

BOULDER COUNTY Sustainability Accomplishments

June 15, 2016



Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Reached over 13,769 homes
and over 3,814 businesses

Spurred investment of more
than \$38 million in the local
economy

Reduced an estimated 25,700
metric tons of carbon dioxide
equivalent (CO₂e) annually.
Equivalent to taking 5,410
cars off the road

EnergySmart

EnergySmart is a nationally-recognized energy efficiency service that helps homes and businesses in all Boulder County communities become more energy efficient and comfortable, adopt renewable energy and save energy and money. Pairing step-by-step assistance from an expert EnergySmart Advisor with financing incentives has effectively addressed many key barriers to complete energy efficiency upgrades. The value of the advisor has also been quantified through post-upgrade surveys, where 96% of the respondents would recommend the EnergySmart service to a friend, neighbor or colleague. The EnergySmart program's success is also made possible due to public and private sector partnerships. EnergySmart is a collaborative partnership with Boulder County, the City of Boulder, the City of Longmont and the local utilities, Xcel Energy and Platte River Power Authority. EnergySmart for businesses is implemented by Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE).

EnergySmart was initially funded by a \$12.5 million, 3-year grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's BetterBuildings Program. The grant goals to reach at least 10,000 homes and 3,000 businesses served by the end of 2013 were successfully achieved.

Financing Success

In 2009, Boulder County launched the nationally groundbreaking

ClimateSmart™ Loan Program (CSLP), resulting in over \$11 million invested in the local economy and over 370 jobs. Property Assessed Clean Energy, the financing type for ClimateSmart, was put on-hold in July 2010 due to issues with the Federal Housing Finance Agency and federal mortgage regulators. Subsequently, Boulder County started to explore other options for financing to continue to help residents and businesses afford energy efficiency improvements.

Boulder County worked with Elevations Credit Union to launch a financing product in August 2012. As a result of the Elevations Energy Loans, over \$3.2 million in additional energy loans have been issued in Boulder County, helping homes and businesses overcome cost barriers to energy efficiency investment.

Environmental Impact

Over half (53%) of Boulder County's greenhouse gas emissions come from commercial and residential buildings, thus creating a program to increase energy efficiency across these sectors was critical for the reduction of Boulder County's greenhouse gas emissions. EnergySmart has:

- Saved an estimated 23,649,100 kWh and 1,160,500 therms annually
- Reduced an estimated 25,700 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) annually in Boulder County, equivalent to taking 5,410 cars off the road.

Achieved an advising-to-upgrade conversion rate of 71% for homeowners and 46% for business owners

Saved an estimated 23,649,100 kWh and 1,160,500 therms annually

More than 1.4 MW of solar was installed on homes and businesses

Public Service Impact

EnergySmart helped residents and businesses achieve the following:

- Saved residents and businesses an estimated \$3.2 million annually in utility expenses, supporting a healthy economy and environment
- Improved home indoor air quality and safety
- Reduced maintenance and utility costs
- Increased comfort, with fewer drafts and quieter homes
- Increased workplace productivity

Local Economic Impact

EnergySmart has supported economic vitality by leveraging its funding to encourage private investment in energy efficiency. This supports local contractors, sustains jobs, and drives direct spending in our community. EnergySmart has:

- Awarded more than \$5.3 million in rebates for energy efficiency upgrades, with investments in community energy efficiency exceeding \$38 million.
- For every \$1 spent in program rebates, \$7 was invested in energy efficiency upgrades in the commercial and residential sectors.
- Invested in energy efficiency in the local economy \$18 for every \$1 spent in residential program rebates in 2015.
- Provided technical, business development and sales training to contractors, supporting a robust local energy contractor community with high industry standards.



- Energy efficiency investments, leveraged with help from EnergySmart rebates, are recirculating back into our local economy.

