

ECONOMIC IMPACT



Over \$37 million in direct savings to residents and businesses, and another \$62 million reinvested into the community.

CLIMATE IMPACT



Reduced greenhouse gas emissions equal to powering 41,000 homes annually.

SOCIAL IMPACT



Created close to 187 full time jobs in the community and reduced utility bills for over 1,000 low-income residents.



All program results reflect the time frame between 2011 and 2013

For every **\$1** invested in Boulder County sustainability programs, our community receives **\$5** worth of benefits.

ENERGY & BUILDINGS



Saved enough energy in the last three years to power over 22,000 homes annually.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE



Over 90% of all crops grown on Boulder County agricultural land ends up in the food system.

WATER



Saved enough water to provide drinking water for over 120,687 residents for one year.

ZERO WASTE



Diverted over 76,000 tons of waste annually, enough to fill over 7,000 garbage trucks.

TRANSPORTATION



Individuals drive their cars 22% less than other residents in the Central Front Range.

ENERGY & BUILDINGS



SERVICES ANALYZED

EnergySmart Residential
Partners for a Clean Environment
(includes EnergySmart Commercial)
BuildSmart
Low-Income Weatherization

SUMMARY

Boulder County strives to reduce energy use in buildings and support renewable energy. Through services such as EnergySmart, business owners and residents are able to make their buildings more efficient, save money on their utility bills, and increase the comfort in their home or business. The impact of Boulder County's investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy has resulted in substantial environmental, economic, and social benefits.

IMPACT

In the last three years over 12,000 residents have participated in these services. Participants who installed measures have saved an average of \$200 annually, and will save close to \$2,200 over the next decade.

Over 3,000 businesses have participated in Partners for a Clean Environment. Businesses that installed measures have saved an average of \$1,300 annually and will save close to \$13,000 over the next decade.

Collectively, these services have supported renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades that have saved over \$3 million to date in direct energy costs, and will save another \$33 million in direct energy costs over the next decade. These savings will continue to generate economic activity as they are reinvested back into the community through local purchases and jobs.

LEARN MORE

www.EnergySmartYES.com

www.PACEpartners.com

www.bouldercounty.org/doc/sustainability/sustainplanwebv.pdf

FOOD & AGRICULTURE



SERVICES ANALYZED

Agricultural Resources

SUMMARY

Of the 62,902 acres of publicly owned and leased open space land; about 39% is leased to local farmers and ranchers, helping to encourage sustainable agriculture. Boulder County has been working to improve the viability of county agricultural lands through sustainable management practices. This includes working with farmers to implement efficient irrigation of cropland, supporting local biodiesel, expanding acreage for organic agriculture, improving infrastructure as well as helping train and support the next generation of farmers. Additionally the county is helping support improved farm-to-market opportunities, educational tours, and local food for community residents. These services help to support the wide variety of agricultural operations taking place on open space land that in turn produce an even wider range of products and benefits for the community.

IMPACT

The county owns over 25,000 acres of agricultural lands, which it leases to over 70 qualified farmers and operators. Over 2,500 residents have toured these farms, learning about different agricultural production systems, challenges, and opportunities.

Over the last eight years Boulder County has increased organic acreage by over 880%, with almost 2,000 acres in production to date. This puts the county on track to transition 20% of county open space farmlands to organic crops.

Boulder County is making 100% local biodiesel by recycling used-cooking oil from participating local restaurants. This biodiesel is then used to run county vehicles, reducing GHG emissions by 85% compared to conventional diesel.

LEARN MORE

www.BoulderCounty.org/os/openspace/pages/agriculture.aspx

WATER



SERVICES ANALYZED

Keep It Clean Partnership
EnergySmart Residential
Partners for a Clean Environment
Agricultural Resources

SUMMARY

Boulder County is working to ensure clean, healthy water for all residents by improving water quality, and increasing water conservation. Along with other communities, the county is supporting and playing an active role in protecting our water quality through the Keep it Clean Partnership. Boulder County also focuses efforts on water conservation services for residents and businesses through EnergySmart, Partners for a Clean Environment, and water efficient agricultural practices. Through all these efforts, the County is working to ensure clean water for current and future generations.

IMPACT

An estimated 35 million gallons of water are saved annually through water-saving devices installed by EnergySmart participants.

In 2013 alone Boulder County reached 3,650 residents to raise awareness and help drive action to reduce stormwater pollution through outreach events. In addition, 62% of restaurants and 84% of auto body shops met or exceeded all stormwater best practices.

Boulder County Open Space has helped local farmers install water-efficient irrigation systems over nearly 2,600 acres. These upgrades improved water efficiency by at least 50%, increased crop production, and improved soil conservation.

LEARN MORE

www.KeepItCleanPartnership.org

www.EnergySmartYes.com

www.PACEpartners.com

ZERO WASTE



SERVICES ANALYZED

Recycling
Composting
Trash and Hauling
Hazardous Materials Management Facility (HMMF)
Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM)
Partners for a Clean Environment
BuildSmart

SUMMARY

Boulder County has the goal of becoming zero waste or darn near by 2025 and is committed to developing policies, programs, and infrastructure that help residents and businesses recycle, compost, and safely dispose of hazardous materials. The county has made significant inroads towards this goal by conserving natural resources, improving waste diversion infrastructure, and reducing the materials sent to landfill. Increased efforts in zero waste will further reduce the materials sent to the landfill, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and improve the local economy.

IMPACT

Boulder County diverts an estimated 30% of its waste stream away from landfill annually, approximately 76,000 tons of material or about 500 pounds per person. This has an equivalent greenhouse gas impact of taking over 43,000 cars off the road.

Of the materials diverted:

- 80% are recyclable materials
- 15% are compostable materials
- 2% are hard to recycle materials
- 2% are construction and demolition materials
- 1% are hazardous materials

LEARN MORE

www.bouldercounty.org/env/sustainability/pages/wasteservices.aspx

TRANSPORTATION



SERVICES ANALYZED

Transit Service Buy-Ups
Community EcoPass Programs
Partners for a Clean Environment

SUMMARY

Boulder County promotes the use of alternative transportation in order to decrease emissions while maintaining or expanding mobility for all county residents, employees, and visitors. The county has supported innovative land use management and bike infrastructure to encourage residents to use alternative transportation. The information below highlights two services that show great promise, the community EcoPass programs in Lyons and Nederland and the county's investment in select bus routes.

IMPACT

On bus routes that Boulder County currently invests in, 10% of commuters would not be able to maintain their employment without access to these transit services.

Research shows that residents and employees who are provided EcoPasses dramatically increase their bus ridership. This leads to a decrease in the number of cars on the road, reducing congestion and the need for costly parking, and opening up space for other land use needs.

LEARN MORE

www.bouldercounty.org/roads/transit/pages/default.aspx