

SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN

November 2019





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LETTER FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD



Dear Erie Community:

I am pleased to introduce the Sustainability Master Plan for the Town of Erie.

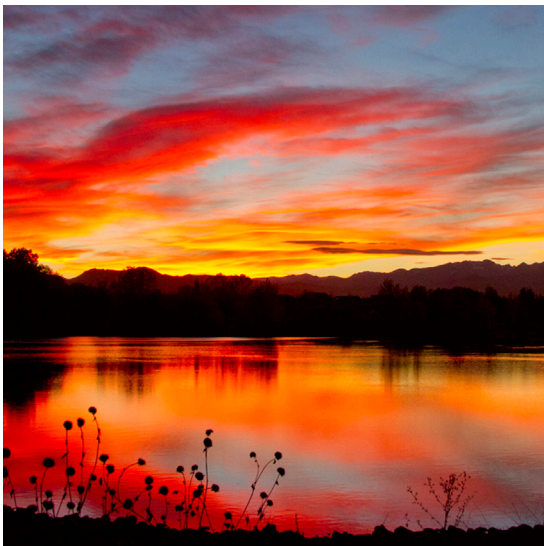
There are many different meanings of "Sustainability", however, like many concepts, the simplest definition might be the most meaningful. Sustainability is the capacity to endure. The Erie community has always been the reason for the endurance of our town, and the most critical contributions to sustainability in Erie have always come from the individuals and organizations throughout our community. Over the last year as we developed this Master Plan, the Sustainability Advisory Board worked hard to meet the community to not only hear ideas and requests, but also observe sustainable practices currently in place. This guidance became our foundation.

The Sustainability Advisory Board, teamed together with Lotus Engineering and Sustainability, and town staff to build on this foundation as we developed a Master Plan with a purpose of providing the town with focal points and direction to in order to implement, grow and optimize environmental, economic, and social sustainability within Erie.

The Sustainability Advisory Board realizes that progress in any of the directions laid out within our plan will require ongoing engagement from our town and decision makers at every level. We look forward to helping the Town meet these commitments and serving as an ongoing resource and advocates for the Sustainability Master Plan as it reflects our determination as well as our confidence in the continued endurance and sustainability of Erie.

J.P. Manza

Chairman of the Sustainability Advisory Board



Town of Erie Sustainability Advisory Board.

In order (left to right)

Back row: James Manza, Adam Jackson, Tom Doyle, Jeff Percell.

Front row: Monali Mujumdar, Berenice Garcia Tellez, Anna Clark

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The development of this *Sustainability Master Plan* would not have been possible without the dedicated participation and support of Town staff, members of the Sustainability Advisory Board, and representatives of various partner organizations. The Town of Erie would like to acknowledge and thank the following people for their participation:

TOWN OF ERIE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD

Adam Jackson	James Manza
Anna Clark	Jeff Percell
Berenice Garcia Tellez	Monali Mujumdar
Christiaan Van Woudenberg <i>(Board of Trustees Liaison)</i>	Tom Doyle

TOWN OF ERIE STAFF

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Fred Starr	Lyndsy Willette
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Jody Lambert	Todd Fessenden
Joe Smith	Wendi Palmer

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Carson Priest, <i>Smart Commute Metro North</i>	Neal Lurie, <i>Resource Central</i>
Cody Lillstrom, <i>Boulder County</i>	Perry Edman, <i>Regional Transportation District</i>
Gina Carnahan, <i>Xcel Energy</i>	Phil Brink, <i>Erie Open Space and Trails Advisory Board</i>
Jerry Marizza, <i>United Power</i>	Rosie Briggs, <i>EcoCycle</i>
Karen Stuart, <i>Smart Commute Metro North</i>	Sage Thornbrugh, <i>Regional Transportation District</i>
Kate Bailey, <i>EcoCycle</i>	Scott Wingfield, <i>Erie Chamber of Commerce</i>
Ken Martin, <i>Erie Open Space and Trails Advisory Board</i>	Tammy Herreid, <i>Smart Commute Metro North</i>
Lea Yancey, <i>Boulder County</i>	Tim Broderick, <i>Boulder County</i>
Nataly Handlos, <i>Regional Transportation District</i>	



CONSULTANT TEAM

Lotus Engineering and Sustainability, LLC.	Julia Ferguson, <i>Senior Associate and Project Lead for Erie's Sustainability Master Plan</i>
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LAYOUT DESIGN

Adrian Newman, *Creative Professional*

■ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of Erie is a beautiful community on the plains east of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, and the community is fast becoming a national leader for providing a high quality of life for residents. The sweeping and majestic mountain vistas, beautiful open and natural spaces, abundant recreational opportunities, and small-town feel are rightful sources of pride for the community.

