

DRAFT Erie Sustainability Action Plan

[Updated 7.19.26 by Erie]

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We would like to thank the Sustainability Advisory Board for their continued support with Erie's sustainability initiatives. Your dedication to creating the 2019 Plan and supporting this Plan update is extremely valuable.

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Executive Summary

Purpose and Scope

The Town of Erie's Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) is the updated roadmap for sustainability and climate action in Erie. Building on the Town's first Sustainability Plan adopted in 2019, the SAP reflects Erie's progress, new greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory data, and evolving community priorities. As climate-related events intensify and continue to affect the livelihoods of the Erie community, it is critical that the Town remains at the forefront of climate adaptation and resilience. The Plan supports Erie's role as both a local leader and regional partner, outlining actions the Town can directly influence while also identifying ways residents can

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support broader regional and state-level efforts to reduce carbon pollution and advance sustainability.

Plan Vision Statement

As the Town of Erie grows, we will bolster community resilience by supporting Erie's economic vitality, strengthening community well-being, and protecting our natural environment. We will continue to lead in sustainability, maintaining equity, innovation, and resourcefulness at the forefront of our efforts.

Time Horizon and Updates

The SAP provides a long-term framework through 2050, aligning with statewide climate targets and Erie's growth trajectory. To ensure the Plan remains current and effective, Erie will update the SAP every 5–10 years, or sooner if 75% of strategies are completed. This flexible update cycle allows the Town to respond to changing conditions, incorporate new technologies and data, and adjust strategies based on progress and community needs.

Alignment with Existing Plans and Local Values

The SAP is designed to complement and strengthen Erie's existing plans and regional priorities, including:

- Erie Comprehensive Plan (2024)
- Drought & Water Supply Shortage Plan (2021)
- Water Efficiency Plan (2021)
- Resilience Action Plan (2026)
- Regional plans such as the Boulder County Sustainability, Climate Action, and Resilience Plan (2023) and the Denver Regional Council of Government's (DRCOG) Priority Climate Action Plan (2024)

The SAP also reflects what residents love most about Erie: community, open space, trails, small-town character, and a strong commitment to environmental stewardship.

Erie's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goal

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The SAP establishes Erie's first communitywide GHG emissions reduction targets, informed by an updated GHG emissions inventory and a business-as-usual emissions forecast. These targets provide a clear framework for reducing emissions in Erie over time while also supporting community resilience, economic vitality, and sustainable growth.

40% reduction from 2023 values by 2030.

100% reduction from 2023 values by 2050.

Plan Focus Areas, Strategies, & Targets

The SAP strategies are organized into five focus areas, each with key metrics and actions designed to reduce emissions and improve quality of life in Erie. Targets are set for 2030, 2040, and 2050 to guide near-, mid-, and long-term progress. Each of the focus areas, their strategies, and the goals they set out to achieve are summarized as follows:

Buildings and Energy

- Achieve net-zero emissions from building energy use by 2050.
- Reduce natural gas use and energy consumption through efficiency, electrification, and updated energy codes.
- Expand renewable energy to support net-zero municipal operations and related communitywide goals.
- Implement benchmarking for commercial and multifamily buildings.

Transportation and Mobility

- Increase the share of zero-emission vehicles and expand EV charging access.
- Electrify the Town's municipal fleet over time.
- Expand transit, walking, biking, and micromobility options to reduce vehicle travel and improve mobility.

Waste and Materials Diversion

- Increase recycling and overall waste diversion to significantly reduce landfill disposal.
- Expand organics diversion and composting participation across the community.

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- Support businesses in reducing waste through programs and incentives.

Nature-Based Solutions

- Expand urban tree planting and community gardens to support climate resilience and local food production.
- Incorporate green infrastructure and sustainable landscaping into development and Town projects.

Education and Outreach

- Increase community participation in sustainability programs and incentives.
- Strengthen partnerships and engagement with residents, businesses, and community organizations to advance climate action.

Erie's Call to Action: Why Now?

[Community Voices] "We're all in this together. Little actions add up."

Erie is at a critical point in its growth and faces increasing climate-related risks such as wildfires, droughts, and poor air quality. The SAP emphasizes that immediate action is needed, and will deliver measurable benefits, including:

- Cost savings through efficiency and reduced waste.
- Improved public health from cleaner air.
- Job creation and economic opportunities in clean energy and sustainability.
- Stronger resilience to climate impacts.
- Equitable outcomes that ensure all residents benefit.
- Improved risk management and preparedness.
- Improved fiscal responsibility.

The SAP acknowledges that some emissions sources are outside local control (e.g., regional landfill waste, air travel, oil and gas operations). The Plan includes "How You Can Make a Difference" guidance for residents to support regional action through advocacy and personal choices.

