and support an interdepartmental team to enhance organization-wide communication</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employ innovative approaches to maintenance activities</td>
<td>Unclear</td>
<td>No - Unclear Responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employ best practices and approaches to municipal sustainability</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 6.2: Demonstrate regional and statewide leadership**

- Participate in the STAR Community Rating System, and utilize the system’s metrics to measure sustainability progress and integrate metrics into annual reports
  - Ongoing - On Track
  - Yes - Modified
- Maintain the city’s status as a high-performance organization achieving national and state recognition
  - Ongoing - On Track
  - Yes

**Waste**

**Objective 7.1: Reduce waste produced by city activities**

- Recycle asphalt, concrete, scrap metal and other industrial materials produced by city operations, and track and report these figures on an annual basis
  - No Action / Not Achieved
  - No - Unclear Responsibility
- Require construction and demolition recycling in all city renovation, reconstruction, and construction projects in city facilities
  - No Action / Not Achieved
  - No - Unclear Responsibility
- Limit the purchase of bottled water for city meetings and events. All non-emergency bottled water purchases should be phased out by 2016
  - No Action / Not Achieved
  - No - Unclear Responsibility
- Continue to require recycling at all city facilities, and improve signage and education efforts
  - Ongoing - Needs Attention
  - Yes
- Strive to only purchase products packaged in material that can be recycled in the city’s single stream recycling program, and phase out polystyrene purchases by 2016
  - No Action / Not Achieved
  - Yes - Modified
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 7.2: Adhere to sustainable and environmentally preferred purchasing practices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 7.2:</strong> Adhere to sustainable and environmentally preferred purchasing practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adhere to policies that reduce waste, minimize environmental impacts and hazards to worker and community safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain the recycled content requirement in the city's Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP) Policy for 30% post-consumer content for all print jobs and city purchased paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adhere to the EPP Policy considerations for product longevity. Strive to purchase products that conserve energy and water, use renewable fibers and residues, and are lead-free and mercury-free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider life-cycle (i.e. cradle-to-grave) costing in product purchases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adhere to standards for sustainably certified cleaning product in janitorial contracts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 7.3: Structure city programs to encourage waste diversion efforts and promote a zero-waste culture**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 7.3: Structure city programs to encourage waste diversion efforts and promote a zero-waste culture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 7.3:</strong> Structure city programs to encourage waste diversion efforts and promote a zero-waste culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide residents and businesses with access to recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prohibit electronic and hazardous material from being landfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recover 80% of recyclable material derived from residential customers from the waste stream by 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recover 80% of cardboard derived from commercial customers from the waste stream by 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct a waste audit to help establish long-term community waste diversion goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require access to single stream recycling at all large community special</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>events and city-sponsored special events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use radio-frequency identification (RFID) and other smart technologies to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>track and measure residential recycling and disposal weights and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>frequencies and implement efficiencies in routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage the community in the development of a waste management master plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and a phased approach to implementing zero waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based on results from Colorado Parks and Wildlife study, consider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>requiring wildlife resistant containers for all residential units by 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require recycling and wildlife resistant containers be distributed to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>newly constructed residential units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand brown waste collection program and explore opportunities to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>productively reuse the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serve as a regional leader and cooperate regionally to develop waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reduction programs and facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to evaluate alternatives and explore options for managing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>residential and commercial food waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate and test clean waste to energy systems for targeted waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>streams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to provide pet waste clean-up bags in parks and open space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>areas and encourage pet owners to clean up after their animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a business recognition program for local business that participate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the city's recycling program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Water**

**Objective 8.1: Effectively manage and reduce municipal water consumption**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Modified Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conduct water use audits and assessments as part of the Facilities Master Plan process to better understand the city’s water use</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and replace inefficient water fixtures in city Facilities with high-efficiency and/or low-flow touchless fixtures</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage facilities and irrigation managers to use Planet Footprint to track and manage water use and costs</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilize the most efficient method to heat water in city facilities to reduce energy loads and conserve water</td>
<td>Unclear</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve quarterly water use monitoring efforts in partnership with Planet Footprint</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce indoor water use at city facilities by an average of 18% by 2020</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce outdoor water use at city facilities by an average of 3% by 2020</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 8.2: Promote sustainable water and wastewater systems**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Modified Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review and update utility rates and fees for all customer classes, and enhance tiered rate structure to encourage conservation</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce unaccounted for water system losses from approximately 20% to 13% by 2020</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce real losses from the water distribution system by 30% by 2020</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce unbilled treated water use by 50% by 2020</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce unbilled raw water use by 80% by 2020</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install radio read technology on 93% of meters by 2015</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>No - Complete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement master meters to enhance water accounting</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand sub-metering and system testing</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade and improve wastewater treatment facility to meet current and foreseeable needs</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand renewable energy production at water and wastewater treatment facilities</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximize (re)use of effluent and treated byproducts</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand raw water use for irrigation purposes on city-owned land</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install variable frequency drive motor on all new equipment purchase, and, where possible, systematically replace all non-variable frequency drive motors to enhance efficiency</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select appropriate treatment technologies that are effective, simple to operate and low cost</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 8.3: Promote responsible use of municipal water resources</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support effort to improve water use efficiency with the city's residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial customers</td>
<td>No Action / Not Achieved</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote drought resiliency and enhance water use efficiency</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Promote the use of drought resistant plants and native species vegetation on city-owned properties and new developments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Maintain a conservation-oriented water rate structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Resiliency and Preparedness

