

RESOLUTION R-2022-0026

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF DURANGO SUSTAINABILITY PLAN TO GUIDE MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

WHEREAS, the City of Durango 2022 Strategic Plan identifies Environmental Sustainability and Resilience as a priority for the city, including objectives of reducing the city's carbon footprint, increasing the availability of renewable energy, improving the quality and resiliency of natural resources through conservation and effective management, and providing solid waste disposal that is oriented toward recycle and reuse; and

WHEREAS, the City of Durango Comprehensive Plan identifies Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship as core values; and

WHEREAS, through Resolutions R-2019-32 and R-2021-71, Durango City Council has adopted greenhouse gas emissions and renewable electricity goals calling for a 54% reduction in greenhouse gasses and 50% supply of renewable electricity by 2030, and net carbon neutral with 100% renewable electricity supply by 2050, for the City of Durango municipal operations and the community; and

WHEREAS, through Resolution R-2021-0042, Durango City Council has joined as a member of the Colorado Communities for Climate Action ("CC4CA"), a coalition of local governments across the state which advocates for state and federal policies in support of clean air, clean water, reduction of fossil fuel consumption and other contributors associated with greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Durango City Council adopted a Municipal Sustainability Action Plan in 2015 which has served to guide the city's sustainability efforts up until now; and

WHEREAS, City of Durango staff have been engaged in an extensive multi-year effort to update the Sustainability Plan which involved collaborating across city departments, seeking ongoing community input, and researching best practices from other communities and guiding resources; and

WHEREAS, Durango City Council recognizes the need to provide a guiding framework for community-wide resource conservation, pollution reduction, and sustainability actions; and

WHEREAS, Durango City Council recognizes that sustainability is not an end-goal that our community will reach one day, but rather an ongoing commitment to principles that help protect our natural environment and ensure the quality of life for current and future generations;

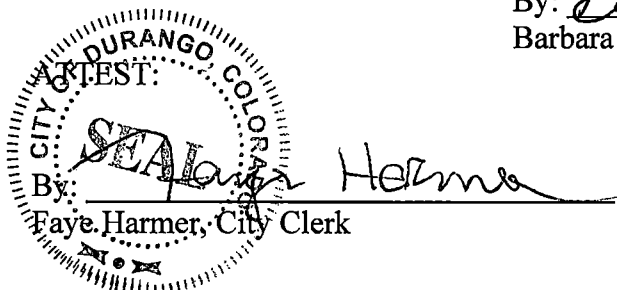
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DURANGO

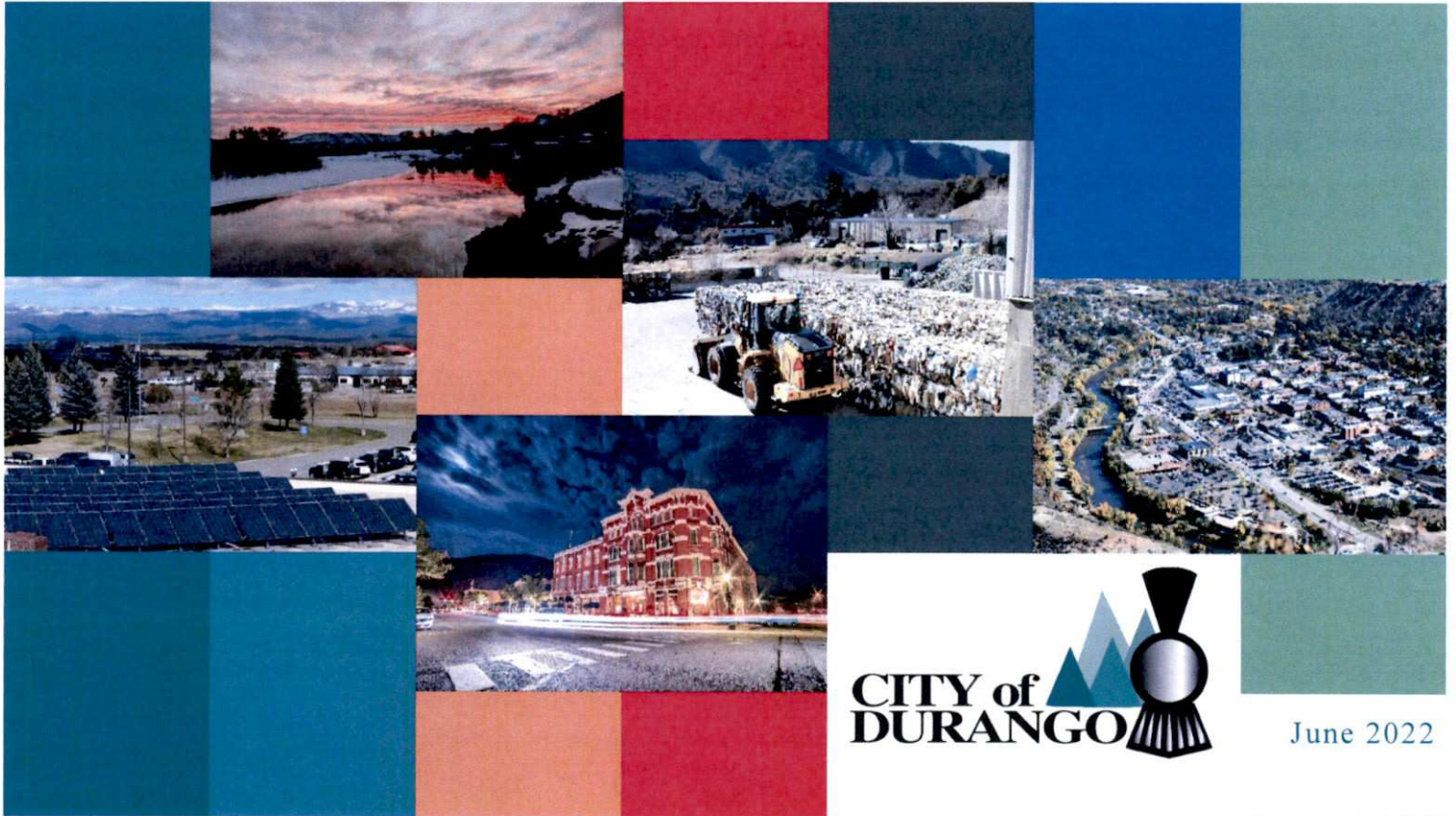
that the City of Durango adopts the updated City of Durango Sustainability Plan to guide municipal and community wide actions.

Approved and adopted this 7th day of June, 2022.

CITY OF DURANGO, COLORADO

By: Barbara Noseworthy
Barbara Noseworthy, Mayor





June 2022

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN





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A sincere thank you to all the Durango community members who gave input on this plan throughout the process, and who tirelessly advocate for sustainability issues locally more broadly. Your efforts shape the future of our community and world.



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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 current 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, and in summer of 2021 citizens provided feedback on the draft content of the plan, providing hundreds of responses to the 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.