Social Equity and Affordability

EnergySmart helps lower income families (making 80% or less of the Area Median Income) with subsidized weatherization services that can include insulation, air sealing, and furnace upgrades. Also, all homes received a thorough health and safety inspection of their HVAC systems. Clients receive services at a subsidized rate of 50%. This income-qualified service has been a joint effort of Longs Peak Energy Conservation (LPEC) and EnergySmart.



Leadership and Market Transformation

EnergySmart’s Advisor model has attracted attention for its success and is being replicated in Colorado, by utilities across the country, other government-led demand side management programs and programs elsewhere. Wildfire Partners, modeled after EnergySmart, is designed to provide customized wildfire protection advice to mountain residents in Boulder County.

More information about EnergySmart and success stories can be found at www.EnergySmartYES.com.

Weatherization for Homes

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is a Federal and State funded program that enables low-income families to reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient, while also addressing safety and comfort issues. A whole-home approach is utilized and measures are installed free of charge to households below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Measures include air sealing, insulation, heating system repair or upgrades, and more.

The energy conservation resulting from these efforts helps decrease the cost of energy for families in need while improving the health and safety of their homes. There are nearly 23,933 low-income households that qualify for WAP in Boulder County. Since 1994, WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 4,700 low-income households in Boulder County. According to national studies by the U.S. Department of Energy, on average each weatherized home receives the following benefits:

- \$437 in reduced home energy costs per year
- 2.65 metric tons of CO₂e in reduced greenhouse gas
- 93% of weatherized homes receive a needed safety repair
 - ◆ 64% receive smoke alarm or carbon monoxide alarms where adequate or operating devices do not exist
 - ◆ 49% receive repair or replacement of a non-operating or unsafely operating heating appliance.

Since 1994, Weatherization has provided services to more than 4,700 low-income households in Boulder County

The program helps decrease the cost of energy for families in need while improving the health and safety of their homes

WAP has reduced an estimated 6,360 metric tons of CO₂e in Boulder County between 2009 and 2015, equivalent to taking 1,340 cars off the road.

Solar Benefits Colorado

Boulder County led an innovative initiative called Solar Benefits Colorado to accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar and electric vehicles. In partnership with Adams County, City and County of Denver, and Vote Solar, Boulder County launched Solar Benefits Colorado. This program is the first of its kind in the U.S. utilizing group procurement (bulk-buy) to purchase solar and electric vehicles at a discounted price.

In exchange for local governments' commitment to spread the word about the program, the competitively-selected private companies, Sunrun and Custom Solar in the fall of 2015 and Namaste Solar in spring of 2016 - offered discounts on rooftop solar.



Because of the county's leadership, more than 1MW of solar was installed in the Front Range. In Boulder County alone, 701kW of solar was installed on homes and businesses in just one year! The program was successful in accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles. Refer to the Transportation section for those results.

Due to its success, this pooled purchase model is also being replicated in other counties and states.

Colorado C-PACE

Boulder County is the first county in Colorado to opt-in to Colorado's Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing for commercial property owners to fund efficiency and renewable energy upgrades, with 34 projects currently in the pipeline in Boulder County. C-PACE projects help advance public goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment, and strengthen the local economy. More information about C-PACE can be found at <http://copace.com>.

Climate Change - Mitigation & Preparedness

Climate Policy Action

Boulder County initiated the establishment of the Colorado Communities for Climate Action. The mission of this Colorado climate coalition is to bring about climate protection actions on a scale necessary to ensure that the State and its individual communities have the necessary authority, tools, and State and Federal support to address climate challenges. Communities which have already committed to climate action will also need new State and Federal policies to reduce heat-trapping emissions not subject to local authority and to create a supportive framework in which local actions can be more effective. The coalition provides an opportunity to pool resources and bring local governments together in a cost-effective way for coordinated action.



While a number of organizations exist that identify climate-related activities in their mission, the Colorado Communities for Climate Action will be the first consortium to represent municipalities and counties in advocating for local government-initiated, community-based climate action. In partnership with Rocky Mountain Climate Organization, the coalition is working on aligning local government support around key climate policy priorities. The coalition will be an effective voice in building the public support necessary for Colorado to provide a visible, leading role in addressing climate change nationally and internationally.

