

Sustainability Advisory Board

Agenda

June 25, 2025

First Floor Meeting Board Room, Library

951 Spruce St.

6:30 PM

Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comments remotely; however, the in-person meeting may continue even if technology issues prevent remote participation.

- You can call in to +1 833 928 4610 (Toll Free)
Meeting ID **#846 2865 9916**
Meeting Password # **239019**
- You can log in via your computer. Please visit the City's website here to link to the meeting: www.louisvilleco.gov/sustainabilityboard.

The Board will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also email comments to the Board prior to the meeting at HMiller@LouisvilleCO.gov.

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Aubrey is secretary
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
 - a. 3 minutes per comment.
- VI. Administrative Tasks
 - a. No July Mtg
 - b. Legislative Agenda Memo is renamed to Work Plan Memo
- VII. Staff Updates – 10 minutes

Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, or taped material, should contact the City Clerk's Office (303.335.4536 or 303.335.4574) or ClerksOffice@LouisvilleCO.gov. A forty-eight-hour notice is requested.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión, por favor llame a la Ciudad al 303.335.4536 o 303.335.4574 o email ClerksOffice@LouisvilleCO.gov.

City of Louisville

City Manager's Office 749 Main Street Louisville CO 80027
303.335.4534 (phone) www.LouisvilleCO.gov

- VIII. Discussion and Direction Item: LSAB City Council Work Plan Memo Approval- 10 minutes
 - a. Allison Kay, LSAB Chair
 - b. Public Comment (3 minutes per comment)
 - c. LSAB Discussion and Direction
- IX. Discussion and Direction Item: LSAB Comp Plan Memo Approval – 10 minutes
 - a. Allison Kay, LSAB Chair
 - b. Public Comment (3 minutes per comment)
 - c. LSAB Discussion and Direction
- X. Discussion Item: LSAB_ Boards and Commissions Rules and Procedures- 30 minutes
 - a. Allison Kay, LSAB Chair with Support from Diana Langel, City Manager
 - b. LSAB Discussion
- XI. Adjourn

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Memorandum

To: Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board

From: Hannah Miller, Sustainability Manager
Logan Johnson, Sustainability Specialist

Date: June 25, 2025

Re: Staff Updates

Budget Process

Staff are actively collaborating as part of the 2025 budget process. Louisville follows a biennial (two-year) budget cycle, and this year is focused on critical funding requests only.

Upcoming Events

- **Bike to Work Day**
Take your bike to work and swing by City Hall for a breakfast burrito!
June 25 | City Hall | 6:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.
- **Parco Dello Zingaro (PDZ) Hard-to-Recycle Event**
Originally scheduled for earlier this spring, the PDZ event was postponed due to inclement weather. Staff have identified a date to reschedule the event.
July 19, 2025 | Parco Dello Zingaro Mobile Home Community | 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Conferences

Hannah attended the Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) conference in early June where nearly 1/3 of Coloradans are represented by staff and elected official delegations. Key takeaways included storytelling tips and hearing directly on state level actions to maintain climate action progress.

Logan presented at the March Front Range Urban Forestry Council meeting on the intersection of municipal sustainability and urban forestry. This presentation provided insights into how best to collaborate with internal staff and outside organizations to find innovative support and funding pathways to foster more holistic Nature-based Solutions for cities.

Logan attended the Northern Water Annual Water Efficiency Stakeholder Meeting on April 30. Municipalities across Northern Colorado are represented and meet to discuss updates on water conservation. Key takeaways were updates on the non-functional turf ban and other water conservation updates for municipalities.



City of Louisville

City Manager's Office

Grant Applications

Staff are working collaboratively to proactively plan for and apply to DRCOG's Building Policy Collaborative, Colorado Energy Office's IMPACT Accelerator and C₃ Enterprise funding.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Preliminary results show a 19% in stationary energy related emissions from 2021 to 2024! This means that between 2021 to 2024, electricity has become cleaner and natural gas use has decreased to lead to a 19% reduction in emissions.



Sustainability Advisory Board

June 2025

Allison Kay, Chair

Hannah Miller, Sustainability Manager

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- LSAB Discussion and Direction
- Discussion and Direction Item: LSAB Comp Plan Memo – 10 minutes
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 - Allison Kay, LSAB Chair with Support from Diana Langely, City Manager
 - LSAB Discussion
- Adjourn

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- LSAB Discussion and Direction

LSAB May 2025 Meeting

- Discussion Items for Next Meeting
 - N/A
- Adjourn

Memorandum

To: Louisville City Council Members

From: Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board

Date: June 25, 2025

Re: City Council Work Plan Recommendations for Supporting Sustainability in Louisville

Dear Council Members,

As the City Council begins planning for the year ahead, the Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board (LSAB) respectfully submits the following recommendations to support the City's continued efforts to build a more sustainable and resilient community.

