SUCCESSES

CELEBRATING OUR

2016 PIKES PEAK REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT
Peak Alliance for a Sustainable Future (Peak Alliance) would like to acknowledge the many organizations’ regular publications that examine the state of the region and promote sustainable practices including, but not limited to, the United Way’s Quality of Life Indicators (QLI Report), the Pikes Peak Community Foundation and Green Cities Coalition newsletters, the Regional Business Alliance newspaper, and Terra Essentials’ Directory. This Sustainability Report is intended to supplement those publications and not to in any way substitute for them. Our partnerships are, above all, our greatest strengths.

**SPONSORS**

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- Brent Kennedy
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- Mary Barber
- Linda Kogan
- Drew Johnson
- Christopher Aaby
- Ryan Trujillo

GO TEAM!
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HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

As the Pikes Peak region continues to grow, competing demands are made on our natural environment, governmental services, community relations, educational systems, personal health, and quality of life. These conditions require a comprehensive plan by which our local governments, institutions, businesses, and individuals can collaborate to develop solutions to regional sustainability challenges.

In March 2012, a broad base of volunteers, professionals, and community leaders advanced a strategic plan for achieving sustainability in Teller and El Paso counties by 2030: “Looking to Our Future: Pikes Peak Region 2030” (PPR 2030). The PPR 2030 plan was initially administered by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments under the name of Pikes Peak Regional Sustainability Project, currently, the Peak Alliance for a Sustainable Future (Peak Alliance). The mission of Peak Alliance is to promote regional sustainability and to advance the PPR 2030 plan through collaboration and outreach. This current report furthers those objectives by examining and celebrating the progress the Pikes Peak region has made thus far towards the long-term goals of the PPR 2030. The Peak Alliance has adopted the following strategies in order to help reach those goals:

■ Grow awareness of sustainability & the PPR 2030
■ Teach the value & fundamentals of sustainability
■ Inspire action to achieve goals
■ Cooperate with other agencies & organizations
■ Communicate to tell our stories, celebrate successes & share lessons learned
■ Collaborate to bring partners & resources together to put sustainability into practice
■ Motivate & guide leaders, employees & citizens
■ Demonstrate new & innovative technologies & processes
■ Promote actions leading to a resilient, sustainable community, environment & economy

Peak Alliance defines sustainability as “acting in a manner that improves our quality of life by balancing economic vitality, a healthy vibrant community, and mindful stewardship of natural resources and the environment for current and future generations.” Such an approach provides a framework and a path by which we can account for current actions as we work to ensure a positive future.

Peak Alliance will continue to work with community partners to celebrate sustainability successes in the Pikes Peak region and broadcast those efforts through outreach programs, periodic reports, and other innovative means. Please consider joining Peak Alliance at their monthly Sustainability in Progress (SIP) events on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Ivywild School from 7:30-9 AM. These engaging events combine informative presentations with lively discussions and networking.

GOING FORWARD

Under the leadership of Mayor John Suthers, Colorado Springs once again has an Office of Sustainability, the mission of which is to “be a leader in sustainability by improving the environmental, economic, and social health of our community”—building awareness and accountability through community engagement, partnerships, and education. This renewed focus greatly improves the opportunity to make meaningful progress in sustainability programs, policies, and initiatives throughout the region.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to highlight and celebrate the region’s many sustainability success stories since the release of the PPR 2030 plan in 2012. The list of entities providing sustainability leadership in our region is extensive, with participation by policy makers, businesses, schools, churches, non-profits, local military institutions, and individuals. The Pikes Peak region can take pride in both the strategic planning and accomplishments that contribute to greater sustainability and resiliency.

The following pages highlight examples of successful efforts to promote sustainability in the region for each of the 10 focus areas included in the PPR 2030 plan: Agriculture, Arts & Culture, Built & Natural Environment, Economics, Education, Energy, Health, Materials Management & Procurement, Transportation, and Water Quantity. This report is not intended to be a quantitative assessment of the metrics included in the PPR plan, and we recognize that there is much more to be done. However, through a focus on specific successful initiatives, we wish to raise awareness, recognize leadership, encourage increased collaboration, and support sustainability as an effective framework to increase our collective quality of life in the region.

There are many more achievements in each of these areas than could be included in this report, so we want to acknowledge all those entities that we were unable to include this time for their commendable sustainability leadership in the community. In addition, Peak Alliance wishes to thank those organizations that responded to our Sustainability Survey prior to the release of this report.

Submit your success stories by taking our survey at peakalliance.co.

We would like to thank the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, our fiscal sponsor, for the program support and financial services they have provided and for the support they have given to improve the quality of life in the Pikes Peak region. Thanks to our generous community partners whose contributions made this report and other activities of Peak Alliance possible.

Donations to support our outreach efforts can be made at peakalliance.co > Get Involved.

*The Appendix to this report, available only in the online version, provides a list of organizations involved in regional sustainability efforts. To join, support, or learn more about an organization, please visit peakalliance.co. You’ll also find more information about Peak Alliance and the PPR2030 plan.*
AGRICULTURE
**BASIC GOALS**

By 2030, regional farmers and producers have the opportunity to make their livelihoods in agriculture, while providing safe, quality food to the region’s consumers, protecting agricultural lands to the maximum extent possible, and contributing to the health and stability of their communities.

- **Adopt alternative means to preserve and conserve agricultural water**, especially allowing for increased irrigation efficiency and temporary water transfers from agricultural to urban uses.

- **Preserve high-value, food-producing land** wherever it is.

- **Help farmers and ranchers stay on the land** by supporting their efforts to sustainably produce good, healthy food and market it by increasing numbers of farmers’ markets, introducing it to local school lunch programs, and connecting with local restaurants, among other options.

- **Make certain that the region’s residents have access to healthy, affordable, local food**, have the opportunity to grow it themselves through community and backyard gardens, and are supplied with specific educational programs on nutrition and healthy food choices.

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**SEEDS COMMUNITY CAFÉ**

Seeds Community Café has made its way into the hearts of Colorado Springs residents with a mission to solve hunger insecurity while transforming lives and building and celebrating community. This unique, homey café is a non-profit and entirely donation based. With strong nutritional knowledge, Seeds not only feeds our hungry, but feeds our hungry well. Seeds also enriches our region by supporting local farmers and rescuing local foods that would otherwise go to waste. With their volunteer program, Seeds has a positive impact on the lives of many residents who are down on their luck.
Food Next Door was a concept developed by students and faculty to have a dedicated venue on campus to serve food from the UCCS farm and greenhouse and the local Arkansas Valley foodshed. Students meet early in the week to determine available food and then create recipes to highlight those items. Each interaction with customers provides an opportunity to increase food literacy as well as a delicious meal.

What can you do?

- Support local agriculture by visiting farmers’ markets and purchasing local food.
- Everywhere you water, grow food.
- Join a Community Supported Agriculture, CSA, in the winter to support farmers.
- Become an ambassador for the Green Cities Coalition Food Working Group.
- Provide input at an Arkansas Basin Roundtable of the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Agriculture Achievements

To reduce the amount of water needed for future generations of Coloradans and keep urban-adjacent agricultural lands in production, Colorado must support the growth of the next 5 million residents more strategically than the last 5 million.

Preserve and Conserve Agricultural Water:

- Colorado’s Water Plan, approved in 2015, sets a goal that agricultural economic productivity will match growing state, national, and global needs and that alternative transfers will be a priority.
- Palmer Land Trust’s 2012 Western Lower Arkansas Valley Conservation Plan envisions maintaining viable agricultural lands, water resources, and natural lands. The 25,000-acre BX Ranch in Pueblo County is a significant conservation accomplishment and in 2016, Palmer Land Trust partnered with cousins Bart and David Mendenhall to preserve nearly 400 acres of irrigated farmland consisting of four farms in Rocky Ford.

Preserve high-value, food-producing land:

- The Food Policy Advisory Board, established in 2015, advises City Council and El Paso County Commissioners on policies, programs, operations, and land use rights affecting local food issues. Goals include: build a resilient local food system from rural farms to urban agriculture; increase local food system infrastructure efficiencies, including recovery; promote food literacy; enhance economic development through local food; and make healthy food affordable and accessible.