Partnerships, Equity, and Community Engagement

The SAP was developed through a structured process involving Town staff, residents, community leaders, and partners. Engagement and strategy development were

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informed by an equity analysis that utilized data to ensure underrepresented voices were included and considered. The Plan is intended to be implemented collaboratively, with Erie acting as both a leader and partner across regional and state efforts.

Letter from the Sustainability Advisory Board

Dear Erie Community,

We are pleased to express our support for the 2026 Sustainability Action Plan as an important next step toward a future that prioritizes environmental and community well-being and resilience for the Town of Erie.

Sustainability is a broad concept, and it is important to recognize that its definition varies—as does what it means to each of us within the Erie community. Just as the original plan of 2019 was built on knowledge obtained through community feedback and input, so too is this latest Sustainability Action Plan. Results from the Communitywide 2025 survey provided further validation that there is overwhelming support for sustainability programs, with a majority favoring the continuation and even expansion of initiatives across a variety of sustainability areas including the Recycling Center, electric vehicle charging, renewable energy expansion, rebates, etc.

Guided by the Town of Erie's Sustainability Division and developed in partnership with Town Departments, community-based organizations, advisory boards, and key community leaders, the Sustainability Action Plan evolves sustainability to address community priorities including resiliency, long-term economic viability, the protection of natural resources, and health and community well-being.

As the original 2019 architects of the Plan foresaw, achieving progress in the directions outlined in the Sustainability Action Plan is an ongoing effort. The Sustainability Advisory Board believes that meaningful progress begins with shared commitment. We stand ready to champion the vision of the Plan, working with the Town and its leaders to foster community engagement. Together, we will continue to

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create a future that reflects Erie's values and ensures a lasting legacy of sustainability.

Town of Erie, Sustainability Advisory Board Members

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Introduction

Background

Sustainability Plan Update

In 2019, the Town of Erie (Erie or the Town) adopted its first ever Sustainability Plan, a five-year plan that guided decision-making for future sustainability planning and programming in Erie.

[Side Panel]: Erie's Sustainability Division

The 2019 Sustainability Plan ultimately led to the development of Erie's Sustainability Division, which was established in 2019 and has grown to employ four full-time and one part-time staff. The Sustainability Division works together with residents and businesses to reduce the climate impacts of Town actions and the activities of its inhabitants. These efforts are a testament to the power of the Erie community and our shared commitment to environmental stewardship. The Sustainability Division:

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- *Maintains and operates the Town's [Recycling Center](#).*
- *Provides [water](#) conservation, [energy efficiency](#), [waste diversion](#), and [air quality](#) rebates.*
- *Administers the Town's [Sustainability Advisory Board](#).*
- *Partners with community organizations to provide creative solutions to Erie's changing climate such as the 2025 [Switch Together Heat Pumps Pilot Program](#).*
- *Develops, supports, and implements Town guiding plans such as the 2019 Sustainability Plan, Erie's drought and water efficiency plans, and many others.*

With the five-year horizon of the 2019 plan ending and Erie implementing or completing many of its strategies, Erie's Sustainability Division set out to update the 2019 Sustainability Plan. This plan update, known as Erie's Sustainability Action Plan (the Plan, SAP), builds on the existing efforts of the 2019 Plan and expands the breadth of sustainability strategies including the integration of greenhouse gas inventories, acknowledging and responding to the evolving landscape in Erie and the region.

A major change between this plan and Erie's 2019 plan is that the Town now has complete data on its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – including the amount of emissions and their sources. With this information, Erie now has a deeper understanding of which sectors and activities it must address to reduce emissions, allowing the Town to set ambitious, yet realistic, data-driven goals, and track its progress into the future.

The SAP will guide Erie through 2050. **While this plan looks ahead to 2050, meaningful progress depends on action taken now. Early implementation is essential to reduce Erie's emissions, build resilience, and avoid higher costs and risks in the future.**

The Plan will be updated every 5–10 years, or once 75% of the strategies are completed, to ensure that the SAP remains aligned with community needs and goals, trends, and changing conditions. The strategies in the SAP were developed using results from staff and community engagement, the updated 2021 and 2023

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GHG inventories, and strategies from the 2019 Sustainability Plan that were not completed or should be continued.

[side panel] Combatting local air pollution in Erie.

