

Environment Committee



VISION

We have a long-term vision that is mindful of Centennial's impact on the global ecosystem and determined to advance programs that reduce our environmental footprint. Centennial is a city that establishes and continues to integrate environmentally sustainable policies into the fabric of our community and successfully balances the challenges of economic development and quality of life. We aspire to establish a community that leads by example, from the top down, with an overarching and ecologically aware constitution that supports balanced practices and principles.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Pat Bedford (Chair)

Mark Schulz (Co-Chair)

Kristen Beatty

Regina Foley

Tracey Griffith

Justin Herrera

Laura Hoepfner

Donna Jesenovec

Eric Ness



The Environment committee examined how to protect and conserve Centennial’s natural assets, while simultaneously serving as stewards of the global ecosystem. Specifically, they explored the City’s role in incorporating sustainable practices in government activities and promoting citizen participation in “green” initiatives. They also took a strong role in assessing the vision for Centennial’s open space and how it lends itself to the City’s future quality of life.

They heard from Centennial Communications Director Sherry Patten who walked through the recently completed Open Space Master Plan. Sherry articulated the differences between citizen groups that are officially recognized by City government, such as advisory boards, task forces, quasi judicial boards and those groups that are not recognized, such as citizen committees and coalitions. She also discussed the City’s current operations and potential for creating environmentally sustainable activities in the future.

<i>Env. Vision Element</i>	ESTABLISH AND CHAMPION ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIENTIOUS POLICIES AND PRO-ACTIVE PRACTICES. The City of Centennial will strive to lead by example, beginning with an overarching, accountable and ecologically aware municipal leadership that respects initiates and implements “green governance.”				
<i>Strategy 1</i>	EMPOWER CITIZENS OF CENTENNIAL WITH AN ACTIVE ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE POLICIES.	Suggested Supporting Partners (Partner lists are examples, not exhaustive)	Timeline		
			0-5 Yrs	6-10 Yrs	11+ Yrs
<i>Action 1.1</i>	CREATE AN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD. Establish a standing Environmental Advisory Board to act as an official voice of Centennial citizens and work with the City to implement environmentally friendly ordinances, policies and practices.	Task Forces (Actions 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 6.1), Environmental Business Advisory Committee (Action 7.1)	x		
<i>Action 1.2</i>	PROTECT NATURAL HABITAT AREAS AND OPEN SPACE. The Environmental Advisory Board should constantly collaborate with Centennial Open Space Advisory Board to ensure environmental concerns are being addressed.	Centennial Open Space Advisory Board, South Suburban Parks and Rec, Arapahoe Parks and Rec, Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA)	x		

Vision, Strategy, Action	ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	Suggested Supporting Partners (Partner lists are examples, not exhaustive)	Timeline		
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Env. Vision Element	ESTABLISH AND CHAMPION ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIENTIOUS POLICIES AND PRO-ACTIVE PRACTICES (continued)				
Action 1.3	ANALYZE/DEVELOP CURRENT AND FUTURE CITY ORDINANCES. Ensure commitment by analyzing and implementing environmentally sound city ordinances addressing water management, fueling stations, lighting, erosion control, building and landscaping codes.		x		
Strategy 2	SET AN EXAMPLE WITH GREEN CITY GOVERNMENT. Implement sound, environmentally friendly policies to show the citizens of Centennial, and society at large, that minimizing environmental impacts can be integrated into everything the City does.				
Action 2.1	ESTABLISH A PLAN DEFINING GUIDELINES AND TARGETS FOR CITY AND CITY-CONTRACTED VEHICLES. To determine and require minimum mileage per gallon, maximum emissions, engine type and alternative fuel guidelines.		x		



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Env. Vision Element	ESTABLISH AND CHAMPION ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIENTIOUS POLICIES AND PRO-ACTIVE PRACTICES (continued)				
Action 2.2	UPDATE/UPGRADE CITY VEHICLES. Require all City and City-contracted vehicles to be in compliance with guidelines and scheduled to meet targets established in plan referenced in Action 2.2.			x	
Action 2.3	CONSERVE ENERGY AND WATER CONSUMPTION IN CITY BUILDINGS. Implement and monitor conservation policies and practices to promote minimal use of energy and water for City-run and contracted facilities and properties.		x		
Action 2.4	IMPLEMENT A SPECIAL RECYCLING AND REUSE PROGRAM SPECIFIC TO THE CITY. Adopt a City policy to require recycling at City-run and contracted facilities and properties. To ensure a comprehensive recycling strategy, the purchase and use of materials made from recyclables, such as paper and other products will be an equally important component of the City specific recycling program.		x		