Helping farmers and ranchers sell locally:

- Till, a farm-to-table restaurant and mercantile, providing locally-sourced ingredients and Colorado products, opened in 2016. Some food will come from as nearby as the new Till Farms near Black Forest. The Colorado Springs Public Market is focusing on the downtown area to provide locally-sourced produce and prepared food in the future.
- The LocalFood CS app, developed in 2015, details who is growing or producing local food, where to buy it, and which eateries source locally. The majority of growers on the app are within 67 miles of Colorado Springs.
- Eighteen Farmers Markets sell mostly local produce seasonally in the region from Monument to Fountain to Woodland Park. The Colorado Farm and Art Market sells exclusively local items twice a week in the summer and once a month in the winter.
- The Colorado College (CC) campus and their food provider, Bon Appetit, operate on principles of sustainability, sourcing seasonal and regional ingredients. In 2014, University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) shifted from a corporate food vendor to in-house Dining and Hospitality Services to provide healthier options, pursue sustainability, and support regional farmers. Twenty percent of UCCS food is now sourced locally.

Food Next Door at UCCS

Food Next Door was a concept developed by students and faculty to have a dedicated venue on campus to serve food from the UCCS farm and greenhouse and the local Arkansas Valley foodshed. Students meet early in the week to determine available food and then create recipes to highlight those items. Each interaction with customers provides an opportunity to increase food literacy as well as a delicious meal.
Healthy, affordable, local food options:

- **Venetucci Farm** supplies about 100,000 pounds of organic vegetables to the local community yearly through their Community Supported Agriculture, CSA, program and Colorado Farm and Art Markets. Yearly, over 20,000 people visit the farm for classes, camps, volunteer days, pumpkin patch, and special events. Larga Vista Farm, Ahava Farm, Frost Farm, and Heritage Bell Farms also provide local vegetables at the Colorado Farm and Art Market.

- **The Arkansas Valley Organic Growers** have initiated the **Excelsior Food Hub**, a cooperative of nine member farms who aggregate, distribute, and market a diverse selection of local food. Their products can be found at Whole Foods and eight sites in Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Black Forest, and Pueblo. Excelsior also offers a CSA with weekly delivery.

- Many educational and religious institutions grow and eat food from their green-houses and gardens, among them CC, UCCS, Galileo Charter School, Mountain Song, and Woodland Park Church.

- **Colorado Springs Food Rescue (CSFR)** recovers food every day from donor businesses in the Pikes Peak region and delivers it directly to low-income communities and humanitarian non-profits. Based on Feeding America’s dollar-per-pound measure, CSFR estimates it has offset over $697,000 from the budgets of local non-profit organizations and other CS communities.

- The **Local Food Working Group** of the Green Cities Coalition works to expand the availability, access, and adequacy of locally grown food through education, collaboration, and community organizing. They are currently developing an El Paso County Food Security Plan.

Home and community gardens:

- **Penrose Hospital** partnered with **Pikes Peak Urban Gardens** in 2016 to secure a greenhouse to grow local and organic food for the hospital.

- **Flying Pig Farm** in Manitou Springs was developed in 2014 to share bio-dynamic agricultural processes and products with the community.

- In 2014, responding to a growing interest in urban gardening and farming, **Colorado Springs City Council** changed the city’s pet ordinance to include miniature goats.

- **Sunrise Garden Project** is a two-year collaboration between the Justice & Peace Commission, the City of Colorado Springs, Seeds Community Café, Pikes Peak Permaculture, UCCS, and CC to use community gardening to increase access to healthy food, reduce homelessness, and eliminate the Food Desert in the Hillside neighborhood.

- **Prospect Farm at Arcadia Gardens**, a project of Pikes Peak Small Farms, aims to reduce food insecurity in poorer neighborhoods. Organizers received a $51,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support increased local food and farming education primarily for people living within a half mile of the urban farm.

Nutritional education:

- **The Flying Carrot**, a food literacy truck partnership between Pikes Peak Community Foundation and UCCS, provides nutrition education that leverages the food of local farmers at schools, events, and farmers’ markets.

- **Sustainability Wellness and Learning (SWELL)** was developed in 2015 at UCCS to increase awareness of the link between sustainability and health through a focus on local food. In 2015 in collaboration with AVOG and Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance, UCCS launched Grain School and its associated Ark Watershed Grain Project to increase the availability of local grain.

- **Local Food Shift Magazine** was launched in 2015 to raise awareness and connect the Front Range regarding local food systems.
BASIC GOALS

The vision of PPR 2030 is to develop, enliven, enhance, and promote arts, culture, and the creative industries in the Pikes Peak region to benefit residents, visitors, the cultural sector, and the business sector.

- The region offers a diverse and broad range of arts, cultural, and entertainment activities and events. These events contribute to the local economy.
- The region’s arts scene draws innovative companies and attracts young creatives.
- The Pikes Peak region will have fully implemented the 2010 Cultural Plan in order to increase economic vitality.

“*The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.*”

- Pablo Picasso

Arts and culture play an important role in the welfare of the community in the Pikes Peak region. Both from a quality of life perspective as well as from a direct business impact, it is important to understand the specific value we get from art and culture.

ARTS MONTH

A fantastic way for our region to celebrate and value the arts and culture of our community, Arts Month was kicked off as part of a national effort in October 2014. Orchestrated by the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak region (COPPeR), Arts Month encourages us to have at least one new cultural experience each month. Arts month is a great way to raise local awareness for our creative community while showcasing many local artists and events. In 2015, a themed approach to Arts Month was carried out with each week designated to a different genre.
ARTS & CULTURE ACHIEVEMENTS

Diverse and broad range of arts, cultural, and entertainment activities and events benefitting the local economy:

- The Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) connects residents and visitors to arts and culture in the region. As an umbrella organization, COPPeR hosts Arts Month, maintains an Art Gallery Guide, publishes a periodic Arts & Economic Prosperity Study, and manages PeakRadar.com, the community’s primary source for arts & culture information. COPPeR’s work in arts education, outreach, and advocacy has been vital in increasing participation and attendance throughout the community.

- UCCS Gallery of Contemporary Art (GOCA) has hosted BRILLIANT, a fundraiser and art party for the past two years. It has also held a variety of sustainability art exhibitions.

- The Colorado Springs Philharmonic performs approximately 40 concerts per year for thousands of residents and visitors, greatly contributing to the area’s culture and economy. In 2015, it distributed 1,100 free concert tickets to local school children.

- In 2013, Millibo Art Theatre relocated to the Ivywild Neighborhood and can now seat 109 people. In addition to the theater productions, members provide classes, summer camps, and school touring.

- According to COPPeR’s latest Arts & Economic Prosperity Study, “The non-profit arts industry in the Pikes Peak region generates $72 million in annual economic impact: $37.4 million in annual spending by non-profit arts groups and $34.5 million in spending by their audiences. These results send a strong signal that when we invest in the arts, we not only enhance our quality of life, we also invest in our region’s economic well-being. And the arts are strong in our community—with an economic impact significantly above the national median.”

- Victor Celebrates the Arts is an annual en plein air artists’ competition in historic Victor, CO. In its 17th year, the event draws national as well as local artists, and is open to professionals and nonprofessionals alike.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- Attend gallery exhibits, arts fairs, and art walks. Don’t forget to bring the kids.

- Purchase local art to beautify your home and support local artisans.

- Get involved with programs, classes, and workshops offered by the many arts organizations in the region.

- Check out peakradar.com for a comprehensive list of arts events, exhibits, theater, music, and more. There’s something for the whole family.

- Support local performers by attending live music, dance, theater, poetry, or comedy.

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“The earth without “art” is just “eh.”
The region’s arts scene draws innovative companies and attracts young creatives:

- The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, voted 2015 best cultural attraction/museum, houses several galleries with permanent and travelling exhibits, a performing arts theater, and the Bemis School of the Arts, offering classes for children and adults.

- COPPeR’s Art in Store-fronts has placed local art to enliven vacant storefronts downtown and leads the area’s Art Month initiative.

- Woodland Park Arts Alliance keeps art, music, and cultural events alive in Teller County and has recently completed a historical mural, located on the east wall of the Ute Pass Cultural Center.

- The Cottonwood Center for the Arts, through their classes, galleries, theater, and over 70 artists’ studios, promotes a legacy of beauty, passion, and community, drawing both creatives and their audiences.

- Colorado Springs Dance Theatre presents world-class dance talent, provides free and reduced rate tickets to underserved children, and awards over $2,000 per year in training scholarships to local dancers.

- For the past 10 years, Concrete Couch has brought together a diverse community of builders and volunteers, using recycled materials, in a skill and idea sharing collaboration to beautify our public spaces.

