



The Jefferson County Sustainability Commission is extremely proud to lead the effort in developing the county's first Climate Action Plan, in partnership with the Jefferson County Public Health department. On September 15, 2020, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissions adopted by majority vote Resolution No. CC20-254, a resolution acknowledging the global climate crisis and affirming the county's commitment to climate action. The resolution includes a commitment to develop a Climate Action Plan, which is a strategic planning process and document for developing goals, policies and programs to reduce the county's greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This resolution also includes a commitment to address the concerns of underrepresented and vulnerable communities in Jefferson County during the climate action planning process.

The development of the Climate Action Plan is expected to be completed over one year. The Sustainability Commission has already completed a preliminary greenhouse gas inventory and developed a general framework for the plan. The immediate next steps are to:

- Develop a scope of work, schedule, and cost estimate for the Climate Action Plan,
- Create a Request for Proposal for a technical consultant to lead the planning process and development,
- Perform initial outreach to potential key stakeholders, including county departments, local municipalities, community organizations, employers, Jefferson County Public Schools, utility providers, and members of the public, and
- Coordinate with other local jurisdictions that have created their own Climate Action Plans.

Once the technical consultant has been identified, they will lead a series of workshops that will be open to the public to solicit the community's priorities and concerns regarding climate change, including (but not limited to) building energy use, renewable energy, transportation, waste, and forest management.

### **About the Sustainability Commission**

The Jefferson County Sustainability Commission was founded in June 2014 in response to the growing interest in sustainability within the county community. The purpose of the Sustainability Commission is to create an informational clearinghouse and an open compendium of sustainability best practices. Duties include identifying and articulating sustainability goals, objectives and voluntary targets for county government and industrial, commercial, residential and recreational sectors county-wide. The commission provides expertise, resources and promotes awareness in sustainability. The work shall be advisory. Any citizen or business participation in any commission program or initiatives is strictly voluntary. Additional information about the Sustainability Commission can be located here: <https://www.jeffco.us/3406/Sustainability-Commission>

Major highlights of the Sustainability Commission's work include the execution of the Jefferson County Partnership in Energy (PIE) Memorandum of Understanding agreement with Xcel Energy. This work began in 2015 and culminated with the implementation of An Energy Action Plan for Jefferson County, Colorado, which was published March 30, 2017. The Energy Action Plan focuses on impactful programs that improve energy efficiency for residents, businesses, and county facilities. In addition, sustainability commissioners have conducted public outreach at numerous events, supported the advancement of renewable energy implementation by fostering the Colorado Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program and supported the County's sustainability related education programs. The Commission also began a pilot program for virtual meetings, the first for any Jefferson County volunteer commission.