We recognize that Council must balance a wide range of priorities each year. However, we believe that by advancing the sustainability-focused actions outlined below, Louisville can continue to make steady progress toward its climate goals while ensuring long-term resilience and enhancing the future health and well-being of the community.

Through our ongoing work to advise and support the City's sustainability efforts, LSAB has identified four key areas where focused policy action could help advance local progress. These priorities center on strengthening climate resilience, encouraging water conservation, improving waste diversion, and enhancing communication around sustainability efforts:

1. Explore a Local Climate Resilience Fund

While Louisville has made significant progress in securing competitive grants, relying solely on state and federal funding can present challenges. These sources are often subject to changing priorities and competitive processes that can make long-term planning difficult. Establishing a local funding source would help ensure consistent support for the City's climate goals and position Louisville to take advantage of matching opportunities from higher levels of government.

We recommend that the City of Louisville explore the development of a local climate tax or similar funding mechanism to support climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience initiatives. Peer communities such as Boulder and Fort Collins have successfully implemented dedicated funding for their climate strategies, with Boulder's climate tax expected to raise \$6.5 million annually for emissions reductions, resilience, and wildfire mitigation (City of Boulder, 2022), and Fort Collins 2050 tax projected to generate \$3.5 million per year for climate action and environmental programs (City of Fort Collins, 2024).

We believe a similar approach in Louisville could provide reliable revenue to support key programs, reduce long-term risks, and leverage additional funding opportunities.

2. Strengthen Water Conservation Through Smart Technology

Water conservation is critical not only for ensuring long-term supply and drought resilience but also for advancing climate goals. The energy required to pump, treat, and distribute water is

substantial—accounting for up to 30–40% of municipal energy use, according to the EPA. Therefore, efficient water management plays a key role in reducing emissions and lowering utility costs.

Louisville has already taken an important step by adopting a tiered water rate structure for commercial users. This system incentivizes conservation and helps manage peak demand during the summer months. However, commercial and industrial users continue to represent a significant share of overall water consumption, with seasonal spikes driven by irrigation, cooling, and other seasonal needs. For example, average residential water use nearly triples from winter to July, and commercial users experience similar surges (City of Louisville Drought Management Plan).

Louisville's adoption of a tiered water rate structure represents a proactive step that aligns with regional best practices in water conservation and sustainable resource management. To build on this foundation and maximize its long-term impact, we recommend two additional key actions:

- A. **Regularly evaluate and refine the tiered rate structure** to ensure it continues to reflect current demand patterns, equity considerations, and conservation goals.
- B. **Invest in smart metering and real-time usage data tools** to give commercial users better insight into their water consumption. These technologies can help detect leaks, optimize usage, and support more targeted conservation—especially during peak demand periods.

By continuing to evolve its approach, Louisville can lead by example in the region and strengthen the resilience of its water system amid growing climate pressures.

3. Adopt a Universal Recycling Ordinance

Landfill diversion plays a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving resources, and extending the lifespan of regional waste infrastructure. While Louisville has made progress on residential waste diversion, commercial and institutional sectors still contribute a disproportionate share of landfill waste. To address this gap, we recommend that the City adopt a universal recycling ordinance to expand waste diversion and reduce landfill dependency within businesses and institutions.

Currently, Louisville's commercial and industrial sectors are not held to the same waste diversion standards as residential customers, resulting in these sectors contributing a disproportionate amount of waste to the landfill. While residential diversion rates sit around 40-50%, commercial diversion rates are estimated to be significantly lower, ranging from 9%-18%. (City of Louisville, Sustainability Division).

Adopting a universal recycling requirement would improve the city's overall diversion rate, reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with landfill waste, and support the development of a more circular economy.

We also note that neighboring communities such as Boulder, Longmont, and Lafayette have successfully implemented similar ordinances, providing valuable models for both implementation and enforcement.

4. Promote Sustainability Wins Through Public Engagement

Public understanding of climate action is essential for building long-term support, countering misinformation, and advancing local sustainability goals. Despite strong progress on emissions reduction, renewable energy, and resilience planning, many of Louisville's achievements remain underrecognized by the broader community. This limits opportunities to build momentum, increase public awareness, and support continued progress.

We recommend that the City of Louisville establish a dedicated initiative to promote its sustainability accomplishments and engage the community through consistent, accessible communication. This effort could include allocating staff capacity, developing a clear brand identity, and sharing success stories through coordinated outreach campaigns. While some elements of this work could be supported through the sustainability fund, we believe the importance of public engagement warrants a standalone strategy.

Local leaders and stakeholders have noted that the economic and quality-of-life benefits of sustainability efforts are not always well understood by the public. In some cases, uncertainty about the pace or scope of sustainability efforts has led to hesitation within the community. By proactively communicating the tangible advantages of Louisville's sustainability work—including cost savings, health improvements, and economic resilience—the City can build broader support, reduce resistance, and lay the groundwork for continued progress.

