

SUSTAINABILITY MILESTONES

Boulder County is deeply committed to environmental sustainability. The following timeline highlights key moments that have defined this longstanding commitment.

1967

- Boulder County Commissioners appoint members to the first Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC).

1974–1978

- County staff works closely with various stakeholders and the public in developing the original Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP). Adopted in 1978, the BCCP was designed to shape the county's long-term efforts to channel growth to municipalities, protect agriculture lands from urban development, sustain agricultural practices, and preserve the character, environment and natural resources of our unincorporated rural areas.

1975

- Boulder County establishes the Parks and Open Space Department.

- Boulder County purchases Betasso Preserve, the first large piece of land officially designated as open space.

1978–continuing

- The vision of the BCCP has been and continues to be realized through a variety of measures, including collaboration between Boulder County and its municipalities in developing intergovernmental agreements (IGAs), defining discrete urban and rural planning areas, acquiring and managing lands for open space, crafting innovative Transferable Development Rights

and Transfer Development Credits regulations, and instituting historic preservation/restoration programs, just to name a few.

1982

- Boulder County Nature Association is founded in cooperation with Boulder County Parks and Open Space.

1993

- Site Plan Review regulations are adopted to provide standards and criteria for minimizing the physical and visual impact of buildings on natural resources, wildlife habitat and other nearby landscape features.

- The third attempt for an open space sales tax (0.25%) passes.

- Boulder County Public Health and City of Boulder start Partners for Clean Environment (PACE) for businesses.

1994

- The County Commissioners adopt the Transferable Development Rights amendments to the Land Use Code, enabling the movement of development rights off important and productive agricultural, environmental, and habitat lands to locations more suitable for development.

1994 – 1997

- Boulder County joins four other Front Range counties in a unique cooperative initiative to plan for the protection of important resources and visually prominent lands along the Mountain Backdrop.

1995

- A new map and set of policies identifying Environmental Conservation Areas (ECAs) are adopted into the Boulder County

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Comprehensive Plan. ECAs represent large contiguous swaths of land (from 3,000 to more than 35,000 acres) across the county.

1999

- Voters extend .25% open space sales tax for 10 more years.

2000

- Boulder Parks and Open Space preserve 49,050 acres with 84 miles of trails on 25 properties.
- Voters approve an additional .10% sales tax for open space.
- Through the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan update, new policies address moderating commuting trips into the Boulder Valley and the impacts associated with commuting, such as fossil fuel consumption, air quality degradation, congestion, and time spent away from family/community.

2001

- Voters approve a .1% sales tax to fund implementation of multimodal transportation projects, including construction of bicycle, transit and regional trails.
- Surveys show that more than 1,000,000 visitors come to open space annually.

2004 – ongoing

- The county teams up with a diverse group of private, local, state and federal stakeholders in establishing the Front Range Roundtable to develop a long-term vision for achieving fire risk mitigation and forest health/restoration goals in the 10 counties comprising Colorado's Front Range.

2005

- The Boulder County Commissioners (BOCC) formalize

the county's commitment to environmental sustainability by launching Boulder County's Sustainability Initiative, which involves the teamwork and expertise of all county employees working cooperatively to implement environmental practices and policies that promote a sustainable work environment and community.

- The BOCC adopts two resolutions, The Zero Waste Resolution and the Sustainable Energy Resolution, stating the county's commitment to energy and resource conservation, waste reduction, pollution prevention and other sustainable practices. Learn more at: BoulderCounty.org/Sustainability/BC/Pages/Bcsi.aspx

2007

- The core vision of the BCCP prompts commissioners and staff to add a Sustainability Element to the plan. This new section outlines sustainability goals and policies for Boulder County.
- Voters approve 15-year extension of 1% sales tax for transportation.
- Voters approve a .10% sales tax extension for open space.

2008

- Boulder County launches BuildSmart, a green building code for new residential construction. To learn more about BuildSmart, please visit: BoulderCounty.org/Property/Build/Pages/BuildSmartHome.aspx
- Voters approve a ballot issue authorizing the ClimateSmart Loan Program.
- Boulder County begins power purchase agreements to install solar panels on county buildings.

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- Boulder County adopts a Transferable Development Credits (TDC) program to help offset the impacts of larger home construction in the county, preserve the rural character of the county, maintain a diversity of housing stock for county residents, and provide owners of smaller homes an economic incentive to maintain their existing dwellings at modest sizes. Learn more about TDC at: <http://www.bouldercounty.org/property/build/pages/tdcfaqpolicies.aspx>

2009

- The Transportation Element of the BCCP is substantially revised and refocused, highlighting the need to develop policies and practices that create a sustainable transportation system based on the principle that the system, in its many forms and modes, is intended to move people and not just vehicles.
- Boulder County launches the nationally groundbreaking ClimateSmart™ Loan Program, funding hundreds of residential renewable-energy and energy-efficiency projects throughout Boulder County.
- Voters approve bonding authority allowing Boulder County to issue \$6 million of qualified energy conservation bonds to make deep energy retrofits to county buildings.

2010

- Boulder County Transportation develops the Multimodal Transportation Standards, which guide the sustainable development of public and private transportation facilities and transportation-related requirements for development within unincorporated Boulder County.
- Voters approve an additional .15% sales tax for open space.

2011

- Boulder County launches EnergySmart, an energy efficiency service to help homes and businesses across Boulder County become more comfortable and energy efficient. Learn more at EnergySmartYes.com

2012

- Boulder County staff updates the BCCP, adding the Guiding Principles to the plan, approved by the planning commission on January 18, 2012.
- BOCC adopt the Climate Change Preparedness Plan to help local residents and communities better prepare for changing environmental conditions. To view the plan, visit: BoulderCounty.org/GoGreen/CCPP.pdf
- The BOCC adopt the first County Transportation Master Plan (TMP), which describes Boulder County's multimodal transportation system and how it will develop over the next 25 years. To view the plan, visit: BoulderCounty.org/Roads/Plans/Pages/TransportationmasterPlan.aspx
- Boulder County launches the first community-wide EcoPass program in Lyons and Nederland.
- Boulder County launches the Energy Loan Program in partnership with Elevations Credit Union.