



lotus
engineering & sustainability

Town of Erie's Sustainability Master Plan

November 25, 2019



SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN

November 2019

With Gratitude to...

Town of Erie Sustainability Advisory Board

- Adam Jackson
- Anna Clark
- Berenice Garcia Tellez
- James Manza
- Jeff Percell
- Monali Mujumdar
- Tom Doyle

Town of Erie Staff

- Amber Lutrell
- Eric Banker
- Fred Starr
- Hannah Hippley
- Jesse Ascunce
- Jody Lambert
- Joe Smith
- Lucas Workman
- Luke Bolinger
- Lyndsy Willette
- Malcom Flemming
- Wendi Palmer
- Todd Fessenden

Partner Organizations

- Carson Priest, Smart Commute Metro North
- Cody Lillstrom, Boulder County
- Gina Carnahan, Xcel Energy
- Jerry Marizza, United Power
- Karen Stuart, Smart Commute Metro North
- Kate Bailey, EcoCycle
- Ken Martin, Erie Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
- Neal Lurie, Resource Central
- Perry Edman, Nataly Handlose, and Sage Thornbrugh at Regional Transportation District
- Phil Brink, Erie Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
- Rosie Briggs, EcoCycle and Boulder County

Consultant Support



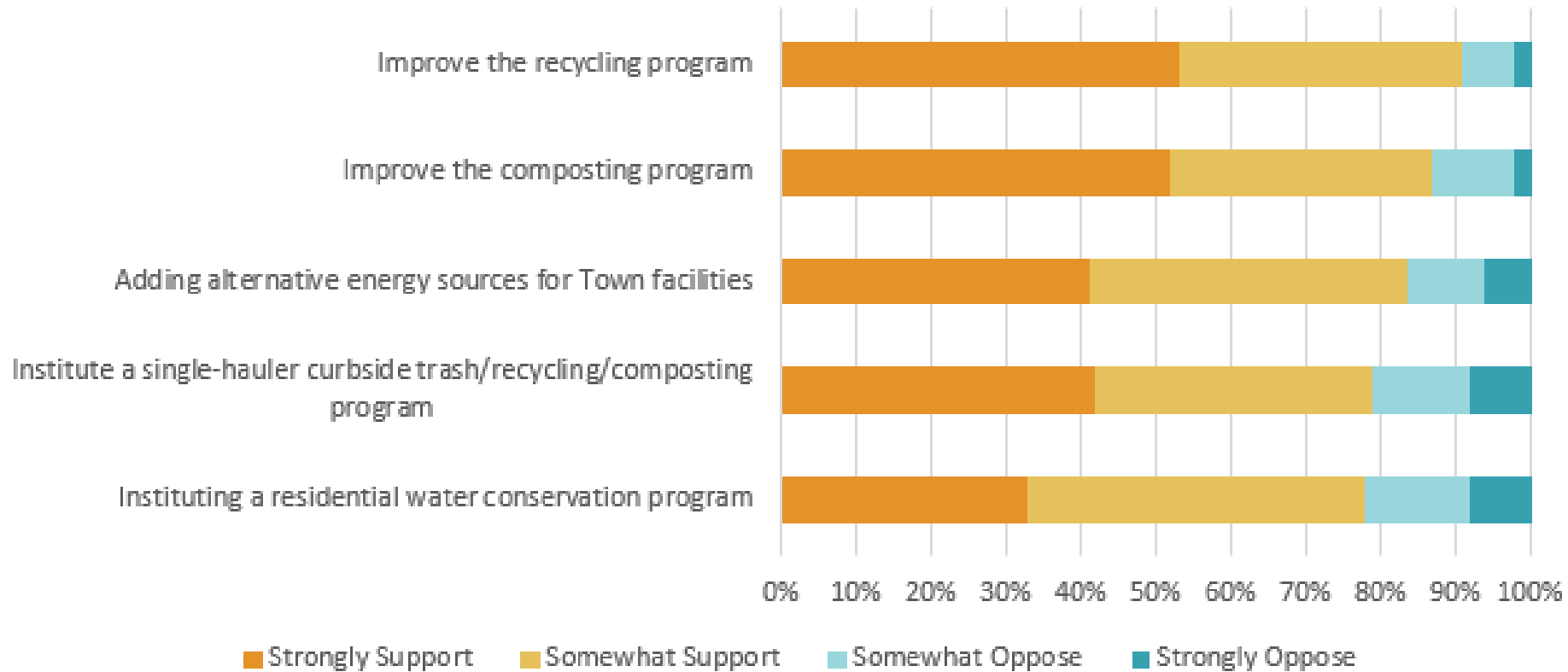
- Boutique, women-owned sustainability and engineering consulting firm
- Providing services for primarily public-sector clients across Colorado and the United States.
- Specializing in greenhouse gas inventories, climate action and sustainability planning, policy and market analysis and regulatory review, and sustainability program development and implementation

The Sustainability Master Plan Process



Focus Areas for the Sustainability Master Plan





Specific
Sustainability
Priorities

Taken from the Town of Erie 2019 Community Survey

Feedback from Farmer's Markets and Open House

- Open Space.
- Expanded recycling and composting options.
- More bike lanes.
- Building energy efficiency
- Solar energy for new buildings.
- Solar energy for Town facilities.
- Better communication of sustainability initiatives, including in Spanish.