Erie is part of the Denver metropolitan region's non-attainment area designation, meaning the area does not meet federal air quality standards. The Town faces significant environmental and health risks, including exposure to air toxics, fine particle pollution, proximity to oil and gas operations, and high risk of ozone, wildfires, and drought. Although most sites are located outside of Erie's borders, oil and gas operations have been prevalent in and around Erie for decades. This means that Erie residents are exposed to the environmental and health implications that come from methane concentrations, well leaks, air pollution, water contamination, noise pollution, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Recognizing the increasing impacts of pollution, this plan update will build on the 2019 plan, guiding local action and going even further to empower Erie to be a regional leader in sustainability, climate resilience, and community health and well-being.

Erie's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goal

Erie has established a GHG reduction goal to guide the Town's transition to a healthier, more resilient future. This target provides a clear benchmark for reducing emissions through 2030, 2040, and 2050. The sector-based targets found in "Erie's Path to Sustainability and Resilience" will help keep Erie on track towards achieving both this GHG reduction goal and advancing other sustainability initiatives across the Town.

40% reduction from 2023 values by 2030

100% reduction from 2023 values by 2050

What Sustainability means in Erie

Sustainability is about more than reducing Erie's carbon pollution. This plan is guided by three interconnected pillars, each of which must be addressed by Erie to truly create a sustainable Erie.

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1. **People:** This pillar represents people. Human health, equity, connection, and quality of life are key components of sustainability.
2. **Planet:** This pillar represents Erie's natural environment like its land, water, air, and ecosystems.
3. **Profit:** This pillar represents Erie's local job opportunities and businesses. Erie's economy must be in good health to support the other two pillars.



[Call out] *Town staff, including the Police, Public Works, and the MountainView Fire Department, are already leading the way. They protect people, businesses, and natural resources before, during, and after emergencies. Their impact was evident during the regional response to the 2021 Marshall Fire, which underscored the importance of emergency preparedness and community resilience.*

Each of these systems is deeply connected to one another. One system cannot succeed without the others. This framework shaped the design and development of this plan and its strategies. While a large focus of the Plan is on reducing Erie's emissions, it also aims to support and balance Erie's local businesses, protect natural resources, improve community health, and create a version of Erie where its people and the planet can thrive into the future.

[Community Voices]¹ “As Erie continues to grow, sustainability is important in order to prioritize community and the environment.”

Co-Benefits of Sustainability & Community Alignment

The success and longevity of the SAP rests on the co-benefits it provides to the Town and its alignment with broader community goals. This plan reflects and supports the shared goals and priorities of Erie residents, Town leadership, and Town staff.

Sustainability Co-Benefits

Sustainability has many co-benefits that extend beyond environmental impacts and can help address multiple community priorities at once. Sustainability planning can improve public health, reduce costs, support a strong economy, strengthen community connections, and enhance quality of life. These co-benefits can be felt by Erie residents in their everyday life. Table 1 below outlines some of the key co-benefits that a sustainable community like Erie can experience.

Table 1. Sustainability Co-Benefits.

Co-Benefit	Description
Improved air quality and community health	Reducing pollution from cars, buildings, and other activities leads to cleaner air in Erie (indoor and outdoor). This results in fewer direct health problems like asthma attacks, wheezing, and coughing.
Reduced congestion	Increasing transportation options like public transit, walking, and biking leads to less cars on the road. This reduces traffic, saves time, and makes travel in Erie easier.
Increased community resilience	Implementing sustainable systems like local food production and green infrastructure helps communities prepare for and recover quickly from challenges like extreme weather.
Reduced energy use and expenditure	Although utility rates are set by energy providers, using energy more efficiently and increasing renewable

¹ The “Community Voices” quotes were pulled from various sources throughout the project including Arbor/Earth Day tabling, Steering Committee Meetings, the Charette, the Community Survey, and the Farmers Market tabling.

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	energy can reduce overall demand and keep utility bills lower over time.
Protection of wildlife and biodiversity	Protecting natural areas, ecosystems, and wildlife helps plants and animals survive and keeps ecosystems healthy.
Reduced consumption of natural resources	Responsibly using natural resources conserves water and protects the land around Erie.
Reduced greenhouse gas emissions	Using more clean energy in buildings and cars reduces pollution and protects the natural environment and residents in Erie.
Engaged community organizations	Involving local organizations and groups builds trust, fosters collaboration and community, and influences the long-term success of projects.
Support for a strong local economy	Sustainability projects create jobs, support local businesses, and keep money in Erie.
Making sustainability inclusive and equitable for the whole community	All Erie residents should benefit from the Town's sustainability efforts, especially those who have historically been left out of the conversations.