- The Colorado Youth Symphony and the Colorado Children’s Chorale provide professional direction to school-aged artists, combining the discipline of music with the enthusiasm of youth. The Youth Symphony performed at Carnegie Hall in New York in June 2016.

Implementation of the 2010 Cultural Plan:

- PPR 2030, through the leadership and vision of COPPeR, continues to develop and promote the integration of arts and culture into our social, economic, and political arenas. In addition to their 2010 Cultural Plan, COPPeR has recently completed a 5-year strategic plan to help guide their organizational efforts through 2020.

“The arts allow us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.”

- Thomas Merton
BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
Minimizing the impact that we have on our natural environment is critical to our quality of life. PPR 2030 focuses on complementing the built environment with the natural environment and enhancing people’s lives by promoting community, accessibility, and commerce.

BASIC GOALS

By 2030, the built and natural environments complement one another and reflect our commitment to enhance the lives of people by promoting community, culture, and commerce, and preserving and protecting the natural environment.

Built Environment

- New construction, development, and redevelopment of all types and scales are built to incorporate location efficiency, accessible and integrated transportation, diversity of housing, energy and resource efficient building techniques, neighborhood access to parks, trails, and open space, and provide a strong link between the built and natural environment.
- The region takes advantage of and maintains all existing infrastructure.
- The integration of housing, parks, commerce, transportation, and arts and culture creates a beautiful and functional public realm with great public spaces.

Natural Environment

- Regional ecological health, including ecosystems, habitats, and threatened, endangered, imperiled, and other species are protected, restored, and maintained.

Air Quality

- Indoor and outdoor environmental quality is healthy for all, with air pollutant levels below State and local health thresholds.

Water Quality

- Ground and surface water quality is better than designated water quality standards that are in place to protect classified uses (recreation, aquatic life, agriculture, water supply, and wetlands).

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”

- Native American Proverb
BUILT ENVIRONMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

New construction, development, and redevelopment:

- In 2014, the [Colorado National Guard North Colorado Springs Readiness Center](#) achieved [US Green Building Council (USGBC)](#) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum, the highest LEED rating.
- [Fort Carson](#) built over 80 LEED buildings since 2007, three of which received Platinum certification.
- [Colorado Springs Fire Station No. 21](#) became a platinum LEED building in June 2015.
- [The University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS)](#) constructed or renovated 12 buildings since 2007, all achieving LEED gold certification.
- [Colorado Springs Infill and Redevelopment Steering Committee](#), established in 2014, received City Council approval in 2016 for an infill supplement to the Comprehensive Plan intended to encourage development of vacant parcels, attract builders, and revive already developed areas of the city.

Use and maintenance of existing infrastructure:

- The [Manitou Incline](#) opened as a legal public hiking trail in 2013 after nearly 20 years of unmanaged trespass and use. The project partners continue with trail renovations and enhancements.
- The 2012 opening of the [Wyndham Mining Exchange Hotel](#) demonstrated adaptive reuse of an historically significant building in downtown Colorado Springs.
- In 2015, [Colorado College (CC)](#) trustees approved renovation and modernization of the Tutt Library on campus as a net-zero energy building—one strategy to achieve CC's commitment to 100% carbon neutrality by 2020.

Integration of housing, parks, commerce, arts and culture, and transportation:

- An [Urban Land Institute](#) 2012 report suggested that the development of additional living space in the Colorado Springs downtown core would create the potential to attract residents, business, and social opportunity, leading to economic development and revitalization. Community leaders forecast 500 housing units will be completed by 2018.
- [Blue Dot Place](#), a 33-unit apartment building, opened its doors in 2015 within walking distance of shops, restaurants, and public spaces in the New South End Neighborhood located in downtown Colorado Springs, the first new built apartments in the downtown core since 1960.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Gather ideas, methods, and examples for developing vibrant, enduring communities.
- Encourage complementary projects to fill vacant lots or revitalize your neighborhood.
- Speak in favor of mixed use projects that encourage transit, walking, and bicycling.
- Join an advisory committee or advocacy group to influence policies and practices for more sustainable development.
- Help acquire, protect, and maintain trails, parks, and open spaces.
- Advocate to create, modernize, repair, and maintain public buildings, transportation systems, waterways, and cultural amenities in consideration of nearby communities and future residents.

UTE VALLEY GATEWAY OPEN SPACE

Through a partnership with conservation groups, public supporters, funders, and the City of Colorado Springs, Palmer Land Trust secured a 110-acre conservation easement in 2015 on property adjacent to the Ute Valley Gateway Open Space, guaranteeing that it will remain undeveloped and open to the public forever. The conservation project increased the park by 200 acres.
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Protect habitats — wetlands or marshes, river systems, grasslands, and forests.
- Encourage land development practices that avoid sensitive natural areas, such as floodplains, conserve native vegetation, and minimize impacts to soil, air, ground, and surface water.
- Support compatible infill, redevelopment, and mixed use projects over projects on undeveloped land.
- Plant native milkweed and other plants with nectar to attract butterflies and other pollinators.
- Volunteer with a conservation, environmental, or habitat restoration group.
- Leave No Trace™ — be prepared, stay on the trail, pack out waste, control your pet, leave what you find, be careful with fire, and respect others.

IVYWILD REDEVELOPMENT

Ivywild, at 1604 S. Cascade Ave., functioned as an elementary school for nearly a century until it closed in 2009. As an urban renewal redevelopment, Ivywild reopened in 2013 with a brewery, bakery, coffee bar, and similar shops. The project continues to redevelop and reinvigorate the neighborhood.

GREENBACK CUTTHROAT TROUT

Near Colorado Springs, Bear Creek holds the only remaining pure population of greenback cutthroat trout, Colorado’s state fish. As this is the highest priority site for conservation of the greenback, project partners have been working to better manage activities within the watershed and minimize impacts to the fish and its habitat. Environmental documentation completed in July 2015 paves the way for the partners to implement restoration, maintenance, reconstruction, and improvement projects.

Regional ecological health, including ecosystems, habitats, and threatened, endangered, imperiled, and other species are protected, restored, and maintained:

- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Tatanka Group, and other members of the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Implementation Team successfully reintroduced one of the most endangered mammals in North America on private land (2012-2014).
- In 2015, the El Paso County Fountain Creek Nature Center Magic Monarch program presented information about decreasing monarch populations and what actions can help. Participants also found larvae, and caught, tagged, and released monarchs for research.
- Since 2012, Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP), and other partners have worked to restore degraded areas in the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest burn areas by revegetating bare slopes and minimizing the impacts from flooding and debris flows.

Bear Creek Greenback Cutthroat Trout
AIR QUALITY ACHIEVEMENTS

Indoor and outdoor air quality is healthy for all:

- **El Paso County Public Health** continues to raise awareness and educate individuals about the potential hazards of indoor pollutants such as radon, mold, and asbestos. The county also maintains directories of testing and mitigation resources. They proclaimed January as Radon Action Month and gave away 1,000 free radon testing kits in 2015.

- **Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU)** plans to shut down Unit 5 at the Drake coal-fired power plant near downtown by December 31, 2017. The entire plant will be decommissioned by 2035. CSU also strives to acquire power generated from renewable sources, such as wind and solar, which would reduce pollutants.

- **The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** lowered the standard for ground-level ozone in the air in 2015. Air quality in the region is monitored year-round at two monitoring stations. The Pikes Peak region recorded the lowest ozone concentrations of the past decade in 2014 and 2015, and it remains in compliance in 2016. The Pikes Peak region is expected to remain in compliance with the standard.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Conserve energy and water to reduce power plant emissions.
- Support and purchase energy from renewable sources like solar and wind.
- Install solar water heating and power generating systems.
- Drive less, avoid idling your vehicle unnecessarily, and choose a fuel efficient or alternative fuel model.
- Check your home for radon and other indoor pollutants.
- Participate in energy-related planning sessions such as the Integrated Electric Resource Plan.
- Advocate for transportation alternatives such as transit, walking, and bicycling that provide alternative options to automobile travel.

GREAT MARCH FOR CLIMATE ACTION

The Great March for Climate Action rallied in Colorado Springs in Jun 2014 with the support of the Southeastern Colorado Renewable Energy Society, Sierra Club, and 350.org. UCCS, Manitou Springs, and Colorado College implemented energy retrofits, operational efficiency improvements, and transportation-related emission reductions in accordance with Climate Action plans and carbon neutrality goals.

BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
CREEK WEEK
Creek Week, led by the Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District, brings together service groups, businesses, non-profits, schools, churches, and government for the common goal of improving our water quality and our region. In 2015, 1,550 citizens came together to gather 18,880 lbs. (9.4 tons) of trash from the watershed. The annual fall event raises awareness of the Fountain Creek watershed, our water supply, and encourages citizens to collect litter and make the watershed and its surrounding communities cleaner, safer, and more beautiful.

WATER QUALITY ACHIEVEMENTS

Ground and surface water quality:

- The Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District led a collaborative master planning process in 2014/2015 to address restoration and mitigation in the Upper Fountain/Cheyenne Creek watersheds affected by the Waldo Canyon fire in 2012. The master plan identifies projects to reduce erosion, sedimentation, and flooding.

- The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) convened with the Arkansas and Fountain Coalition for Urban River Evaluation (AF CURE) in 2012 to help the 11 wastewater-discharging entities in El Paso and Pueblo counties develop a collaborative water-quality monitoring plan. The group collects, analyzes, and shares data from water samples throughout the region and outlines water quality concerns.

- Peterson Air Force Base continued to model onsite stormwater controls and low impact development (LID) projects by striving to match the rate and volume of runoff more closely to that of undeveloped land. Permeable pavers, vegetated swales, and other LID techniques allow rainwater to spread out, slow down, and soak in the ground, lessening the impact on local water bodies.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Minimize use of inorganic pesticides and fertilizers for lawns and gardens.
- Select organic methods to improve soil, such as composted manure.
- Pick up litter wherever you see it, including your neighborhood.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Drop off used oil and hazardous materials at authorized locations.
- Create your own rain garden and urge onsite stormwater and low impact development in your community.
- Use native or xeriscape grasses and plants to control soil erosion.
- Participate in organized activities to help clean up and protect our watersheds.
Regions with implemented sustainability plans create more robust economic sectors. This helps to attract new companies to the area and increases retention of younger demographics who seek to live in sustainable communities. PPR2030 prioritizes Economic Development as a focus area of regional sustainability because a Triple Bottom Line approach increases social impact and economic growth while reducing environmental damage.

BASIC GOALS

By 2030, the region will have a strong and diverse economy that supports and benefits from sustainability.

- Grow the wealth of all demographic groups of the Pikes Peak region to sustain households and quality of life by increasing jobs, expanding the economic base, and increasing business profitability.

- Diversify the economy into multiple sectors to provide structural integrity, resilience, and innovation.

- Ensure the region has a strong, localized economy that reinvests in the region.

“There are many reasons to be excited about the business environment of Colorado Springs. A growing economy, low unemployment, and many new opportunities resulting from investment in cybersecurity to new businesses in the Downtown area. The Better Business Bureau and Small Business Development Center have launched the Colorado Coalition for Social Impact which will create and drive more growth in the fourth sector. Colorado Springs is beginning a new era and we are excited to be a part of it!”

- Jonathan Liebert, CEO, Better Business Bureau of Southern Colorado

QUALTEK MANUFACTURING

Qualtek Manufacturing is a family-owned and operated company that provides metal part manufacturing services to product developers. Demonstrating a comprehensive commitment to environmental stewardship, Qualtek has been designated a “Water Champion” by Colorado Springs Utilities, achieved “Gold” in the Colorado Environmental Leadership Program, and is actively pursuing its ISO 14001 environmental certification.

In addition to efficiency improvements and certifications, Qualtek actively invests in energy infrastructure projects such as solar and wind. Qualtek also plays an important role as a community leader in the effort to retain skilled workers in the area and advance sustainability in manufacturing through involvement with the Colorado Advanced Manufacturing Alliance and the Manufactures Edge. In addition to having 70 full-time employees, Qualtek was instrumental in the establishment of a leading social enterprise, Blue Star Recyclers. Blue Star Recyclers has created 38 meaningful jobs for people with disabilities in 4 communities while recycling nearly 7 million pounds of electronics.
ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Increase jobs, expand the economic base, and increase business profitability:

- The Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance plays a central role in economic development in the Pikes Peak Region. In addition to helping current and future local businesses grow and prosper, the RBA advocates in state and local politics and works with the Colorado Springs City Council to ensure a business friendly environment.

- The Pikes Peak Workforce Center promotes economic vitality by connecting area businesses with work-ready job seekers. The PPWFC offers a variety of skill building workshops, computer lab resources, resume building, aptitude assessments, career training assistance, and job search support all at no cost to the client.

- The Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center seeks to help businesses maximize their economic potential in the Pikes Peak region. This is facilitated through one-on-one mentoring, specialized workshops and through community events like Small Business Week.

- The Better Business Bureau of Southern Colorado helps consumers identify businesses which have proven their commitment to high ethics and quality standards through their accredited business program. Additionally, the BBB of Southern Colorado is spearheading an effort to help businesses measure their Social Return on Investment and plans to introduce an Accredited Social Impact program throughout the BBB internationally.

- Colorado Springs is accelerating efforts to establish itself as a national cybersecurity hub and expand the reach of local companies in the industry. Governor John Hickenlooper announced the plan to repurpose a former manufacturing plant near the University of Colorado Colorado Springs into the National Cybersecurity Intelligence Center and has secured $8 million of funding from the State Legislature with the remaining $7-12 million being raised from the industry and foundations. The project will directly employ around 100 people and could generate thousands of new jobs from other businesses that want to locate near the Center and the established military presence in Colorado Springs.

- Colorado Coalition for Social Impact was founded in June of 2016 and seeks to support businesses and entrepreneurs that are interested in generating social impact. The initial town hall meeting, facilitated by the Better Business Bureau and the Small Business Development Center, showed a tremendous interest in making Social Impact a cornerstone of the Pikes Peak region’s economy and a national hub for the movement.

- The Catalyst Campus for Technology and Innovation opened in 2016 and seeks to be a growth hub for technology companies at every stage. The ability to rapidly prototype, connect with regional talent, and commercialize products makes state of the art resources available to entrepreneurs with limited budgets.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Support locally owned businesses and attractions.

- Attend 1 Million Cups at 9 am Wednesday Mornings to network with local entrepreneurs.

- Join a membership organization like the Better Business Bureau, Regional Business Alliance, or the Downtown Partnership.

- Attend Peak Startup’s “Pitch Night” on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

- Join a co-working space like Epicentral, Catalyst Campus, or the Machine Shop.

- Volunteer as a Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) mentor to help entrepreneurs find success.

- Subscribe to the Colorado Springs Business Journal and Gazette to stay up-to-date on the business environment.

- Support policies and candidates that encourage American manufacturing.
Diversify the economy into multiple sectors:

- The recently formed **Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance**, led by a partnership between the Regional Business Alliance and the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau, seeks to promote local recreation-related businesses and activities, both to our local community and as a key determining factor nationally for where people and businesses wish to relocate.

- Following the approval of a “Commercial Aeronautical Zone” around the Colorado Springs Airport in 2014, over $100 million in commercial aviation sector construction projects have been completed, have begun, or are planned for the near future.

A strong localized economy that reinvests in the region:

- **Measure 2C**, the 5-year road improvement tax approved by voters in Nov. 2015, provides approximately $50 million per year in revenue and awards street paving contracts largely to local companies.

- Four unique and exciting venues are coming to Colorado Springs: A **United States Olympic Museum** and a **Sports and Events Center** to be located downtown, a **Sports Medicine and Performance Center** to the UCCS campus, and a **Gateway Visitor Center** to the Air Force Academy; creating new jobs, growing the local economy, and making the region an even greater national tourist and academic destination.

Makers Making it Happen:

- In a little over a year, the **Pikes Peak Makerspace** has become self-sustaining, boasting over 70 members and having launched 3 new companies and 5 new products. By offering accessibility to advanced manufacturing equipment as well as training on how to use the machinery, it is the place to go for rapid prototyping and product development. From changing people’s lives to having fun, the Pikes Peak Makerspace has engaged the community in a big way. They built a 3D printed hand for a 13-year-old girl who was born without a right hand and also set the world record for the highest terrestrial 3D printed object by printing a replica of Pikes Peak while at the summit.

- The Pikes Peak Library District’s newest facility, **Library 21C**, was built for the needs of 21st Century patrons. With a Business and Entrepreneurial Center, a Makerspace, and a Center for Public Media, patrons can do anything from 3D printing to film a commercial for their company. Advanced software packages are available as well as free training to use the equipment. With accessible space for business meetings and presentations, the 21C Library has established itself as a valuable resource for entrepreneurs.

Colorado Springs is Trending up!

