



SUSTAINABILITY PRESENTATION BIZ Committee – April 20, 2022

Earth Day 2022

Why Do We Care?

According to Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability & Resiliency, climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our generation. The effects of a warming planet are already being felt in our city and around the world. From increases in wildfires and droughts to the spread of disease to worsening air quality, the evidence clearly shows that climate change is having a broad-reaching impact on our daily lives.

Cities generate more than 70 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. That makes us a key part of the climate solution. Denver is committed to do our part to ensure our children have a climate safe future.





What is the City Doing?

Climate Office (est. 2020):

- Buildings: energy performance and GHG reductions, green buildings
- Transportation: EV charging
- Waste: supporting service expansion
- Renewable energy: community solar
- Workforce expansion: supporting green jobs

Executive Order 123 (2013):

- High Performing Green Buildings
- Green Fleet & EV readiness
- Materials & Waste Management: reduce consumption, reuse materials, recycle what can't be reused, purchase recycled-content
- Construction projects using city funds will recycle construction and demo waste, use recycled-content products when possible
- Water Conservation
- Tree Preservation
- City agencies will source foods locally when catering
- Environmentally Preferred Purchasing

Earth Day 2022 - Council Sustainability Kick-Off



Earth Day Proclamation Summary: Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time. Poor air quality, extreme heat, drought, fire, and storms threaten our planet, Denver and the health of our residents. Our most vulnerable populations are disproportionately impacted. We must act now and every day to mitigate climate change and acknowledge that our actions—big and small—can make a difference. We must continue to help educate and inform the public to increase awareness to achieve maximum progress for our city and

- CM Kashmann added climate/sustainability statement to Blueprint Denver
- Referred Climate Action Fund Sales Tax Measure
- Supported creation of the Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency
- Supported Green Buildings, Energize Denver, Energy Performance
- Supported Bring Your Own Bags, Opt-In for Cutlery & Condiments
- Support Expanding Waste Options
- Support EVs and EV infrastructure, improving mobility options

Big policy changes & small steps to change the culture

Council Walking the Walk

What we can do internally to make a difference, inspire others...

Green Offices

- Drive less: carpool, use transit, walk or ride, work from home, combine trips
- Certifiably Green Designation
- Sustainable purchasing
- Eliminate landfill-bound waste
- Ensure that waste is recycled or composted
- Reduce single-use paper
- Eliminate single-use plastic in your office and for community meetings:
 - bottles, utensils, K-cups, food packaging
 - Replace with reusable and compostable.
- Find green alternatives for food and drink for community meetings

Everything we do matters

Denver has famously good water.

Denver Water has verified that Denver facilities have high quality, drinkable and safe water.

Drink the water from the faucet! Bottled water is not necessary in Denver.

Bottled water costs 6000 times more than tap water.

Earth Day 2022

Why do we care about single-use plastic?

- Only 8% recycled.
- 92% goes to the landfill generating dangerous methane, 25x worse than CO₂, or pollute waterways, natural areas, cities
- From fracking to manufacturing, transportation, incineration and disposal the plastics industry will, by 2030, release more greenhouse gas emissions than coal plants in the US
- Low income and minority communities are most impacted



1,000,000

Usage

Globally, more than a million plastic bottles are sold every single minute.



x2,000

Did You Know?

Bottled water requires up to 2,000 times the energy used to produce tap water.

THE STORY OF PLASTIC | PLASTIC BOTTLES

Engineer Nathaniel Wyeth patented polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles in 1973. The first plastic bottles able to withstand the pressure of carbonated liquids, they were a much cheaper alternative to glass bottles.



It takes at least
450 years
for a plastic bottle to completely degrade.

“Soda, beer companies ditching plastic six-pack rings”

Denver Post 4.10.22

Everyday Changes Make a Difference



ENVIRONMENT |
THE STORY OF PLASTIC

Why carrying your own fork and spoon helps solve the plastic crisis

We throw away billions of utensils every year,
and many of them end up in the environment.
The BYO cutlery movement could make a dent.

We challenge other city staff, offices, agencies to:

- Get the Certifiably Green designation
- Eliminate unnecessary single-use plastic especially bottled water and K-cups
- Seek greener alternatives for internal office use and meetings and community events
- Create a waste plan for offices and events that include recycling and composting
- Encourage staff to reduce single-occupant car trips

Certifiably Green Denver helps
eliminate, avoid or reduce waste through:



Today's Agenda

- Mark Heiser, Arts & Venues: Sustainability Policy, Sustainable Events Guide
- Megan Stansell, CASR: Certifiably Green
- Jim Lindberg, Saving Places: Adaptive Reuse