



# Energy, Equity, and the Environmental Division Q1 Update

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April 15, 2024

# Purpose

- The purpose of this presentation is to introduce the new Energy, Equity, and the Environmental Division of the City Manager's Office, to make Council aware of details around the Community Change Grant, and to discuss the status of other projects.



# Meet the E3 Team



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# What Does E3 Do?

- The Energy, Equity, and the Environmental team (E3) is a division of the City Manager's Office.
- E3 was formed to execute the Sustainability Action Plan that was adopted by City Council in July of 2023. Execution of the Plan will occur through:
  - Education
  - Local, State, and Federal policy
  - Grant applications, in partnership with the Grants Office
  - Land use case review through an E3 lens
  - Interdepartmental collaboration
  - Collaboration with external agencies



# Sustainability Focus Areas and Priorities

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1. Education and empowerment
2. Energy efficiency and renewables
3. Adaptation and mitigation
4. Waste diversion
5. Water conservation and quality
6. Active transportation
7. Health and well being
8. Purchasing and funding
9. Local food resiliency
10. Tree canopy and biodiversity



# Sustainability Action Plan

- Reduce energy use by 25% by 2030 and 40% by 2050.
- Adopt electrification of all buildings by 15% by 2030 and 60% by 2050.
- Utilize rooftop and community solar for 40% of households and commercial buildings by 2050.
- Increase the share of renewables in the C3 community's energy mix by 10% annually.
- Strive for 30% electric vehicles on-road by 2030 and 75% by 2050.
- Reduce idling time by 78% by 2030.
- Achieve a 20% mode shift by 2030 and 50% mode shift by 2050 towards greater use of transit, bikes, walking, electric vehicles, etc.
- Increase waste diversion to 85% by 2050.
- Develop only carbon neutral new oil and gas wells within City limits.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and 90% by 2050.
- Increase sustainability education opportunities by 10% annually.



# Community Engagement

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- Each month, E3 focuses on one of the ten sustainability sectors outlined in the Sustainability Action Plan.
- Monthly events:
  - *Mindful Movie – Open to employees and community members*
  - *Challenge – Open to employees and community members*
  - *Book Club – Open to employees and community members*
  - *Webinar*
- Once a quarter E3 organizes tours, Lunch and Learns, and community events.



# Community Engagement Cont.

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- Once a quarter E3 organizes tours, Lunch and Learns, and community events.
- *Recycling Facility and RMA Tour for City employees.*
- April – Two Earth Day events(April 22: DU 10AM/Eagle Pointe 3:30 PM; an Arbor Day in conjunction with Parks (April 26<sup>th</sup>) and a Tree Planting (April 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM).





# Community Engagement April

- April Challenge – 40 Gallon Challenge
- Sustainability Book of the month – April: *Where the Water Goes: Life and Death Along the Colorado River* by David Owen
- Mindful Movie #4 on **April 10**, 2024 from 4-5pm, *Easy like Water*
- Free Garden Yard Waste Drop Off Day at A1 Organics on **April 20**, 8am-1pm at 9109 Monaco Street, Henderson, CO 80640
- Cultivando Earth Day Event on **April 22** at DU from 10am-2pm
- Earth Day Event on **April 22** at Eagle Pointe at 3:30pm
- EPAC Meeting on **April 25** from 4-5:30pm at Eagle Pointe Recreation Center
- Arbor Day Event on **April 26** with E3 and PRG
- Tree Planting at Pioneer Park on **April 27** with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers



# Q1 Events Tracking

- **Mindful Movie #1:** January 10, 2024 | Quest for Nature
- **Mindful Movie #2:** February 14, 2024 | The West is Burning
- **Recycling Lunch and Learn:** February 21, 2024 | E3 + Republic Services discussed recycling in Commerce City
- **Mindful movie #3:** March 13, 2024 | People vs. Pipeline: The cost of Crude Oil
- **Talk-O-Tuesday:** March 19, 2024 | E3 presented at Cultivando's Talk-O-Tuesday



# Q1 Events Tracking Cont.

- **Latino Engagement Taskforce Meeting:** March 22, 2024 | E3 presented to the L.E.T.
- **MiniCon Tabling:** 6 tabling, March 23, 2024 | EPAC and E3 tabled at MiniCon
- **HR Wellness Lunch and Learn:** March 26, 2024 | E3 presented about the new division to City Staff
- **Recycling Facility Tour:** March 26, 2024 | E3 + Republic Services partnered to host a tour of the Denver Recycling Facility



# Success Measurements

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- 656 community members/City staff have participated in E3 challenges.
- Impacts To Date:
  - Saved \$48,257
  - Reduced 325 tons of air pollution
  - Conserved 2,892,082 gallons of water
  - Reduced 24680 kWh of energy