- Ranked #5 Best City to live in - US News and World Report
- Downtown Colorado Springs ranked #9 in the top 10 Best Downtowns of 2016 - Livability.com.
- A+ Ranking for small business friendliness - Thumbtack.com
- Colorado Springs named Great American Defense Community by the National Association of Defense Communities
- Designated an Aerospace City of the Future by fDi Intelligence Magazine
- #2 Best large city for veterans to live - Military Times
- #1 most innovative Liberal Arts College (Colorado College) - US News and World Report

Key Industries

- Aerospace/Aviation
- Sports and Wellness
- Cybersecurity and IT
- Social Enterprise
- Defense
Access to quality, life-long education is a keystone component to the growth of wealth, increased public engagement in the arts, accessibility to health care, and overall improved well-being.

**BASIC GOALS**

By 2030, comprehensive, affordable, life-long educational opportunities are available to all.

- All students have access to a 21st-Century K-12 education that prepares them for the future.
- Affordable, high quality, early-childhood care and education are available to all residents of the region to ensure school readiness.
- Regional higher education and professional and technical skills training are increasingly available and accessible to residents of the region.

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

**PIKES PEAK ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

The Pikes Peak Environmental Forum (PPEF) started as a community service for legal and engineering professionals to learn more about environmental issues affecting their businesses. It was set up and hosted by the law firm of Merrill, Anderson, King and Harris. The PPEF attracts everyone from professionals who want to understand more about a subject, to lay persons who just want to know how they can get involved. There is time for networking, allowing members of the community to create connections and further strengthen our ability to create change and share information. Through the years, this series has garnered consistent community support. The group has no board of directors and often members of the community help to find speakers.

The PPEF meets on the fourth Friday of the month from noon-2pm at the Margarita at Pine Creek, January through April, September, and October.
EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS

Access to 21st-Century K-12 education for all:

- Proprius Learning Center has created alternative pathways for high school-aged students who have been unsuccessful in traditional schools. These students create success in reaching their personally identified goals for a career and/or higher education through self-paced learning.

Affordable, high-quality, early childhood care and education:

- Head Start is Community Partnership for Child Development’s (CPCD) largest and best known program and serves 1,031 local children. Through this program, CPCD provides educational, physical, and behavioral health and nutritional service for children 3 to 5 years old. Families of the children also receive education and support. Free preschool is provided by CPCD in every school district in the Pikes Peak region, with a total of 663 children ages 3 to 4 years served.

CATAMOUNT INSTITUTE

Catamount Institute is a Colorado based 501(c)(3) with a mission to develop ecological stewards through education and adventure. They offer camping programs during the school day, after school, and during summer and winter using environmental education, science, technology, and engineering E-STEM approaches. Partnering with schools and communities, they harness the power of the environment to inspire and equip the next generation of citizens and professionals to solve real world problems. Their programs reinforce what students are learning in the classroom, giving them a real world application for their knowledge. Public school, homeschool, community agency programs, and private school students aged 6 to 18 explore topics as varied as ecosystems, water quality and conservation, and renewable and nonrenewable resources among others. Students are taught using hands-on, Colorado State Standards aligned curriculum. Students aged 6 to 18 explore topics as varied as ecosystems, water quality and conservation, and renewable and nonrenewable resources among others.
SUSTAINABILITY IN PROGRESS

Peak Alliance for a Sustainable Future was born out of the creation of the 2012 Regional Sustainability Plan. Peak Alliance’s mission is to promote regional sustainability and advance the PPR2030 through regional collaboration and outreach. One of the main outreach programs is the monthly Sustainability in Progress event held at the IvyWild School in Colorado Springs. The Sustainability in Progress or SIP as they have become known, feature speakers on the many different aspects of the sustainability plan. The events take place the third Wednesday of each month. These morning meetings are an opportunity for community members, business leaders, and others to come together and learn about various aspects of sustainability in our community.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Get involved or volunteer with your education system or local school. Functions such as a parent-teacher organization, accountability committee, teacher’s aide, tutor, coaching assistant, and school board play a vital role.
- Attend an educational event such as the Sustainability in Progress meetings or the Pikes Peak Environmental Forum Lunch.
- Attend a school board meeting for your local school district.
- Hug a teacher.

Higher education and professional and technical skills training:

- Since 2014, all incoming Colorado College (CC) first-year students participate in a Sense of Place program during New Student Orientation to encourage students to participate in the community.

- Solar Ready Vets is a program that is offered in partnership with the Department of Energy’s SunShot Initiative that provides 5 weeks of rigorous training to prepare transitioning soldiers for employment in the solar industry upon discharge. Participants learn how to design, install, or troubleshoot Photovoltaic (PV) Systems. At the end of the course, participants take the Entry Level Certification Exam. There have been 3 classes, 67 TSMs/Veterans to date; all graduates passed the certification exam and engaged in interviews with leading employers in the industry. Fort Carson was the first Army location. The program is in process to move under the Pike’s Peak Community College umbrella for sustainability purposes.

- UCCS provides college access to lower income students throughout Southern Colorado, with over 30 percent of students at UCCS being Pell Grant-eligible and almost 30 percent first generation. The UCCS Center for STEM Education (CSTEME) and PIPES, the UCCS Partnership in Innovative Preparation for Educators and Students program, seek to respond to the looming shortage of skilled science, technology, engineering and math workers and the lagging performance of students in science and math through innovative and supportive partnerships with parents, educators and professionals.

- Colorado Springs is home to 4 of 77 Academic Centers of Excellence certified by the National Security Agency: UCCS, the Air Force Academy, Regis University, and Colorado Technical University.

EDUCATION

25
Energy, its use, and production must be sustainable to maintain our vibrant urban and rural communities, and it must not affect our health and well-being or our incredible surroundings.

Sustainable Energy—that which is produced from renewable sources that do not deplete or degrade our natural resources (air, water, land).

**BASIC GOALS**

By 2030, the region has made considerable progress toward 100% sustainable energy usage.

- **Renewable Energy** - 50% of energy consumed in the region is renewable and/or sustainable, maximizing the amount of renewable energy produced in the region from a 2010 baseline.

- **Energy Efficiency** - Energy use in the region is reduced by 20% from a 2010 baseline (despite growth in population or commercial expansion).

“In reality, studies show that investments to spur renewable energy and boost energy efficiency generate far more jobs than oil and coal.”

- Jeff Goodell

**ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER**

Since 2012, the Energy Resource Center has served over 3,000 homes—saving an average of 20% in energy usage while improving comfort and investing in the community, the environment, and the economy. ERC’s experienced energy auditors and technicians diagnose needs in homes and apartments and perform upgrades, often at no cost to the consumer. Their services also improve safety by addressing the dangers of carbon monoxide.
ENERGY ACHIEVEMENTS

Renewable and/or sustainable energy produced and consumed:

- In 2011, the U.S. Air Force Academy built a 5.2 megawatt solar array to offset its energy usage by up to 11%, saving the Academy and U.S. taxpayers approximately $500,000 annually.

- Poor Richard’s Restaurant and retail outlets receive up to 50% of their electricity from a rooftop solar array.

- Colorado College has added 400 kilowatts of solar to their campus buildings. With this onsite electric generation, in addition to efficiency and conservation measures, CC’s total energy use has decreased 19% in the past 4 years, despite an increase in buildings and enrollment.

- Mountain Metro Transit installed solar panels on 29 bus stop shelters.

- In October 2015, Black Hills Energy (BHE), which serves electric customers in Southern Teller County, received approval from the Public Utilities Commission for a 60 megawatt wind farm. The new project, called Peak View Wind, will complement BHE’s existing 29 megawatt Busch Ranch wind farm and will help them to meet their state-mandated renewable energy requirement of 20% by 2020. The new wind farm is expected to be completed by November 2016.

- In 2014, Manitou Springs signed a contract with a community solar garden to provide up to 100% of the electric needs for its facilities, reducing emissions and locking in energy costs at current rates.

I’d put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power!
- Thomas Alva Edison

CSU

Colorado Springs Utilities has partnered with SunShare and the Clean Energy Collective to create 5 Community Solar Gardens, that produce about 7.3 million kilowatt hours per year, from which an electricity consumer, who is either unable or unwilling to install solar on a home or business, can subscribe to purchase green energy off the grid. The first garden, built in 2011, was the first in the country.