Climate Change Adaptation and Preparedness

Boulder County, in partnership with the City of Boulder, adopted a Climate Change Preparedness Plan in late 2012, becoming one of the first communities in the Intermountain West to address climate change vulnerabilities and response strategies. The plan contains 31 policy recommendations to help Boulder County and its communities be resilient to the anticipated effects of climate change in four sectors: Water Supply, Emergency Management, Public Health, and Agricultural and Natural Resources.

Since plan adoption, the county and its partners have pursued the plan's recommendations with success in several areas:

- Extreme heat plans have been updated by Boulder County Public Health and the Office of Emergency Management.
- An ordinance was adopted by the City of Boulder to identify and protect Critical Facilities.
- A full-time Wildfire Preparedness position has been staffed at Boulder County.
- The county's Disaster Recovery Plan is being fine-tuned.
- Water resources representatives from throughout the area are collaborating on water supply and conservation strategies.

Launched in 2014, Wildfire Partners is a collaborative initiative with more than 35 partner organizations led by Boulder County. The program provides critical technical and financial assistance to help Boulder County homeowners in the foothills and mountains prepare and mitigate for wildfire. More than 870 homeowners are currently participating in the program.

Throughout this process, Boulder County has worked with other communities along the Front Range and across the Intermountain West to identify shared hazards and successful adaptations to increase resiliency.

Water Conservation & Quality

Water Conservation

- The EnergySmart program and Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) helped residents and businesses install water-saving showerheads, faucet aerators, low flow toilets, clothes washers, dishwashers, and pre-rinse spray valves, saving an estimated 26.3M gallons of water annually.
- Through a partnership with the Center for Resource Conservation (CRC) in 2016, the county supported nearly 400 toilet replacements with high efficiency toilets, saving 135M gallons of water over the lifetime of the toilets.
- Parks & Open Space provides incentives to help local farmers install water-efficient irrigation systems. The installation of 25 center pivot sprinkler systems improved irrigation efficiency from 50 to 85%.

An estimated 26 million gallons of water are saved annually through water-saving devices installed by EnergySmart participants



Water Quality

- Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) has been partnering with Boulder, Erie, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, and Superior to support the Keep It Clean Partnership (KICP). BCPH provides advising and technical assistance to help ensure that cleaning operations and storm events don't wash pollutants into creeks and water ways.
- Restaurants and auto body shops were introduced to stormwater best management practices through the KICP partnership. In 2015, 64% of restaurants and 70% of autobody shops met or exceeded all best practices in five key behavior areas.
- BCPH has approved 12,669 on-site septic systems which helps ensure clean ground water and surface water, as old systems often fail and pollute the water.

In 2015, 64% of restaurants and 70% of autobody shops met or exceeded all stormwater best practices in five key areas

Zero Waste

Tax Funding

In 1994, Boulder County voters approved a seven-year 0.10% sales and use tax to fund the construction and operation of recycling and composting facilities and the expansion and diversification of recycling, composting, and source reduction programs. The benefits of this short-term funding measure have been tremendous and resulted in the following successful infrastructure and program developments:

