

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 26-0551
A PROCLAMATION HONORING EARTH DAY 56 – APRIL 22, 2026

WHEREAS, clean soil, water, and air are essential to the health of our planet, the people, and other creatures who live on it and the resources we take from it; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 1970, millions of Americans came together to celebrate the first Earth Day, with students, teachers, activists, elected officials and countless others committing to confront urgent environmental issues of the day; and

WHEREAS, prevailing science indicates that climate change, exacerbated by human behaviors, is continuing at a dangerous pace that, unless reversed quickly, will lead to even more serious environmental changes that threaten to alter where we are able to live, work, play and grow our food; and

WHEREAS, apathetic corporations and governmental policies continue to rely on ever-increasing fossil fuel emissions that have already created havoc for our environment, leading to the extinction of animal and plant species, the fouling of our air, land and water and multiple challenges to human health; and

WHEREAS, evolving technologies, including the rapid growth of data centers using previously unheard of amounts of water and power to process the massive volume of information generated by our ever-increasing reliance on electronic devices and the explosion of artificial intelligence; and

WHEREAS, the historic reality of environmental degradation and injustice in this country has been felt primarily by low income communities of color, and that current federal policies are poised to accelerate those impacts; and

WHEREAS, our current federal administration is irrationally rolling back policies of mitigation and putting forth new policies that will further aggravate the climate crisis in order to increase investor profits, and although the need for individual responsibility is clear, many of our largest corporations, institutions, and governments are not adequately aligned to solve this crisis; and

WHEREAS, realizing current federal indifference and objectives, we understand that local governments stand in a place of opportunity to institute policies that lead to rapid emissions reductions; and

WHEREAS, Denver strives to be a leader not only in the state of Colorado but also the nation, and that leading by example starts with how the city functions internally, we call on City Council as a body, all Denver city departments, agencies, and the administration, to be outspoken champions of change and to ourselves implement the sustainable policies we espouse to our residents, no matter how small; and

WHEREAS, Denver has taken many actions to honor our responsibility as global citizens, included among them: creation of the Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency (CASR) to embed sustainable practices in all governmental functions and to lead Denver's policy making efforts in that regard; expansion of the solid waste program by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) to increase composting to all residents as well as implementing the Denver Connector Microtransit Service in several Denver neighborhoods; and Community Planning and Development's (CPD) institution of the Denver Green Code and commitment to the Resilient Landscape Project, among many others; and

WHEREAS, Climate Resiliency has been included in Denver's Citywide Goals for 2026, aiming to install 5,000 clean energy systems citywide – heat pumps, solar arrays, EV chargers etc. - and develop 50 acres of green infrastructure, including reimagining the turf surrounding the City & County Building with low water natural landscaping; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Denver City Council are in full support of efforts to empower residents to create sustainable neighborhoods across the city and to empower city agencies to accomplish their duties with the least possible impact on resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council joins with citizens around the globe to mark Wednesday, April 22, 2026, as Earth Day 56; and

Section 2. That this Council takes this opportunity to state our commitment to effective environmentally friendly policies that will promote the health of Planet Earth for future generations.

Section 3. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix this seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be delivered to the Office of Climate Action, Sustainability.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 20, 2026

Signed by:

Amanda P. Sandoval

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PRESIDENT