CSU is mandated by the state of Colorado to have 10% of its energy portfolio be renewable by 2020. The utility has created an even more ambitious goal of achieving 20% by that time in their Energy Vision. A new installation at Ft Carson and a 10 MW array at CSU’s Clear Spring Ranch (under construction), along with the 2017 retirement of the Martin Drake Power Plant #5 coal-fired turbine will further help them reduce greenhouse emissions and achieve their renewable energy goals.

FORT CARSON

Balfour Beatty Communities, the Fort Carson housing partner, added 3 megawatts of rooftop solar on post, enough electricity to power 615 homes. Along with their 5 megawatts in 2 large solar arrays, the new rooftop arrays will add 2.5% to the 8-10% of energy on post that is already provided by renewables. With the recent extension of the federal solar tax credit, Fort Carson is hoping to add another 5-7 megawatts of solar, further helping them achieve their goal of net zero energy by 2020.
Reduced energy use through efficiency and conservation:

- Black Hills Energy, with its Small Business EE programs, has helped businesses, churches, and government buildings improve weatherization in Woodland Park. Their lighting incentives in southern Teller County have also retrofitted several casinos, the Cripple Creek-Victor School District, small businesses, and the cities of Victor and Cripple Creek with CFL and LED lights, saving over $500K in electricity every year.

- The Southeastern Colorado Renewable Energy Society (SECRES) promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy through informative and educational seminars, consultation, and advocacy. Their 2015 Energy Efficiency series provided free, expert instruction for residents and businesses to improve their building’s energy profiles and costs.

- Colorado Springs Utilities’ Demand Side Management programs improve customers’ efficiency, reduce costs, lower overall usage, and conserve finite resources. As the state’s second largest electricity provider, CSU is one of only a few municipal utilities to provide rebates and incentives to businesses and homeowners.

- Colorado Natural Gas, through their Excess is Out program, has helped businesses, churches, and government buildings in Woodland Park achieve significant energy savings.

- The new Tutt Library at Colorado College, to be completed in 2016, will be a net zero carbon and net zero energy building.

- The Energy Resource Center continues to offer free energy audits and weatherization services to income-qualified Pikes Peak area residents.

UCCS

Since 2007, UCCS has constructed over 12 high efficiency buildings that have achieved over 30% reduced energy use and achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold level certification. Features including natural and LED lighting, direct/indirect evaporative cooling and high insulation values, along with conservations practices by students, staff, and faculty, have greatly reduced building energy use. Installations of solar PV and investment in Renewable Energy Credits further reduce energy footprints and greenhouse gas emissions, helping UCCS to be a leader in the Colorado new energy economy.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Conserve! Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.

- Implement energy efficiency measures in your own home. Adding insulation and weather sealing are among the most cost effective approaches.

- Knowledge is power! Have an energy audit performed on your home to define your greatest potential energy savings.

- Install a programmable thermostat.

- Purchase Energy Star rated appliances to save energy and money long term.

- Consider installing solar on your own home or purchasing renewable energy credits through your utility.

- Encourage businesses that support or use clean energy.

- Participate in local clean energy promotion with your utility and elected officials.
The successful implementation of the health goals and strategies is imperative to the success of PPR 2030. There is no question that without sustaining healthy and thriving individuals, there can be no sustainable and thriving region.

**BASIC GOALS**

By 2030, the region’s population is healthy, long-lived, and has a good quality of life.

- By 2030, the Pikes Peak region ranks in the top 10 for the United States for individual and population health and well-being.

- By 2030, health and wellness care is accessible and affordable for every resident.

“Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.”

- Benjamin Franklin

**HOLISTIC NETWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

Holistic Networkers Association was formed in 1995 in Colorado Springs. Its goal is to promote the holistic and spiritual link between our businesses and the Colorado Springs community by providing support for holistic-minded individuals, education to the community regarding the holistic approach to life, and a social environment for connecting with like-minded people.
HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS

Individual and population health and well-being:

- The Community Health Partnership has worked with Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO) to develop and test the first bidirectional exchange of ambulatory practice information in the Pikes Peak region. The goal is to help health care providers streamline care, cut costs, and reduce duplicated services, such as X-rays or lab tests.

- Many Colorado Springs employers, including the Pikes Peak YMCA, School District 11, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, US Bank, Colorado Springs Utilities, Penrose-St. Francis, and the City of Colorado Springs have implemented corporate wellness programs to keep employees healthy and productive.

- Colorado Springs is home to two of the top five hospitals in the State of Colorado. *US News and World Report* lists Penrose-St. Francis Health Services #3 and Memorial Hospital #4 in the State.

- In 2015, Colorado Springs ranked 23rd for Overall Well-Being by Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index of 190 communities across the United States. The ranking is measured by Americans’ perceptions of their lives and their daily experiences through five interrelated elements that make up well-being: sense of purpose, social relationships, financial security, relationship to community, and physical health.

HEALTHY EATING AND ACTIVE LIVING (HEAL)

The HEAL Cities & Towns Campaign of Colorado is designed to foster local government policies that improve access to healthy eating and active living in communities throughout Colorado. The City of Colorado Springs started the campaign in December 2014 at the “Active” level, which is designated for those cities or towns that have at least one healthy eating and active living policy on their books before joining the campaign. Now, by adopting one new policy in each of the campaign’s policy areas—Healthy Food Access, Healthy Workplace, and Active Community—Colorado Springs has moved up to the “Fit” level.

Colorado Springs has adopted the following policies to meet the criteria for the Campaign’s “Fit” level:

**Healthy Food Access:** A food policy advisory board was created that promotes easier community access to healthy food options and provides citizens with additional healthy food choices in their everyday lives.

**Healthy Work Place:** The City Government Building in downtown Colorado Springs introduced Sit-Stand Desks. These desks allow employees to stretch and stand while they do their daily office work, increasing health, comfort, and productivity. The policy for the Sit-Stand Desks was adopted and accepted according to the HEAL resolution.

**Active Community:** In the summer of 2015, road dieting was conducted on a few major roads in Colorado Springs. Road dieting is the process of converting one or two lanes of traffic on underutilized road ways into bicycle lanes. This helps make streets safer and more convenient to pedestrians and cyclists for commuting around Colorado Springs. Road dieting is one small step toward making Colorado Springs friendlier to cyclists and pedestrians.

These three small improvements are meant to increase the quality of life and health in Colorado Springs. Completing these projects will provide opportunity for more Healthy Eating and Active Living endeavors in Colorado Springs. HEAL rewards a city for making small steps in a healthier and more active direction.
Accessible and affordable health and wellness:

- In 2015, 152,470 Coloradans from every county in the state signed up for coverage through the Connect for Health Colorado Marketplace, and 472 small businesses provided coverage to 2,598 employees. Connect for Health Colorado helped return $180,096,040 to Coloradans through Advance Premium Tax Credits.

- Each year Peak Vista provides approximately $8,068,293 in Charity Care provided for medical, dental, behavioral, and health education services to people in need. This equates to 82,550 patients, through 26 outpatient centers, in Colorado’s Pikes Peak and East Central regions.

- Holistic Networkers Association worked to pass legislation in Denver that allows consumers to choose their health options. The Health Freedom Bill passed. They are supporting the naturopathic doctors in their quest to be licensed.

- Community Health Partnership has helped 40 regional practices coordinate care for over 150,000 Medicaid clients.

- The first cohort of 22 medical students from the University of Colorado School of Medicine have started clinical studies in Colorado Springs. Peak Vista has introduced a Family Medicine Residency program. This post-graduate clinical training of resident doctors will improve patient access and decrease workforce shortage.
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT
How we use materials here in the Pikes Peak region is fundamental to many aspects of our economic and environmental future.

BASIC GOALS

By 2030, the region has made significant progress toward a zero-waste future.

- There is a 70% reduction in solid waste sent to landfills.

- Household hazardous waste is minimized, managed, and properly disposed of, as reflected in a substantial increase in drops to regional hazardous household waste facilities.

- Individual, business, and government purchasing is guided by the tenets of reduce, reuse, recycle. All businesses and public institutions have developed and are choosing to follow sustainable procurement guidelines.

“Here’s where redesign begins in earnest, where we stop trying to be less bad and we start figuring out how to be good.”