- The construction of the Recycling Center at 1901 63rd Street in Boulder was completed in 2001. Operated under contract by Eco-Cycle, this facility currently processes over 50,000 tons of cans, bottles, paper and cardboard per year and has handled over half a million tons of recyclables since it opened.
- Boulder County has provided partial funding and loans for the construction of the Hazardous Materials Management Facility, which opened in 2011. It serves over 13,000 households and 200 businesses, and handles over 1 million pounds (500 tons) of hazardous materials each year. Hazardous waste diversion from households is up 40% since it opened.
- In 2007, a major upgrade of the Recycling Center allowed it to process single-stream recyclables, thus making recycling more convenient for residents and businesses. This improvement made possible the following:
 - City of Boulder started city-wide residential single-stream recycling, Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) trash pricing and organics collection.
 - City of Longmont residents began to receive single-stream services.
 - It allowed the county to amend its hauler licensing ordinance to require PAYT, recycling and composting services for many unincorporated county residents.
 - City of Lafayette residents began to receive single-stream services, with Lafayette benefitting from a loan from the recycling fund so that the city could purchase its own single-stream recycling containers.
 - In 2009, Louisville contracted for city-wide residential single-stream and organics collection.
- Since 1997, the county has distributed \$1 million in funding to over 200 local zero waste projects undertaken by communities, non-profit groups, schools and universities, and businesses. This popular annual funding program helps to move our communities, large and small, towards zero waste by funding a wide-variety of equipment, education, and planning needs.
- A loan from the Boulder County Recycling Fund enabled the City of Boulder to secure the purchase of 6400 Arapahoe Avenue, now home to the ReSource sales yard and Eco-Cycle's Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM).



Boulder County strives to reduce waste with staff and is proud to have achieved a 54% diversion rate in county buildings



Other Zero Waste Accomplishments

- Boulder County's award-winning zero waste collection program in county buildings enables the county's approximately 2,000 employees to recycle and compost at work. This program has achieved a 54% waste diversion rate.
- The county supports annual and ongoing education and outreach through special in-school projects (Litterless Lunch and Growing Green Tours), the Green Star (zero waste) schools, compost workshops and bin sales, and the implementation and promotion of zero waste at the Boulder County Fair.
- Since 2003, Boulder County has offered coupons to incentivize businesses to start recycling or composting services. The coupons provide \$150 towards the cost of the first three months of service.

- Between 1995 and 2015, Boulder County Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) advised more than 2,000 businesses to help them increase waste diversion and reduce the use of toxic products, and 40% implemented measurable actions.
- Since 2011, 57 businesses have achieved PACE certification in waste (requiring a 70% diversion rate). This is 60% of the businesses analyzed for certification.
- In the past four years, businesses receiving PACE advising have increased their waste diversion by an average of 25%, with PACE-certified businesses averaging a diversion rate of 80%.
- Boulder County added compost service in mid-2015 to the county-operated Nederland Transfer Station, which collected 12.5 tons of food and yard waste from this mountain community in its first year.

Since the Recycling Center opened in 2001 it has handled over half a million tons of recyclables



Leadership and Market Transformation

In 2010, Boulder County developed its “Zero Waste Action Plan” (ZWAP) through a public input and adoption process. The county’s leadership in this area has been to set the goal, determine the best steps and model in-house the actions that move the whole community towards zero waste. Municipalities implement ZWAP goals in their own way with county support.

Hazardous waste diversion from households is up 40% since the HMMF opened in 2011

The county’s additional leadership and work towards market transformation has progressed with the mid-term goals of the ZWAP: “Secure Advanced Disposal Fees (ADF) on priority items” and “Promote markets for county-generated recyclables and compost.” For the former, county staff was instrumental in crafting a paint stewardship bill that was introduced to the state legislature in early 2014. For the latter, county staff involved with transportation planning and right-of-way maintenance are exploring new standards for the use of finished compost on roadsides.

The Hazardous Materials Management Facility (HMMF) serves over 13,000 households and 200 businesses



Transportation

Boulder County strives to make it easier for people to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels, while conserving natural resources and living an active, healthy lifestyle. To this end, the county invests in programs that support bicycling, walking, carpooling and public transportation.

Since 2008, Boulder County Transportation has completed many bicycle and road safety projects with regional partners

Bicycle and Road Safety

Since 2008, Boulder County Transportation and partners completed a number of bicycle and road safety projects, including two state highway bikeways, over 16 miles of new or improved road shoulders, bridge replacements, intersection improvements, and three regional partnership projects with multimodal benefits.

Since Ride Free Longmont launched, bus ridership has tripled and is providing important mobility benefits.

Regional Trails System

Boulder County continues to develop a Regional Trails system with 13.8 miles of new regional trail connections since 2008, including the Coal Creek and Rock Creek Regional Trail system which runs from Lafayette to Erie.

Bus Transit & Mobility for All

- The county has supported bus transit with funding for regional transit service between Boulder, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, Lyons, Superior, and Special Transit/Via Service Center.
- To address traffic issues on Hwy 7 in anticipation of significant growth in the area, a study is underway to identify how to help people move through the corridor more efficiently. The study is truly regional in nature as covers three counties, six communities, and two CDOT regions. Creating this plan *now* will ensure that improvements take place with a bus rapid transit (BRT) system in mind.
- The innovative Lyons and Nederland Community EcoPass programs have shown an increase in ridership between 30-40% on the “Y” and “N” routes respectively. Nederland passed a public improvement district with a property tax assessment to permanently fund the program.
- The regional public transportation route (FLEX) serving Fort Collins, Loveland, Berthoud, Longmont, and Boulder will continue and expand service into 2016, with funding contributions from Boulder County and the other communities. At \$1.25 per bus trip, faculty, staff, and students at CU and CSU are connected.
- The “L” bus route between Longmont and Denver expanded service in 2016.
- “Ride Free Longmont” provides free bus transit on four local routes to Longmont residents. Since Ride Free Longmont launched in June 2014, bus ridership has tripled and provides important mobility benefits to low-income residents.

After providing EcoPasses, ridership increased between 30 and 40 percent on the Lyons and Nederland routes

Four Bus-then-Bike shelters were completed to make it easier and safer for residents to use multiple modes of transit

Bus & Bike Connection

- Boulder County and partners have opened Bus-then-Bike shelters at Table Mesa Park-n-Ride in South Boulder, 8th & Coffman in Longmont, 28th & Iris in North Boulder, and McCaslin Park-n-Ride in Superior. The Bus-then-Bike shelters provide long-term, secure, and weather-protected bicycle storage for commuters, increasing access and infrastructure that enables walking and bicycling to and from bus stops.
- The “Earn-a-Bike” program is a collaborative project with Community Cycles to provide low income community members the opportunity to start biking. Participants get a bike for free after completing bike maintenance workshops.

Safe Routes to School for Kids

- Trip Tracker is an innovative program that encourages school communities to reduce motor vehicle traffic around schools. When participants walk, bike, carpool, or take the bus to school, they earn Tracker Bucks which can be spent at participating local businesses.
- Boulder County received grant funding to increase the walkability and ride-ability to Platt Middle School from surrounding neighborhoods. The completed project will provide a safe walking and biking environment for students. In addition to sidewalk infrastructure, the project will provide three hours of bicycle safety training for all 6th grade students during PE classes.

Electric Vehicles & Charging Infrastructure

- Boulder County led the Solar Benefits Colorado initiative to accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar and electric vehicles. In exchange for a commitment to spread the word about the program, the competitively-selected private companies - Boulder Nissan and Gebhardt BMW - offered discounts on electric vehicles in the fall of 2015 and spring of 2016.
- Through the program, a total of 356 electric vehicles were purchased in the fall of 2015 and spring of 2016.
- Boulder County contributed matching funds to Charge Ahead Colorado to incentivize the deployment of electric vehicle charging stations. As a result, CAC funded 24 additional charging stations in Boulder County in 2015 and 2016.

Local Food & Resilient Agriculture

Committed to the production of local food by working with farmers, farmers' markets, retail outlets, restaurants and distributors

2,416 acres of agricultural land on open space is certified or in transition to organic.

Boulder County provides incentives to help local farmers install water-efficient irrigation systems

Local Food & the Community

Interest in sourcing local food has exploded in Boulder County over the last two decades, as evidenced by the growth in Farmers' Markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms, as well as by the number of retail stores, restaurants and institutions featuring locally grown food. Local farmers who market directly to consumers can now sell their produce at their own farm stands, at farmers' markets and to retail outlets, restaurants and distributors.

- Boulder County has invested in developing five market farm sites that are leased to local farmers that now sell their products throughout the region. County investments in these properties include irrigation systems installation, electrical upgrades, fencing and land improvements.
- Boulder County was one of the initial sponsors of the Harvest Bucks program. The Harvest Bucks program doubles SNAP redemptions dollar for dollar (ranging from \$20-40) for fresh fruit and vegetables at all Boulder County Farmers Markets. This program is an effective way to ensure that all socio-economic levels have access to local food while also increasing the customer base for area farmers.
- Since 2010, 1,650 people have attended 18 Agricultural Tours and roughly 480 people have attended 3 Water Tours designed to improve awareness about sustainable agricultural practices and raise public knowledge and support of local farms.

SNAP and Harvest Bucks Participation			
Farmer's Market Location	2015	2014	Percent Increase
Longmont	14,614	7,531	94%
Boulder	61,570	22,267	177%
Total – Boulder and Longmont	76,184	29,798	156%

Improving & Enhancing Sustainable Farming Practices

- Boulder County has successfully encouraged an increase in the use of no-till and strip-till farming on county agricultural land. These practices reduce wind and water erosion as well as preserve soil moisture and improve soil health.
- Boulder County is implementing soil and water monitoring programs.
- Hay and grain storage sheds have been constructed to enhance the quality of agricultural products and the operators' ability to optimize sales in the marketplace.



The Harvest Bucks program offers all socio-economic levels access to local food – participation increased by 156 percent in 2015

Water-Efficient Irrigation

Boulder County provides incentives to help local farmers install water-efficient irrigation systems. To date, the county has installed 25 center pivot irrigation systems covering 2,600 acres, which provides the following improvements:

- Increases irrigation efficiency from 50% to 85%
- Increases crop production, typically between 30% and 50%
- Allows for conservation tillage practices
- Saves labor

On market farms, the county's financial support for irrigation ponds allows for optimal use of drip irrigation, achieving greater than 90% irrigation efficiencies with best practices, when coupled with soil moisture monitoring.

For the past six years, CSU Extension has rented and installed soil moisture monitoring devices on local market farms and provided technical advising to growers on data usage for making sound irrigation management decisions. All growers report this technology has improved irrigation management. New soil moisture monitoring technology with online access was introduced to local growers through a field day.

The county continues to evaluate new irrigation systems, such as subsurface drip, gated pipe and concrete lined ditches, that can achieve over 95% efficiencies.

Agricultural Heritage & Local Economy

Boulder County has 25,000 acres of open space that is leased to 65 tenants as productive agricultural properties.

- The leases allow much of the agriculture program to be self-sufficient and self-funded, providing the Parks and Open Space Department with over a million dollars in rental income.
- In addition to the rent collected, the income earned goes back into the community.



Organic Production & Markets Education

Boulder County is working to transition 20% of irrigated county open space farmlands to organic crops, in part, by building more local farm-to-market options, with the following results and activities:

- 2,416 acres of agricultural land on open space is certified or in transition to organic.
- The county hosted a series of evening events to bring local farmers and ranchers (supply), technical resource providers (know-how), and local organic buyers (demand) together. These programs will provide an educational and networking opportunity for local producers interested in converting to organic production. Evening programs on vegetables, field crops, and livestock in the spring were followed by a full day of organic certification specifics in the fall.

Environmental Education

Green Star Schools

Eco-Cycle's Green Star Schools program helps schools in Boulder County move towards Zero Waste by increasing the volume of recyclables collected, initiating compost collections, monitoring trash volumes, implementing multiple waste reduction projects, and conducting extensive training and education.

In Boulder County, 43 schools are participating in Green Star Schools, representing 52% of the public schools within the county. The total number of participants for the program overall is 18,105 students and 2,204 staff. In addition, approximately 205 tons of compostables and 115 tons of recyclables were diverted from the landfill during the 2015-2016 school year. By the end of the first semester of participation, each school is typically able to reduce their trash by one third to one half.