Together, these four items represent practical steps that Louisville can take to advance its climate and sustainability efforts. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to collaborating with you and the community to evaluate and support these initiatives.

Thank you again for your time and commitment.

Sincerely,
Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board

Memorandum

To: Louisville City Council Members
From: Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board
Date: June 25, 2025
Re: Recommendations to Support a More Sustainable Comprehensive Plan

Dear Council Members,

We would like to begin by thanking the City Council for your leadership and vision in guiding the development of Louisville's Comprehensive Plan. We also want to extend our appreciation to Jeff Hirt and the Community Development and Planning team for their thoughtful work on this important initiative. In particular, we are grateful to Jeff for attending our April LSAB meeting and providing a detailed update on the plan's progress. His efforts in keeping us informed are greatly valued.

We are excited to see sustainability reflected in the draft plan and commend the city's efforts to ensure sustainability continues to be a priority for Louisville—both now and in the future. At the same time, we believe there are opportunities to strengthen and build upon this foundation by integrating more specific, forward-thinking, and action-oriented sustainability strategies. Since the Comprehensive Plan will guide the City's growth and development over the next decade and beyond, embedding sustainability as a consistent theme throughout the plan is essential. These enhancements will ensure the plan supports Louisville's long-term climate and environmental goals while maintaining a high quality of life for residents.

1. Specific and Actionable Sustainability Goals

We recommend that Louisville's Comprehensive Plan include clearly defined, measurable goals that prioritize sustainable development, open space preservation, and decarbonization. Specific targets—such as expanding green space by a defined percentage, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by a set amount by 2030 or 2050, or incorporating green infrastructure into a fixed share of new developments—are essential for making sustainability objectives both actionable and trackable. Providing clear sustainability standards helps foster shared understanding and alignment between the community and developers. This reduces uncertainty, supports efficient development, and delivers long-term benefits for the entire city. By replacing vague goals with clear, quantifiable benchmarks, the City can enhance transparency, strengthen accountability, and ensure meaningful progress over time.

Cities like Boulder, CO, and Minneapolis, MN demonstrate the benefits of integrating sustainability into comprehensive planning. Boulder's Comprehensive Plan includes detailed benchmarks across transportation, energy, and land use, while the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan connects land use to climate action through goals for deep-carbon building retrofits and equitable access to green space. These examples show that embedding sustainability in planning helps cities grow strategically while advancing environmental and community resilience.

2. Emphasis on Nature-Based Solutions

We encourage the city to further emphasize nature-based solutions such as native landscaping, regenerative agriculture, green buffers, and natural stormwater systems. These strategies offer multiple co-benefits—including biodiversity protection, reduced heat islands, and improved water management—while aligning with broader resilience goals.

Comprehensive plans in cities like Chapel Hill, NC, and Fort Collins, CO have made nature-based approaches a core element of their long-term strategies. The Chapel Hill 2020 Comprehensive Plan highlights native vegetation and tree canopy preservation, while Fort Collins' City Plan prioritizes habitat restoration, soil health, and ecological buffers. These approaches demonstrate how integrating nature into urban design enhances environmental outcomes and quality of life.

3. Incentives and Regulations for Sustainability

A balanced approach that combines incentives (“carrots”) and regulations (“sticks”) will be key to supporting sustainable development in Louisville. We recommend that the plan explore tools such as density bonuses for green building or open space, streamlined permitting for sustainable projects, zoning incentives, and performance-based standards for energy and water use.

The Olympia Comprehensive Plan includes both incentives for compact, sustainable development and regulations that enforce energy efficiency and water conservation. San Antonio's SA Tomorrow plan similarly blends bonuses for sustainable site design with clear sustainability requirements in new construction. These examples demonstrate that blending flexibility with accountability can effectively promote progress and foster innovation. Adopting a similarly balanced approach in Louisville's plan would encourage innovative solutions while ensuring sustainability goals are met.

4. Promoting a Circular Economy

We recommend that Louisville's plan include explicit support for a circular economy—one that reduces waste, promotes reuse and repair, and extends the life of materials and products. Strategies might include public procurement of recycled and sustainable goods, supporting local repair and reuse businesses, and promoting waste-to-value programs.

The Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Olympia Comprehensive Plan both incorporate circular economy principles by promoting material reuse and local recycling. The City of Renton 2024 Comprehensive Plan goes even further by integrating circular economy goals across sectors, helping the city reduce environmental impacts and support green jobs and economic development. Incorporating similar approaches in Louisville would help create a more sustainable, resilient, and resource-conscious local economy while also creating new jobs, reducing costs for businesses, and fostering innovation.

