

EPAC (EPIC) Annual City Council Update

July 7, 2025



Commerce
CITY

2024 Accomplishments

1. Acted as the community body for the Xcel Partners in Energy Energy Plan for the city.
2. Tabled at multiple events to promote environmental and sustainability education.
3. Went on a tour of the recycling facility in Denver.

*As of May 2025, the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) is now the Environmental Policy and Innovation Commission (EPIC)

2025 Goals

1. Education and Outreach

- Promote and publicize the City's climate and sustainability work through ongoing educational campaigns targeted towards various audiences, with a focus on connecting residents to the City's participatory opportunities.
- Develop a culture of sustainability in local businesses and community organizations.

2. Reduce Idling and air pollution from traffic by promoting anti-idling policies and educating the public on behavior changes that will support air pollution reduction

- Lead public campaigns, particularly around schools and with fleet companies, to discourage idling and convert fleet to EV.
- Develop an anti-idling policy and establish no-idle zones around schools.
- Install intelligent traffic signals to reduce waiting times for vehicles during off-peak hours.
- Introduce an Anti-Idling Policy to City Council

3. Biodiversity, Trees, and Food

- Expand and maintain green spaces, publicly managed street trees, and tree planting and tree scale programs. Explore developing an incentive program to plant two trees for every tree removed.
- Increase urban forest canopy by at least 2% each year across the entire City, particularly in low-income neighborhoods.

Goal: Education and Outreach

- Participated in Cultivando's EcoFiesta by having a table with information about sustainability and had children's activities
- Tabled at the City's resource fair with sustainability educational materials and giveaways
- Tabled at Mini Con with a gardening activity and giveaways
- Partnering with Lester Arnold High School to create a community garden for next school year – will be used for local food and education for students
- Commerce City Cultural Council/Parks and Rec had zero waste set up at Music in the Park events.



Goal: Reduce Idling and Air Pollution from Traffic

- Placed anti-idling signs in various places in the community
- Met with the STEAD School administration about working with their students on anti-idling
- Set up an anti-idling committee to work with schools in the community to educate them about the dangers of idling and to request support on an anti-idling campaign

Goal: Biodiversity, Trees, and Food

- Exploring options for community gardens across Commerce City
- Tree canopy increase in the city and planting more trees
 - Study under contract
 - 93 new trees planted

Long-Term Goals*

1. Goal: Develop policies and programs that will help residents and businesses conserve water.

- Convert "street yards" into native plant gardens and sprinklers for "street yards" into drip lines for street trees.
- Mandate that cool-weather turf be restricted to 40% of backyards, or 500 square feet, whichever is smaller for new residential and commercial sites.

2. Goal: Waste Diversion Foster a zero-waste culture at C3 through zero-waste events and operations, education, and programs that reduce trash-related pollution and expand access to recycling and composting.

- Ensure curbside composting and recycling services are publicly available within the community and support free community-led compost facilities, particularly in low-income, highly impacted communities.
- Work with school districts to implement waste diversion and reduction strategies such as eliminating disposable food trays.
- Develop and publicize recycling and composting education campaigns aimed at residents.
- Reach a 20% citywide increase in composting by working with the community to promote and provide free or subsidized self-contained composting containers.

*From the Action Plan for Sustainability

Long-Term Goals (cont.)*

3. Goal: Increase biodiversity, local food production, and community gardens.

- Increase access for low income, high impacted communities to locally grown produce through programs and campaigns
- Develop programs and campaigns to encourage pollinator habitats and foster ladybug habitats.
- Develop a program and/or campaign to help residents donate trees to one another.
- Adopt and encourage the "No Lawn" movement and remove grass on City properties to lead by example.
- Work with HOAs, more specifically the Reunion Metro District, nonprofits, and landowners to adopt community gardens and convert "street yards" to wildflowers and native plant gardens.
- Keep agricultural zoning to ensure green spaces are maintained.

*From the Action Plan for Sustainability

Budget Update

2024

Spent: \$6909.95 of \$12,500

2025

Spent*: \$1088 of \$12,500

***January-June**

Short Term Goals			
Expense Details	Budget	Actuals	% Spent
Programs	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	0%
Total	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	0%
Incidentals			
Category	Budget	Actuals	% Spent
Food Budget	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,088.00	44%
Swag	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	0%
Marketing + Outreach	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0%
Total	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 1,088.00	20%

Figure 1. 2025 Budget Tracker

Thank you!



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