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Env. Vision Element	ESTABLISH AND CHAMPION ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIENTIOUS POLICIES AND PRO-ACTIVE PRACTICES (continued)				
Action 2.5	DEVELOP CITIZEN AND GOVERNMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS. Partner with local schools and community organizations to create special days that educate, celebrate and promote environmental preservation and sustainability.	City Council, Local School Districts, HOA's, Youth Organizations	x		
Action 2.6	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT THROUGH EXISTING PROGRAMS. Analysis of vehicle wash water reclamation standards, environmental protection acts for automobile fueling stations, management of SEMSWA programs, and others, to promote sustainable practices consistent with State and Federal guidelines.	City Council, General Improvement Districts	x		
Action 2.7	ASSESSMENT OF BUILDING CODES FOR COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS. Incorporate LEED certification requirements, performance contracting, financial incentives, and renewables for schools, new construction and existing buildings.	General Improvement Districts	x		



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<i>Env. Vision Element</i>	COMMITMENT TO STRATEGIC, ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP. THE CITY OF CENTENNIAL ASPIRES TO FOSTER A POSITIVE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY IDENTITY TODAY BY DOING WHAT IS RIGHT FOR TOMORROW.				
<i>Strategy 3</i>	RECYCLING AND REUSE SUPPORTED BY STRONG PROGRAMS AND POLICIES. Promote City-wide recycling programs through community involvement, subcontract collaboration, City programs and assessment of the City's ability to transition and take control of the program.				
<i>Action 3.1</i>	FORM A RECYCLING TASK FORCE. The task force will research and make recommendations about approaches to ensure residential recycling and reuse.	Environmental Advisory Board (Action 1.1), Other Task Forces (Actions 4.1, 5.1, 6.1), Environmental Business Advisory Committee (Action 7.1)	x		
<i>Action 3.2</i>	DEVELOP REUSE PROGRAMS. Develop programs to reuse water, grass clippings, trimmed tree material, etc. for mulch and other materials to be recycled into the community with a goal of 100% reuse by the year 2030.		x	x	x



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Env. Vision Element	COMMITMENT TO STRATEGIC, ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP (continued)				
Action 3.3	CREATE PROGRAM TO IMPROVE HAZARDOUS WASTE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL. Coordinate with subcontractors and/or provide facilities and programs for hazardous waste disposal and/or reuse to ensure proper disposal and compliance with government regulations at no cost to residents.		x		
Action 3.4	CONSOLIDATE TRASH/RECYCLING CONTRACTORS. Provide incentives or mandates to HOA's in Centennial communities to consolidate trash/recycling vendors and only allow trash service companies that provide recycling services to operate in Centennial.		x		
Action 3.5	EXPAND CITY EFFORT TO EDUCATE AND PROMOTE RECYCLING AND REUSE IN CENTENNIAL. Add recycling education section to the city website, including, among other things, a list identifying hazardous waste materials commonly found in the home and details on how and where disposal should be handled.		x		



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Env. Vision Element	COMMITMENT TO STRATEGIC, ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP (continued)				
Strategy 4	PROMOTE ENERGY CONSERVATION. Increase citizen awareness regarding energy conservation by implementing policies that promote the use of less energy, minimal emissions, etc.				
Action 4.1	FORM AN ENERGY CONSERVATION TASK FORCE. The task force will research and make recommendations about ways to conserve energy in our community and assess the use and promotion of alternative energy.	City Council, Environmental Advisory Board (Action 1.1), Other Task Forces (Actions 3.1, 5.1, 6.1)	x		
Action 4.2	CREATE ALLIANCES. Collaborate with RTD, Xcel Energy and IREA to promote energy conservation and transit programs in Centennial.	Xcel Energy, IREA, RTD	x		
Action 4.3	DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TRAFFIC POLICIES. Evaluate and implement energy saving mechanisms, such as traffic signal timing, roundabouts, City and sub-contractor vehicle idling.	CDOT, RTD		x	



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Env. Vision Element	COMMITMENT TO STRATEGIC, ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP (continued)				
Action 4.4	PROMOTE THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY. Promote alternative energy through wind, passive/active solar collectors and new technologies as they become available.	City Council, Xcel Energy	x		
Strategy 5	PROMOTE WATER CONSERVATION. Increase citizen awareness by implementing policies that promote less water consumption and optimize city infrastructure.				
Action 5.1	FORM A WATER QUALITY AND CONSERVATION TASK FORCE. The task force will research and make recommendations to the Centennial City Council regarding commercial, government and residential water conservation.	South Metro Water Supply Authority, Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA), Denver Water, Aurora Water	x	x	x
Action 5.2	CONDUCT WATER AND SANITARY DISTRICT ASSESSMENT. Collaborate with water and sanitation districts to determine common programs, goals and objectives on how the City of Centennial can protect and conserve its water.	South Metro Water Supply Authority, Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA), Denver Water, Aurora Water	x		