Cities across the country have shown that comprehensive sustainability planning—spanning land use, infrastructure, the economy, and environmental health—can guide development effectively while building long-term resilience. While we’ve highlighted several cities as examples, Olympia’s Comprehensive Plan stands out as a particularly strong model. Its approach closely aligns with the priorities we recommend for Louisville and demonstrates how sustainability can be deeply and effectively embedded into long-range planning. By incorporating the strategies outlined above, Louisville can ensure its Comprehensive Plan reflects national best practices, positioning the city to lead in climate action and set a strong example for future development.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the City Council and the Community Development and Planning team to strengthen the plan and advance Louisville’s sustainability objectives.

Sincerely,
Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board

Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**May 7, 2025
Council Chambers, City Hall
749 Main St
6:30 PM**

Call to Order: 6:32 p.m.

Roll Call

- Attendees: Kristen, Tiff, Kevin, Allison

Approval of the Agenda

- Kristen moved to approve the agenda; Tiff seconded the motion.

Approval of Minutes

- Kristen moved to approve the minutes; Tiff seconded the motion.

Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

- Tamar Krantz, Ward III spoke about a submission for ballot initiative asking the City to do a study on impact fees associated with new development, expanding their current scope.

Administrative Tasks

- Introduction of Erin Spencer, a new intern in the Sustainability Division working primarily on wildfire mitigation and nature-based solutions.

Staff Updates

- No questions on staff updates contained in the packet.

Discussion Item: LSAB Budget Recommendation Memo Approval

- Allison presented the memo as drafted
- No public comments
- Staff clarified that the memo would be sent to Council and would not be on a specific agenda for a future City Council meeting, but that it could get discussed in a work session.
- LSAB reviewed Nisa's e-mail with thoughts/considerations.
- Budget requests were already submitted by Staff, LSAB memo supports those requests.
- Sustainable Neighborhoods cost was \$8000 instead of \$15000, so the memo was changed to reflect that cost difference.

- Tiff moved to approve the memo; Kevin seconded the motion. Unanimously voted and approved.

Discussion Item: LSAB Outreach and Education - Farmers Market Tabling

- Allison presented the concept of LSAB tabling at 4 of the Louisville Farmers Markets and reflected on how the LSAB table at the Earth Day Every Day event was successful.
- No Public Comment
- Kristen raised the idea of having a collaborative table with other organizations/businesses that could work with us.
- Tiff agreed and would like to see partnerships with other groups working on systems changes to get people involved in policy change.
- Allison expressed the idea of having themes for each month/table.
- LSAB can get materials from City Staff if needed.
- Need to determine the fee and determine funding source.
- Allison will send out more information to gauge interest and LSAB will discuss again in June.

Discussion Item: LSAB City Council Collaborative Meeting Debrief

- Allison presented/reviewed notes from Nisa as contained in the meeting packet.
- Staff noted that Council mentioned they'd like to see more holistic sustainability recommendations come to them, rather than just limited to decarbonization.

Discussion and Direction Item: LSAB Legislative Agenda Discussion:

- City Council is looking at legislative items and policy decisions as input to potentially place on their work plan. LSAB will be submitting a memo with recommendations.
- Public Comment:
 - Tamar Krantz, Ward III: Mentioned she would like clarity as to whether this item is about City or State legislative items
- LSAB discussed several options and settled on a "top 3" list of the following recommendations for City Council to direct staff to investigate:
 - Climate Tax - this will help fund other projects in the city
 - Water Ordinance - this will help potentially reduce the amount of water used, specifically by commercial properties
 - Universal Recycling Ordinance - this will help increase diversion rates, especially by businesses where those rates are the lowest
- Kristen moved to approve Allison writing the memo; Tiff seconded the motion.

Discussion and Direction Item: LSAB Comp Plan Memo

- Allison and Staff recapped the previous LSAB meeting content regarding the Comprehensive Plan feedback and established that LSAB will need to develop a memo to review in the June meeting and send to City Council.
- Public Comment:

- Tamar Krantz, Ward III: Does not feel that the current plans for the Comprehensive Plan reflect Louisville's sustainability needs and would like the memo to address land use.
- LSAB Discussion focused on the most important things to capture, and what goals & strategies were missing from the list presented in the previous meeting.
- Tiff stressed that the Comp Plan should include nature AND affordable housing, not just affordable housing. Need to keep natural elements.
- Staff suggested we encourage growth in residential, not necessarily commercial.
- Nature-based solutions (and definitions of what that means) appear to be missing from the list.
- LSAB agreed that the Comp Plan needs to have more specific and measurable goals for sustainability.
- Several Comp Plans from other municipalities were discussed as examples LSAB could present to City Council.
- Kevin moved to approve Allison to write the memo; Tiff seconded the motion.

Adjourn

- Kristen moved to adjourn the meeting; Kevin seconded the motion.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm