Environmental Policy and Innovation Commission (EPIC)

2026 Work Plan (April – December)

Purpose

This work plan outlines EPIC's priorities, structure, and deliverables for the remainder of 2026. It is designed to guide implementation, support accountability, and produce actionable policy recommendations for Commerce City Council.

Priority Focus Areas

EPIC will focus on three core areas for 2026:

1. **Air Quality & Emissions Reduction**
2. **Urban Forestry & Green Infrastructure**
3. **Community Education & Engagement**

Subcommittee Structure

EPIC will operate through subcommittees to deliver targeted outcomes. Each subcommittee will produce at least one Council-ready deliverable in 2026.

1. Air Quality & Climate Subcommittee

Goal: Reduce localized air pollution exposure, especially near schools and residential areas.

2026 Deliverables: - Draft Anti-Idling Resolution - Develop No-Idle Zones Program (school-focused) - Support Regulation 29 awareness and compliance outreach

Key Actions: - Coordinate with schools and fleet operators - Identify high-idling corridors - Develop behavior-change campaigns

Success Metrics: - Resolution delivered to City Council - Number of schools engaged - Reduction in observed idling in pilot areas

2. Urban Forestry & Green Infrastructure Subcommittee

Goal: Expand tree canopy, improve shade equity, and formalize tree policy.

2026 Deliverables: - Draft Urban Forest Management Standards - Develop Tree Protection and Replacement Policy - Launch Tree Planting Pilot Program

Key Actions: - Coordinate with Parks & Recreation - Develop baseline tree inventory strategy - Align with development standards

Success Metrics: - Policy draft completed - Number of trees planted - Establishment of canopy baseline

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3. Community Education & Outreach Subcommittee

Goal: Build a culture of sustainability across residents, youth, and businesses.

2026 Deliverables: - Quarterly outreach campaigns - School partnership pilot program - Sustainability campaign toolkit

Key Actions: - Partner with nonprofits and school district - Align with City communications - Focus on behavior change (air quality, water, waste)

Success Metrics: - Number of outreach events (minimum one per quarter) - Number of students reached - Increased community awareness

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Quarterly Implementation Timeline

Q2 (April – June): Foundation & Drafting

- Finalize subcommittee assignments
- Begin drafting priority policies
- Launch first outreach campaign

Output: Draft policies and program frameworks

Q3 (July – September): Development & Pilots

- Advance policies toward Council-ready form
- Launch pilot programs (anti-idling, tree planting)

Output: Pilot programs and near-final policy drafts

Q4 (October – December): Adoption & Reporting

> • Submit policy recommendations to City Council
> • Deliver annual EPIC report
> • Identify 2027 priorities

Output: Council recommendations and year-end report

Resource & Cost Considerations

> • **Low Cost:** Policy development, outreach, partnerships
> • **Medium Cost:** Pilot programs, incentives, studies
> • **High Cost:** Capital projects (tree canopy expansion, infrastructure improvements)

Potential funding sources include grants, partnerships, and development-related fees.

Governance & Accountability

> • Monthly EPIC meetings will include subcommittee updates
> • Subcommittees will meet regularly to advance deliverables
> • Progress will be tracked against defined milestones

2026 Success Outcomes

By the end of 2026, EPIC will aim to deliver:

> • 1–2 formal policy recommendations to City Council
> • At least one pilot program implemented
> • Ongoing community engagement (minimum quarterly)

Adopted by the Environmental Policy and Innovation Commission (EPIC)
Commerce City, Colorado
2026