- William McDonough, Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things

BLUE STAR RECYCLERS

Blue Star Recyclers is an award winning 501(c)(3) social enterprise with a mission to use the ethical recycling of electronics to create jobs for individuals with autism and other disabilities. Founded in Colorado Springs in November 2009, Blue Star Recyclers opened a second facility in Denver in February 2015. Blue Star Recyclers provides residential and commercial customers a safe and ethical avenue to recycle electronics, bulbs, and batteries. Blue Star Recyclers currently employs twenty-six individuals with disabilities and has recycled over 10 million pounds of electronic waste to date.
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Reduction in solid waste sent to landfills:

- **A-1 Organics** and **Waste Management** started the only commercial organic waste (compost) processing facility in Colorado Springs, now owned and managed by Waste Management. Bestway Disposal and Waste Management offer commercial compost collection. In addition, Bestway Disposal opened a materials recovery facility in Colorado Springs, which allows recyclable material to be processed in Southern Colorado rather than transported to Denver.

- **Colorado Springs Food Rescue**, a non-profit organization, began collecting and delivering otherwise wasted food to needy recipients. The organization has rescued over 200,000 pounds of otherwise wasted food to recipients since 2013.

- **El Paso County** began collecting single-stream recycling at its Household Hazardous Waste Facility, which allows El Paso and Teller County residents to participate in recycling even if their waste hauler does not offer recycling services.

- **Who Gives a Scrap**, which diverts used materials from the landfill for creative and innovative uses, opened its first location in July 2015. The company has diverted over 15,000 pounds of material from the landfill since its opening and recently opened a second location.

- **Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine** recycles 600,000 lbs. of tires used for tire-derived fuel, crumb and mats for athletics, and blades for graders.

- **University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Colorado College, and Fort Carson** all divert more than 40% of solid waste, significantly higher than the state and national levels.

- **Colorado Springs Utilities** has recycled 373 tons of porcelain, mainly from toilets, for use as construction material.

- Since 2006, **Wine Punts** has been turning used wine bottles into unique carafes, canisters, and drinking glasses.

Household hazardous waste is minimized, managed, and properly disposed of:

- In addition to operating the **Household Hazardous Waste Facility** year-round, El Paso County hosts several offsite collection events throughout the year.

- Companies that divert hazardous waste and either recycle or upcycle it are expanding—including **TechWears**, a manufacturing startup that uses scrap electronics to create beautiful wearable art.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.**

- Try backyard composting—visit [http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/composting-yard-waste-7-212/](http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/composting-yard-waste-7-212/)

- Purchase products that contain less hazardous ingredients and packaging.

- Whenever possible, buy in bulk. If bulk purchasing isn’t an option, look for products that contain less packaging.

- Think about recycling while purchasing.
Sustainable purchasing and procurement:

- **Colorado College** has developed sustainable purchasing guidelines that give equal weight to environmental and social considerations, price, availability, and performance criteria.

- **Fort Carson** hosts an annual Sustainable Procurement Expo, which provides training and demonstrations of sustainable products and services.

Reusing for Good

The Pikes Peak region is home to a number of organizations and companies that offer residents an opportunity to reuse goods and support worthy causes. For example, Mountain Equipment Recyclers, Inc. offers gently used outdoor gear and donates a portion of the proceeds to local military veterans and their families. Shift is a social enterprise that allows donors to choose a charity to benefit from the sale of gently used household goods.

Latest Trends in Materials Management: Upcycling

Upcycling is the reuse of discarded objects or material in such a way as to create a product of a higher quality or value than the original. Governor Hickenlooper declared November 18 as Colorado Upcycles Day—and Colorado Springs has been at the forefront of this creative revolution. From the reuse of discarded buildings, such as the Ivywild School, to companies that offer upcycled artwear, TechWears, to do-it-yourself opportunities, Who Gives a Scrap, the Pikes Peak region is quickly becoming an upcycling hub.

**WHO GIVES A SCRAP**

The mission of Who Gives a SCRAP is to foster conservation and reuse through creativity, education, and community building. They believe that the reuse of goods and materials is the most efficient, environmentally friendly, and economically viable way to reduce the waste stream. Their stores carry an impressive mix of vintage and up-cycled materials—everything from scrapbooking paper to game pieces, used books, and sewing patterns. Besides carrying a variety of used craft supplies, they offer crafting, art, and upcycling classes.

**THE RECYCLING COALITION OF COLORADO SPRINGS**

The Recycling Coalition of Colorado Springs is a grassroots effort to promote recycling and other landfill diversion initiatives in Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Region. Formed in 2000 to conduct a “Talking Trash” audit, the Coalition brings together waste haulers, individuals, and public and private sector organizations to promote the three R’s—reduce, reuse, recycle.
Transportation binds people to create society and transfers products to consumers through supply chains. Future generations will need very different transportation modes that do not require fossil fuel to sustain their access to employment, goods, and services.

**BASIC GOALS**

By 2030, the region has a sustainable, equitable, and affordable multi-model transportation system (roads, transit, bicycles, and pedestrian walkways) that efficiently and safely moves people and goods.

- The region financially sustains buildings and maintains roadway and bridge infrastructure, transit service, bike trails, pedestrian sidewalks, and hiking trails and supports human service transportation needs.

- There is increased accessibility, integration, and connectivity between where we live, work, play, learn, shop, and obtain basic services.

- Half of all transportation-related fuels purchased in the region are renewable and/or sustainable, and transportation-related fossil fuel use is reduced by 40% from a 2010 baseline.

- All transportation infrastructures are constructed, maintained, and operated using sustainable practices.

- There is decreased reliance on single-occupancy-vehicle modes of travel with public transit’s share of trips increasing above 3%.

“Colorado Springs is a vibrant community where bicycling is integral to the City’s culture and quality of life for people of all ages and disabilities, where a well connected and well maintained network of trails and on-street infrastructure offer a bicycling experience that is convenient, safe, and inviting for transportation and recreational purpose.”

- Mission Statement for Colorado Springs Bicycle Master Plan
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Consider all ways of reaching a destination to include walking, biking, carpooling, and taking the bus. Think Sustainable Mobility!
- Contact City and County leaders to encourage infill, complete streets, and a focus on connectivity.
- Support development that creates walkable communities.
- Get involved in the Colorado Springs Bike Master Plan process.
- Consider purchasing a Low Emitting Fuel Efficient (LEFE) vehicle.

TRANSPORTATION ACHIEVEMENTS

Financial support of transportation infrastructure:

- In 2015 Colorado Springs voters approved Issue 2C to increase the sales tax by .62% (approximately $50 million annually for five years) for road repairs. Voters also supported Issue 2D, a revenue retention measure that will put more than $2.1 million into trail improvements, including Shooks Run, Skyline, and Pikes Peak Greenway.
- In 2015 Colorado Springs raised the transit budget by $750,000.
- Colorado Spring’s Bicycle Excise Tax on new bicycle sales supports bicycle infrastructure, one of the few in the country to have this tax.
- City of Colorado Springs Public Works staffing efficiencies resulted in $1 million savings and will be applied toward the Bike Master Plan and several other pedestrian infrastructure projects.
- El Paso County Parks and the City of Fountain received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in 2015 to continue the Front Range Trail from the south end of Fountain Creek Regional Park to Hwy 85/87 in downtown Fountain. The trail will be installed in 2016.
- The Stormwater Enterprise Cottonwood Creek project will fund the final Cottonwood Creek Trail Link from Vincent to Academy Blvd.
- The 2040 Moving Forward Plan, a Regional Transportation Plan, passed by Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) in 2015, identifies existing and future transportation needs and strategies.

Increased accessibility, integration, and connectivity:

- Colorado Springs was designated a Silver-Level Bicycle Friendly City by the League of American Bicyclists in 2008 and 2012. A senior bicycle planner was hired in 2016 with the goal of pursuing a Gold-level recognition within the next five years.
- The Pikes Peak Greenway runs 16 miles south from the Air Force Academy boundary, connecting with 13 parks or trails along the way.
- UCCS achieved Bike Friendly University Bronze designation in 2014.
- Colorado Springs continues to add to its 100 miles of on-street bicycle routes, 4.5 miles of buffered bike lanes, nearly 120 miles of urban bike trails, and more than 60 miles of unpaved mountain bike trails.
- PPACG Area Agency on Aging and Mountain Metro Transit have partnered to offer a Senior Ambassador Program to help seniors get acquainted with the city bus system and increase ridership.
- In March 2016 The Board of Directors of the Old North End Neighborhood (ONEN) unanimously adopted A Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Plan for the Old North End. The plan calls for concurrently “safety sizing” 4 major north-south arterial streets through the Old North End and 2 east-west routes.