Kilowatt Kidz

Elementary schools across Boulder County participate in the Kilowatt Kidz, a month-long energy challenge where students learn about important and fun ways to save energy in their home. Each classroom sets goals to perform energy saving actions and tracks their efforts to monitor progress and share results with other classrooms and community members. The program is funded by Boulder County and implemented by EcoCycle. Since 2011, the Kilowatt Kidz program has reached 4,111 students in Boulder County.

From our Lands to Your Hands

Boulder County offers an educational opportunity for 4th grade students to learn where their food is grown, interact with local farmers, and climb into tractors. In 2015, 1300 students in Boulder County participated in the “From Our Lands to your Hands” program.

Community Sustainability Matching Grants

Boulder County competitively awarded Environmental Sustainability Matching Grants to cities and towns in Boulder County to undertake sustainability priorities within their communities. These grants were offered for the first time in 2013 and the following results describe their accomplishments through 2015.

Boulder

Boulder created a tool to educate and train SmartRegs inspectors. The software tool is intended to increase the number and expertise of SmartRegs inspectors, as well as save financial and administrative resources for the program. SmartRegs requires all rental housing, about half of Boulder’s housing stock, to meet a basic energy efficiency standard by 2019.

With grant funding, Boulder also conducted a study of the energy savings afforded by improved heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems in commercial buildings. In collaboration with the county, the project improved EnergySmart business services and helps businesses save energy and money.

Jamestown

Jamestown installed a bear-resistant enclosure for recycling and trash, researched possible water quality improvements, completed creek restoration, and provided student environmental education opportunities.

Lafayette

Lafayette updated their greenhouse gas emissions inventory and identified mitigation strategies, with support from a consultant. Lafayette has also purchased and installed bike racks at strategic locations to make it easier for residents to get around by bike and bus.

Additionally, Lafayette supported incentives for participation in EnergySmart home efficiency program, with 100 Lafayette homes participating in the program during the 12 month period. Rebates totaling \$2,500 were distributed to homeowners in Lafayette, in addition to existing EnergySmart rebates. Lafayette and Boulder County’s Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) partnered to offer an opportunity for Lafayette businesses to showcase their sustainability accomplishments. Business participation in the Green Business Recognition Program increased to a record high of 41 businesses in 2015, a 400% increase from the previous year.

Longmont

Longmont offered discounted residential assessments and rebates in partnership with the EnergySmart program. The grant funding provided an extra 83 energy assessments to educate customers on energy efficiency and provide a customized roadmap for home improvements. Rebates worth over \$17,000 were distributed to homeowners in Longmont, in addition to existing EnergySmart rebates.

Longmont is collecting public input for the development of their community sustainability plan.

Louisville

Louisville established a new community garden. More than 20 garden beds were installed and irrigation provided in time for the 2016 growing season. The site is designed for future expansion.

Lyons

Lyons created their community Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) and proactively incorporated

sustainability into all sectors and working groups as part of the community's flood recovery in 2013.

Lyons hired a part-time sustainability coordinator and implements sustainability actions from the town's SAP.

Nederland

Nederland hired a part-time coordinator to integrate sustainability into the town's comprehensive land use and master infrastructure plans. Nederland completed its Sustainability Action Plan with public input.

The Town also used grant funding to encourage water conservation by Nederland businesses and residents. In partnership with the Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) program, businesses had access to free energy and water audits. Sustainability funding helped businesses invest in efficiency improvements recommended by the PACE team. The Town offered limited time rebates for high efficiency toilets to residents as well.

Superior

Superior is reducing the amount of materials sent to the landfill with the addition of 28 community "waste stations" that include recycling bins. The new waste stations serve the community at city parks, ballfields, and along public trails.

Ward

Ward has established a food pantry to support local community members and is conducting a series of public input meetings in the development of a sustainability plan.

Visit www.BoulderCountySustainability.org/About
to hear what communities throughout Boulder County are doing
to be more sustainable.