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Env. Vision Element	COMMITMENT TO STRATEGIC, ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP (continued)				
Action 5.3	DEVELOP INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE WATER CONSERVATION. Reward commercial, government and residential landscaping, irrigation, etc. that protects and conserves City water. Promote Denver Water's existing incentive programs, such as xeriscape refunds, appliance rebates, tiered rate structure, etc.	Denver Water		x	
Action 5.4	DEVELOP NEW CODES AND RE-EVALUATE EXISTING CODES TO PROMOTE WATER CONSERVATION. Create regulations for commercial, government and residential landscaping standards, irrigation restrictions, etc.			x	
Action 5.5	IDENTIFY METRICS FOR CONSERVATION INCENTIVES AND CODES, such as a 10% reduction in residential usage in 10 years, 20% reduction in commercial usage in 20 years.	City Council, Denver Water	x	x	x



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<i>Env. Vision Element</i>	COMMITMENT TO STRATEGIC, ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP (continued)				
<i>Action 5.6</i>	RECLAIM WATER FROM AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS to be reused for other purposes, such as aesthetic uses for public fountains, irrigation, etc.		x		

<i>Env. Vision Element</i>	BALANCE ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND STANDARDS WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING. The City of Centennial recognizes that it is essential to successfully balance economic health, quality of life and city services with environmental sustainability to maintain an enduring and healthy presence for generations to come.				
<i>Strategy 6</i>	IMPROVE “CONNECTIVITY” AND NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS. Achieve a reduction in fossil fuel consumption and emissions through an increase in alternative transportation options and efficiency.				



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Env. Vision Element	BALANCE ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND STANDARDS WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING (continued)				
Action 6.1	CREATE A “CONNECTIVITY” TASK FORCE. This Task Force will collaborate with the Open Space Advisory Board to research and make recommendations regarding connecting existing trails, creating new trails and maps, signage to connect neighborhoods and evaluate and report on sidewalks and bike routes.	Open Space Advisory Board, Environmental Advisory Board (Action 1.1), Other Task Forces (Actions 3.1, 4.1, 5.1)	x		
Action 6.2	INCREASE SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN RIGHT OF WAYS THROUGHOUT CENTENNIAL. Address citizen desire for increased pedestrian and bicycle trails to increase access to residential, commercial and open space areas, minimizing fossil fuel consumption and emissions.		x	x	x
Action 6.3	INCREASE AMOUNT OF AREA ZONED FOR MIXED USE. Incorporate increased transit options and commuting patterns into new developments to reduce automobile dependence.		x		



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Env. Vision Element	BALANCE ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND STANDARDS WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING (continued)				
Strategy 7	BALANCE ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES WITH SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES. Harmonizing environmental stewardship and economic interests can reduce negative impacts to the eco-system and simultaneously improve efficiency and reduce costs.				
Action 7.1	IMPLEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES. Attract businesses to Centennial that have “green” business plans aligned with the environmental vision.	South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce	x		
Action 7.2	PROMOTE THE BUSINESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. Use redevelopment authorities to attract businesses to Centennial that help make our City a Green City (i.e. alternative energy, green building, alternative fuels, recycling and water conservation).	City Council, CURA (Centennial Urban Redevelopment Authority)		x	

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Env. Vision Element	BALANCE UNCOMPROMISING ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING (continued)				
Action 7.3	LEVERAGE EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS TO FACILITATE ACHIEVEMENT OF CITY GOALS. Join ICLEI -- Local Governments for Sustainability. Use ICLEI member services to help develop performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programs to raise awareness of what the City is doing to meet its environmental vision.	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	x		
Action 7.4	PERFORM AN ENERGY ASSESSMENT OF CITY-RUN AND CONTRACTED FACILITIES. The energy assessment is a comprehensive analysis identifying areas where energy savings and operational savings can be realized. A follow-up energy audit can be performed based on the results of the assessment.	iCAST (a local non-profit sustainability company)	x		



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Env. Vision Element	BALANCE ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND STANDARDS WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING (continued)				
Action 7.5	LEVERAGE CONTRACTS WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS. Use existing and potential contracts with service providers as incentive for them to conduct energy assessments, audits and implementation of the identified improvements.	Xcel Energy, IREA, Denver Water, Arapahoe County, Waste Collection Agencies, etc.	x		
Action 7.6	FORMATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The goal of the committee will be to create partnerships, conduct research and make recommendations aimed at balancing environmental and economic interests to mitigate the environmental impacts of commerce.	South Metro Chamber of Commerce, Environmental Advisory Board (Action 1.1), Task Forces (Actions 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 6.1)	x		





**“The only thing worse than being
blind is having sight but no vision.”**

HELEN KELLER