THE POPCYCLE BRIDGE

Completed in 2015, by Kids on Bikes and many community partners, the Popcycle Bridge includes a gathering space for trail users, bicycle art, and a car-free roadway striped to mimic an active road where children and new cyclists can learn how to navigate bike lanes and intersections on the safety of a recreational trail. It connects the east and west spans of the Greenway to the north end of Monument Valley Park.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Consider all ways of reaching a destination to include walking, biking, carpooling, and taking the bus. Think Sustainable Mobility!
- Contact City and County leaders to encourage infill, complete streets, and a focus on connectivity.
- Support development that creates walkable communities.
- Get involved in the Colorado Springs Bike Master Plan process.
- Consider purchasing a Low Emitting Fuel Efficient (LEFE) vehicle.

LEGACY LOOP

The 10-mile Legacy Loop is underway and will dramatically improve the safety and functionality of the Pikes Peak Greenway creating a critically needed and regionally significant east-west trail connection along the Rock Island Trail corridor. $1M was received from Great Outdoors Colorado, GOCO, in 2015, and $1.5 million is allocated from the City from PPRTA and TOPS. A community collection has thus far raised $20,000.
Reduction in transportation-related fossil fuel use:

- The Southern Colorado Clean Cities Coalition reports that in 2014 stakeholder fleets reduced their transportation fuel use by more than 2 million gallons saving 9,800 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
- At Fort Carson, 70% of non-tactical fleet vehicles use Flexfuel E85.
- The City of Colorado Springs has added 8 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

Decreased single-occupancy vehicles, increased public transportation:

- Mountain Metro Transit (MMT) provided over 3 million fixed-bus rides in 2015, a 19% increase since 2010. MMT also added two 15-minute service routes, Route 5 and the Nevada corridor, to increase ridership. MMT has a Summer Haul Pass for kids 18 and under for just $25.
- To enhance the flow of traffic, improve transit reliability, and make roads safer for all, Colorado created the Yield to Bus Law. In 2016 Colorado Springs City Council passed an ordinance to enforce the law locally.
- In 2013, the Teller County Local Coordinating Council, as part of a long term, multi-county public transit and rideshare program, arranged the purchase of two high capacity and accessible shuttle buses and built two bus shelters in Cripple Creek and Victor. The shuttle provides previously unavailable service for low-income, disabled, and elderly residents, tourists, and students.
- Fort Carson significantly increased shuttle riders on post from 3,800 per month in October 2013 to over 10,000 in May 2015.
- In 2015, City Council unanimously passed a resolution declaring June as Bike Month in Colorado Springs to raise awareness of cycling as a viable transportation option and its positive impact on the economy and on health.
- Starting in 2013, the Active Transportation Advisory Committee has provided input to the City Transportation Advisory Board on bicycling and pedestrian transportation projects.
- In 2014 Manitou Springs partnered with MMT to provide a free summer shuttle bus service. Over 115,000 rides were recorded for the 2015 tourist season, leading to expansion to year-round service.
- McCabe’s Tavern surrendered a parking space in front of its establishment for dedicated bicycle parking.
The water quantity goals in PPR 2030 focus on a regional approach of meeting the water supply needs of the Pikes Peak region through efficient use of water from all sources and by leveraging reusable water supplies to the fullest extent.

**BASIC GOALS**

By 2030, the region’s water use is met by currently-owned water supply and is as efficient as possible through application of best management practices.

- The region utilizes 100% of its reusable water supplies including but not limited to nonpotable water, water exchange programs, and transmountain water.

- Residential water use is at or below 80 gallons per person per day; 80% of commercial and industrial users in the region employ best water management practices.

- Landscaping for each intended use is resource-efficient.

“Water is the driving force of all nature.”

- Leonardo da Vinci

**COLORADO’S STATE WATER PLAN**

In 2013 Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper directed the Colorado Water Conservation Board to draft a water plan to address the state’s water challenges—drought, wildfire, flooding, climate change, and unprecedented population growth.

The final water plan was released by the Governor on Nov 19, 2015 after a two-year collaborative process involving over 30,000 people around the state.

- Sets the first-ever statewide water conservation targets for cities and towns, prioritizing water conservation.

- Creates guidelines so that any new laws and policies follow guidelines about water use and reuse in Colorado.

- Recognizes that to meet our future water needs, we must change the status quo from focusing on new, large transmountain diversions to prioritizing conservation, reuse, and recycling.
WATER QUANTITY ACHIEVEMENTS

Reusable water supply utilization:

- Upon completion in 2016, the Southern Delivery System (SDS) will supply Southern Colorado partner communities with water through the next several decades. Beyond meeting growing demands, SDS diversifies water portfolios, helps protect against drought, and increases the reliability of existing water systems, using water already owned by the SDS partners.

- The Caitlin Pilot Project, approved in Jan 2015, will demonstrate an alternative to “buying and drying up” irrigated agricultural land. The pilot will use certain shares in the Caitlin Canal Company as a temporary municipal supply for the Town of Fowler and provide an additional municipal water supply for the City of Fountain and the Security Water District during the ten-year pilot period.

- Fort Carson has invested over $4 million to expand the reclaimed water system used to irrigate the post golf course since the 1970s to also include sports fields and other turf areas on post. This system allows for irrigation with treated water from the onsite wastewater treatment plant instead of with drinking water.

Lower residential water use and commercial/industrial best water management practices:

- CSU completed an update of its Water Use Efficiency Plan in 2015. Assuming a household size of 2.5 people, residential use averaged 94 gallons per capita per day from 2008 through 2015. Usage from 2013 through 2015 was substantially lower because of water restrictions and wetter than normal weather (meeting the 2030 target of 80 GPCD for residential use in 2015).

- The City of Fountain and CSU have set tiered water rates to encourage lower water use. The lower the use, the lower the cost; the higher the use of water, the higher the cost.

- Municipal utilities also offered many rebates and incentives to residential, commercial, and industrial water users in 2015. Through the CSU WaterSense® showerhead exchange and retail markdown program, participating customers saved 15,006,567 gallons of water.

“Water makes the West as we know it. When you touch water, you touch everything, from ski resorts to agriculture to towns and cities.”

- Former U.S. Senator Mark Udall
Landscaping for each intended use is resource-efficient:

- In 2015, more than 4,500 CSU customers attended 228 classes, presentations, and training sessions, including Xeriscape Basics, Irrigation Efficiency, Drip Irrigation, Xeriscape Garden Tours, and other water conservation courses.

- In 2013, City Parks developed an ongoing program for reducing the amount of underutilized irrigated Kentucky bluegrass to help maintain a healthier and more sustainable parks system. As a result, 15 acres of Kentucky bluegrass has been converted to native grass at Wasson and Keller Parks.

- In 2015, CSU provided free irrigation system inspections and analyses of landscape irrigation efficiency to 30 commercial customers. CSU piloted a WaterSense® Builder Incentive Program, the first of its kind in the nation. Since 2013, 22 new homes received WaterSense® certification and rebates.

- The City of Colorado Springs continued a cooperative program with CSU to improve park irrigation efficiency. In 2014, the program led to 34 irrigation system audits, 17 park irrigation system retrofits covering 57 acres, and four new irrigation controllers, which contributed to an estimated 9,564,900 gallons of water savings. Through 2015, nearly 80% of all neighborhood parks have received irrigation system upgrades, resulting in an overall irrigation efficiency improvement of nearly 20% savings.

“\textit{If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.}”
- Loren Eiseley

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Conserve water indoors by using water efficient products.

- Landscape with native and water-wise plants suitable for your climate, sun, and soil conditions.

- Mulch plants and amend soil with compost and organic products.

- Use stormwater that falls on hard surfaces as a resource to reduce irrigation needs.

- Adjust or use the existing rise and fall of the ground to direct water slowly across your landscape.

- Put in a rain garden with plants that withstand short periods of standing water as well as dry conditions.

- Participate in public processes related to integrated water and stormwater planning.

- Support new and redevelopment projects that incorporate porous surfaces and low impact choices.

- Work with government officials to adopt onsite, low impact stormwater management criteria and regulations.

PIKES PEAK PERMACULTURE

Pikes Peak Permaculture provides communities and individuals with classes and landscape designs using organic gardening and permaculture techniques to create edible gardens and water-wise landscapes. Techniques such as improving soil conditions and shaping the landscape allow rain water to slow down, spread out, and sink in to support plants, reduce runoff, and recharge ground water.
The Appendix to this report, available only in the online version, provides a list of organizations involved in regional sustainability efforts. To join, support, or learn more about an organization please visit peakalliance.co. You’ll also find more information about Peak Alliance and the PPR2030 plan.

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