Erie is one of the fastest growing communities in the Front Range region and is recognized as one of the best places to raise a family. On the sustainability front, momentum is gaining, and in 2018 the Town Board of Trustees committed to creating a Sustainability Advisory Board that was tasked with the development of the Town's first community-driven **Sustainability Master Plan**; this Plan is the next step in the Town and community's work to secure a sustainable future and a high quality of life for everyone that calls Erie home.

ERIE'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

As Erie continues to grow, sustainability has become an integral part of the Town's near- and long-term vision. The community has illustrated their commitment to sustainability through a citizen-led Sustainability Advisory Board, in the election of Board of Trustee leadership that is supportive of sustainability efforts, in feedback provided in recent community-wide surveys, and by their involvement in the development of this five-year **Sustainability Master Plan**. As Erie is a rapidly growing community that is anticipated to increase in population by four percent per through 2035,¹ there is a critical need to ensure that sustainability is woven throughout the policies, decisions, and developments at support the community's growth.

This five-year plan provides a roadmap and approach through which the community can protect natural resources, support the local economy and culture, and promote a sustainable lifestyle for its residents and visitors. This plan builds off other community master plans (such as the Town's Transportation Master Plan and Water Conservation Master Plan) and is intended to serve as a guiding document, framework, and decision-making tool for future community sustainability planning and programming. The Plan does this by defining the sustainability strategies, actions, implementation timelines, and targets towards which the community will strive.

Erie's **Sustainability Master Plan** focuses on opportunities that directly enhance the Town's overall sustainability by leveraging resources, including those available at a state and county level, and supplementing those resources where necessary to ensure equitable access to sustainability measures across the whole community. One key component of this Plan includes the effort to provide sustainability resources and services equitably across the entire community, which crosses over two counties and two utility service territories, each of which provide varying levels of support and resources for sustainability.

ERIE'S SUSTAINABILITY VISION

As the Town of Erie grows and expands, we will become a leader in sustainability by providing outreach and leadership alongside inclusive and accessible opportunities that support the growth of our economy and engage the community while protecting our natural environment.

The Plan is split into four sectors: energy use; transportation; waste, recycling, and composting; and outreach and education. It should be noted that water was not addressed as a stand-alone sector in the **Sustainability Master Plan** due to the fact that the Town has an existing Water Conservation Master Plan. Each sector in the Plan has priorities, specific strategies, and potential action items, as well as targets that will be used to measure and gauge Erie's success over the coming years. Each priority and strategy were selected and vetted by Town staff, Erie's Sustainability Advisory Board, and the general public. The sustainability priorities for the Town of Erie are detailed below for each sector included in the Plan. The full Sustainability Master Plan document provides additional information about specific strategies and actions to implement by sector.

¹ For more information see: www.erieco.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10412/Erie_Energy-Action-Plan_-FINAL-4-5-18?bidId=

ENERGY USE SECTOR

Erie's energy use sector is split into four sub-topics, each with a specific priority that Erie will work to accomplish in the coming years.



Codes and Policies Priority

Use Erie's building codes to incentivize green building, energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy in new construction.

Building Energy Use Priority

Encourage new development and existing buildings to conserve the use of natural resources and actively utilize available incentives and rebates for green building and renewable energy.

Renewable Energy Empowerment and Innovation Priority

Provide education and incentives to encourage the use of renewable energy and energy storage within the community.

Municipal Leadership Priority

Illustrate the Town's commitment to sustainability by reducing energy and water use in municipal buildings and supplying Town buildings with renewable energy.