# Community Health Ranking



Selected Variables	Percentile in EPA Region	Percentile in USA
Particulate Matter 2.5	96	85
Ozone	95	90
2017 Diesel Particulate Matter	98	91
Air Toxics Cancer Risk	98	93
Air Toxics Respiratory HI	97	89
Traffic Proximity	94	86
Lead Paint	98	92
Superfund Proximity	99	98
RMP Facility Proximity	99	98

# Healthy Homes Grant - Awarded

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- The City is a sub-recipient of this grant and will spend funds on detoxifying and sustainability electrifying homes, and to fund three years of salary for the Sustainability Associate in the E3 division.
- Submittal required QA/QC Plan for the EPA
- Contact Olivia Quagliani to sign up, or register on the website:
  - [Oquagliani@c3gov.com](mailto:Oquagliani@c3gov.com)



# EPA Community Change Grant – In Progress

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- Phase 1: Air and energy
  - Example projects:
    - Address root causes of disproportionate impacts through community education, advocacy training, policy creation, and policy implementation.
    - Improve indoor air quality
    - Increase public access to air quality information
    - Decarbonizing energy resources
    - Workforce development



# EPA Community Change Grant – In Progress

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- Phase 2: Restoration and regeneration
  - Example projects
    - Food resiliency through programming, education, and public gardens
    - Increase community tree canopy coverage and biodiversity
    - Restoration of trails and open space
    - Restoration along waterways
    - High school training programs





# EPA Community Change Grant – In Progress

- Phase 3: Active transportation and cultural enrichment
  - Example projects:
    - Outdoor bike repair kits
    - Solar shade structures
    - Installation of bike racks
    - Creation of a bike share program
    - Educational programming



# EPA Community Change Grant – In Progress

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- Lead Agency – Black Parents United Foundation
- Statutory Agency – Commerce City
- Collaborating entities:
  - Cultivando
  - Denver Urban Gardens
  - Every Step Forward
  - GES Coalition
  - Urban Symbiosis
  - Spirit of the Sun
  - The Green House Connection Center
  - Wildland Restoration Volunteers
  - Womxn from the Mountain



# Green Business Network

- The City joined the Green Networking Business Program and has been recognized as a Bronze member. We were also recognized for innovation for the Monthly Challenge Program.



# Business Resources

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- In partnership with State's Energy Office:
  - Upgrading equipment with electric alternatives
  - Improving fossil fuel efficiency
  - Transitioning to lower carbon fuels
  - Changing industrial processes to reduce air pollution emissions
  - Carbon management
  - Upgrading equipment to hydrogen



# Business Resources Cont.

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- Benefits for small businesses:
  - Free LED interior lights
  - Up to 70% cost of electrical appliance equipment (merchandizers, refrigerators, HVAC) installation, equipment, and recycling
  - Up to \$10,000 per business
  - San Julian and Little Giants Learning Center
  - Contact: Rosemarie Russo
    - [rrusso@c3gov.com](mailto:rrusso@c3gov.com)



# Recent State Legislation

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- Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Ban - began January 2024:
  - January 1, 2023 – January 1, 2024: Stores could furnish a recycled paper bag or single-use plastic carryout bag to customers for \$0.10/bag.
  - January 1, 2024-present: Stores can only provide a recycled paper carryout bag for \$0.10/bag.
- House Bill 21-1162 – passed in 2021 but contained phasing:
  - After January 1, 2024: Retail food establishments cannot provide a Styrofoam container for to-go food.
  - If the retail food operator purchased Styrofoam prior to the date, they can exhaust their inventory but will not be allowed to buy new Styrofoam products.



# Anti-Idling Educational Campaign and Ordinance

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- Flyers (bi-lingual)
- FAQ and articles newsletters
- Air Monitors:
  - Eagle Pointe and Bison Ridge
  - Recreation Centers
- Data live – Love My Air website
- Signs – schools and public health facilities
- Ordinance – Will be heard at an upcoming City Council meeting



# City Resolutions

- EPAC as a permanent committee - Passed
- Sustainability Action Plan – Passed
- Anti-Idling Ordinance - Upcoming
- Construction and Demolition Debris Ordinance - Upcoming
- Pay-As-You-Throw Ordinance - Upcoming
- Cardboard Ban (separate out cardboard) - Upcoming
- EVGo Ordinance - Upcoming
- Drought Tolerant/Fire Resistant Landscape Amendments - Upcoming
- Low-Impact Development Amendments - Upcoming
- 100% Renewable Electricity - Upcoming







# Questions