Erie's Sustainability Co-Benefits

Improved air quality
and community
health.

Reduced congestion.

Increased community
resilience.

Reduced energy use
and expenditures.

Protection of wildlife
and biodiversity.

Reduced
consumption of
natural resources.

Reduced greenhouse
gas emissions.

Engaged community
organizations.

Support for a strong
local economy.

Making sustainability
inclusive and
equitable for the
whole community.

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.



Priorities for the Energy Use Sector

- **Codes and Policies:** Use Erie's building codes to incentivize green building, energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy in new construction.
- **Building Energy Use:** 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.
- **Energy Empowerment and Innovation:** Provide education and incentives to encourage the use of renewable energy and energy storage within the community.
- **Municipal Leadership:** Illustrate the Town's commitment to sustainability by reducing energy and water use in municipal buildings and supplying Town buildings with renewable energy.



Erie's Energy Sector Targets

Increase the number of green buildings that are tracked in the community annually.



Erie's Energy Sector Targets

- Reduce average household electricity use by **5% by 2025** (with a stretch goal of a 10% reduction).
- Reduce average household natural gas use by **3% by 2025** (with a stretch goal of a 5% reduction).



Erie's Energy Sector Targets

- 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%).*
- Source 25% of commercial electricity use from renewable resources by 2025.*

**Above and beyond what is already included in the utilities' fuel mix.*

COMMUNITY VOICES

When the community was asked what they would like prioritized, one respondent said: "A municipally-support solar farm on Town-owned open space with agriculture under the panels."

COMMUNITY VOICES

When the community was asked what they believe should be prioritized, one respondent said: "Incentivizing solar roofs"



Priorities for the Transportation Sector

- **Mode Shift:**
 - Provide access to transportation options and solutions that reduce community vehicle miles traveled, reduce congestion, and increase the use of safe alternative modes of transportation.
 - Work with regional partners to identify regional solutions to congestion and single-occupied vehicle use.
 - Support the development of the local economy to reduce commuting outside of Erie for work, errands, and play.
- **Electric Vehicles:** Adopt policies, educate, and encourage and incentivize the use of electric vehicles and the installation of publicly available charging stations.



Erie's Transportation Sector Targets

- Increase transit serving the community by adding **one additional daily bus route** by 2025 (with a stretch goal of 2 additional daily bus routes)
- Determine a baseline and **increase transit ridership by 10%** by 2025.

COMMUNITY VOICES

When the community was asked what they would like to see prioritized, respondents said:
"Better signage on bike paths & more connections"



Erie's Transportation Sector Targets

Increase the share of EVs registered in the community by 10% by 2025 (with a stretch goal of 15%)

COMMUNITY VOICES

When the community was asked what they would like to see prioritized, respondents said:
"Education about idling."
"More public transportation choices"



Priorities in the Waste Sector

- **Recycling and Composting:**
 - 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:** Ensure that all construction in Erie diverts construction and demolition waste to the greatest degree possible.
- **Town Facilities and Events:** 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 2025.

COMMUNITY VOICES

*When the community was asked what they would like to see prioritized, respondents said:
"Zero Waste Town events."*

COMMUNITY VOICES

*When the community was asked what they would like to see prioritized, respondents said:
"More composting and recycling."
"Recycling pick-up weekly and curbside composting."*



Priorities in the Education & Outreach Sector

- 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.

COMMUNITY VOICES

When the community was asked what they would like to see prioritized, respondents said: "Less pesticides and chemicals and more trees"

COMMUNITY VOICES

When the community was asked what they would like to see prioritized, respondents said: "Thrift stores! Clothing, furniture, and other waste can be lowered by buying second-hand."



Where do we go from here?

- Hired Water and Sustainability Specialist to start in early 2020.
- Determine which strategies to start with by reviewing priority level and creating and action plan.
- Engage the community in this work as soon as possible!

Questions?

Julia Ferguson

Senior Associate

Lotus Engineering and Sustainability

julia@lotussustainability.com

216.346.7478

Hillary Dobos

Co-Owner and Principal

Lotus Engineering & Sustainability

Hillary@lotussustainability.com

303.550.6948