ENERGY SECTOR TARGETS

- Reduce average household electricity use by 3% by 2025 (with a stretch goal of a 5% reduction).
- Increase the number of green buildings that are tracked in the community annually.
- Source 25% of commercial electricity use from renewable resources by 2025.*
- Reduce average household natural gas use by 3% by 2025 (with a stretch goal of a 5% reduction).
- Source 25% of community-wide electricity use from renewable resources by 2025.*
- Source 20% of residential electricity use from renewable resources by 2025 (with a stretch goal of 30%)*.

**Above and beyond what is already included in the utilities' fuel mix. All targets will be measured against a 2018 baseline.*

TRANSPORTATION SECTOR



Erie's transportation sector has two subtopics and four related priorities that Erie will work to accomplish in the coming years.

Mode Shift Priorities:

Provide access to transportation options and solutions that reduce community vehicle miles traveled, reduce congestion, enhance community connectivity, and increase the use of alternative modes of transportation.

Work with regional partners to identify regional solutions to congestion and single-occupancy vehicle use.

Support the development of the local economy to reduce commuting outside of Erie for work, errands, and play.

Electric Vehicle Priority:

Encourage the use of electric vehicles by providing incentives to purchase vehicles and installing publicly available charging stations.

ERIE'S TRANSPORTATION SECTOR TARGETS

- Determine a baseline and increase transit ridership by 10% by 2025.
- Increase transit serving the community by adding one additional daily bus route by 2025 (with a stretch goal of 2 additional daily bus routes).
- Increase the share of electric vehicles registered in the community by 25% by 2025 (with a stretch goal of 50%).

All targets will be measured against a 2018 baseline, unless otherwise noted.

WASTE, RECYCLING, AND COMPOSTING SECTOR



Erie's waste, recycling, and composting sector is split into three subtopics and Erie has identified four priorities that the Town and community will work to accomplish in the coming years.

Recycling and Composting Priorities:

Provide options to make diverting waste through reuse, recycling, and composting easy, accessible, and a viable option for all residents and business owners.

Be active participants in the Resource Conservation Advisory Board and support regional and state efforts to coordinate on policies and programs and encourage recycling and reuse.

Construction and Demolition Waste Priority:

Ensure that all construction in Erie diverts construction and demolition waste to the greatest degree possible.

Town Facilities and Events Priority:

Reduce waste at Town events and facilities by improving access to recycling and composting and implementing sustainable purchasing policies.

ERIE'S WASTE SECTOR TARGET

- Currently, waste tonnage and diversion rates are not tracked by haulers in Erie. Therefore, Erie will establish a waste baseline and set a target for increased diversion by 2022.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SECTOR



The education and outreach sector addresses how Erie will engage the broader community and its wide set of partners locally and across the region in order to ensure success of the Town's sustainability initiatives. All activities related to community engagement, marketing, and education (including events, workshops, and branding campaigns) fall under this cross-cutting sector, and the Town and community have identified two priorities that they will collaborate on accomplishing over the coming years. This sector supports the energy, transportation, and waste sectors.

Erie's Education and Outreach Sector Priorities:

Use innovative and engaging techniques to educate all community members about the importance of and value of participating in the Town's sustainability efforts.

Build capacity internally by hiring dedicated staff and developing collaborative partnerships with local and regional organizations.

ERIE'S EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SECTOR TARGET

- Double the number of businesses participating in the Erie Green Business Program by 2025 (compared to a 2020 baseline).
- Host or participate in a minimum of five community events annually to educate the community about sustainability.





Erie, the *Best Place* To Raise A Family



As a growing community in the Front Range region, Erie recognizes its responsibility to provide the best possible quality of life for residents while ensuring long-term fiscal responsibility and environmental sustainability. The Town's Sustainability Master Plan will help Erie realize its vision of sustainability by providing a roadmap of strategies and actions that will enhance community sustainability and overall quality of life. Erie believes in the power of its entire community to work together to implement the strategies identified in this Plan for the benefit of all community members and looks forward to engaging residents, businesses, and visitors to the community in these efforts, in order to create a healthier and more sustainable future for all.





TOWN OF ERIE
1874



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SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN

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Erie's Natural Wetlands