### Objective 9.1: Build and support a resilient and prepared community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop emergency management infrastructure, social networks, and other social systems to help minimize the impacts of severe weather events and other natural disasters</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build, sustain and leverage partnerships with local and regional stakeholders to ensure collective investment, efficient action, and shared responsibility in building local resiliency</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a hazard mitigation action plan that includes an all-hazards vulnerability assessment of the city’s primary hazard threats</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective 9.2: Assess risk and vulnerability to the city’s operating efficiency, infrastructure systems, economic competitiveness, and primary funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conduct a vulnerability and risk assessment of city operations to weather and climate</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes - Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote fiscal responsibility through preparing now to be more resilient to climate variability and reducing costs in the future</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a Stormwater Master Plan</td>
<td>Ongoing - On Track</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess the city’s capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and understand the existing economic, natural, institutional, and community resources available to accommodate this adaptation</td>
<td>Ongoing - Needs Attention</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective 9.3: Actively manage resources to continue to provide important services to residents
| Prepare for extreme weather events - wildfire, flooding, landslides, and other hazards—through investing in resilient infrastructure improvements | Ongoing - Needs Attention | Yes - Modified |
| Ensure city business continuity during and following a natural disaster | Ongoing - Needs Attention | Yes - Modified |
| Integrate information about future conditions (i.e. population, economy, weather) into community planning and decision making and make municipal operations and plans flexible to accommodate a range of possible future conditions and scenarios | Ongoing - On Track | Yes - Modified |
| Minimize risk through continued implementation and maintenance of the city’s Electronic Records Management System | Ongoing - On Track | No - Addressed Elsewhere |
| Continue to implement the comprehensive fuels reduction program and maintain enforcement efforts in high-risk open space areas | Ongoing - On Track | Yes |
| Encourage fire mitigation and pre-forest fire thinning efforts in state and federal lands that abut the City of Durango | Ongoing - On Track | Yes |
| Fight the introduction and spread of invasive species in city-owned land | Ongoing - On Track | Yes |

### Quality of Life

#### Objective 10.1: Enhance Durango’s quality of life through shared prosperity

| Support efforts to provide an adequate and diverse supply of affordable housing options for all residents | Ongoing - Needs Attention | No - Addressed Elsewhere |
| Support an increasingly self-reliant community through a robust local economy with shared benefits | Ongoing - Needs Attention | No - Addressed Elsewhere |
| Provide equal access to public safety and emergency services, including procedural fairness, to all members of the community | Ongoing - Needs Attention | Yes - Modified |
| Support programs that help businesses transition to green practices | Ongoing - On Track | Yes - Modified |
| Conduct an assessment of local economic conditions, including economic leakage and targeted sectors for future investment | Ongoing - Needs Attention | No - Addressed Elsewhere |
| Promote purchasing preference for locally produced products, goods, and services | Ongoing - On Track | Yes - Modified |
| Connect entrepreneurs and business owners with lenders and investors to facilitate investment in the local economy | Unclear | No - Addressed Elsewhere |

**Objective 10.2: Maintain Durango's sense of identity by preserving cultural and historical assets, and promoting arts in public spaces**

| Protect sensitive historical, cultural, and natural resources | Ongoing - On Track | No - Addressed Elsewhere |
| Adopt a strategic plan to project, enhance and expand Durango's arts and cultural resources and strengthen creative industries | Complete | No - Addressed Elsewhere |
| Accommodate space for public art as part of all new major public development projects | Ongoing - On Track | No - Addressed Elsewhere |
| Protect and maintain local public artworks and cultural resources for future generations | Ongoing - On Track | No - Addressed Elsewhere |
| Preserve and reuse historic structures and sites to retain local heritage, reinforce community character and conserve resources | Ongoing - On Track | No - Addressed Elsewhere |

**Objective 10.3: Structure city programs to encourage vitality and vibrancy**

<p>| Make opportunities for culture, leisure, and recreation readily available to all members of the community | Ongoing - On Track | Yes |
| Promote a vibrant local economy | Unclear | No - Addressed Elsewhere |
| Support local farmers markets, community gardens and urban agriculture | Ongoing - On Track | Yes - Modified |
| Provide equal access and service quality to all members of the community | Ongoing - Needs Attention | Yes |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Promote wealth creation at all levels of income</th>
<th>Ongoing Needs Attention</th>
<th>No - Addressed Elsewhere</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structure city program to ensure stable, affordable, attainable workforce housing</td>
<td>Ongoing Needs Attention</td>
<td>No - Addressed Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>