[Call out] Why resilience matters for safety and fiscal responsibility

Resilience is crucial for effective emergency operations and climate adaptation. It establishes protocols for communities and systems in case of emergencies, making it easier and faster to recover from these events. This means developing evacuation planning guidelines, ensuring backup power is available and running for critical facilities such as medical clinics, and protecting first responders from heat exposure, poor air quality, and more. Investing in these measures upfront is also fiscally responsible as proactive planning reduces the costs of emergency response and infrastructure repairs. When communities prepare ahead of time, they spend less money recovering from emergencies than those that don't plan ([source](#)). This helps protect the community's budget while safeguarding its residents. Taking these actions will ensure Erie residents' safety, especially during emergencies.

Alignment with Community Goals

In 2025, Erie's Town Council conducted a comprehensive **communitywide survey** to measure resident approval and familiarity of Town services and gather opinions about Town-related topics from residents. Through the survey, the Town identified the top issues, priorities, or problems residents believe the Town should address in the next two or three years. The issues, priorities, and problems identified are listed below in Table 2 in order of importance.

Table 2. Issues and priorities identified in the community survey and how the SAP addresses them.

Issue or priority identified in the community survey	Description	How the SAP addresses the issue or priority
Traffic congestion and road infrastructure	Residents raised concerns about traffic congestion, inadequate corridors, unsafe or outdated roads, and the need for better snow removal and traffic enforcement.	Aims to increase transportation options like public transit, walking, and biking, which will help reduce traffic congestion. Additionally, the SAP's focus on waste diversion could reduce trash truck trips to the landfill, reducing impacts on roads and infrastructure.
Rapid growth and overdevelopment	Residents feel that growth is outpacing infrastructure and services, the Town is losing its small-town character, and housing development should be slowed or paused.	Several strategies aim to mitigate the impacts of growth and development. In addition, one of the SAP's guiding principles is balanced growth.
Water costs and availability	Residents are concerned about high water bills and water supply and availability and expressed the need for more xeriscaping and conservation.	Promotes xeriscaping and other water conservation practices to reduce water use.

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Public safety and emergency services	Residents expressed concerns over speeding, panhandling, and crime, a desire for more visible police presence, and better emergency preparedness and infrastructure.	Several strategies in the SAP promote clean energy, improve infrastructure resilience, and strengthen community capacity. Additionally, Resilience is a guiding principle of this plan.
Fracking and oil and gas development	Residents expressed opposition to fracking near homes and schools and concerns about pollution, noise, and water contamination.	Several of the SAP's efforts include transitioning to electric energy, reducing pollution, and improving water quality.
Preservation of open space and environment	Residents value protecting natural areas from development and maintaining trails, parks, and open spaces.	Aims to increase the tree canopy and protect natural areas from development impacts.
Bike/pedestrian safety and public transportation	Residents want more connected bike trails, safer pedestrian crossings, and more public transit options.	It aims to increase and promote the use and availability of multi-modal transportation options like biking, walking, and public transit.

[Call out box]

Through the 2025 communitywide survey, residents were able to expand upon their responses about sustainability efforts in Erie. Survey results indicate that:

Overall, residents would like to see the Town more involved in the following:

- *Maintaining and increasing current sustainability rebate offerings.*
- *Continuing to maintain and expand the Erie Recycling Center.*
- *Supporting solar/renewable energy.*
- *Supporting and advocating sustainability forward policy at the state level.*

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- *Supporting and expanding electric vehicle infrastructure.*

Additionally, 51% of residents support a modest tax increase to fund sustainability efforts.

Residents expressed their interest in keeping and expanding sustainability efforts to ensure Erie thrives long-term. These survey findings underscore how the SAP aligns with the community's top priorities and concerns and highlights the timeliness of this plan update.

Vision Statement and Guiding Principles

The Vision Statement and Guiding Principles for this plan were co-developed by the SAP's Steering Committee – a group of Town staff and leadership, community representatives, elected officials, and residents who helped guide the development of the Plan. Serving as the “north star” and “guiding light”, respectively, for the Plan, the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles reflect community values identified through both the communitywide survey and engagement efforts. Both elements will ensure these values and priorities are elevated and incorporated into all aspects of this plan.

Vision Statement

As the Town of Erie grows, we will bolster community resilience by supporting Erie's economic vitality, strengthening community well-being, and protecting our natural environment. We will continue to lead in sustainability, maintaining equity, innovation, and resourcefulness at the forefront of our efforts.

Guiding Principles

Human-Centered: Take a holistic and equitable approach as we strive towards improved health outcomes, quality of life, and opportunity in Erie, recognizing the intrinsic connection between humans and the natural environment. Ensure that sustainability efforts foster both ecological well-being and community vitality.

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- Honoring the *People, Planet, Profit* framework, this Guiding Principle recognizes the deep connection between the well-being of Erie's residents, the local economy, and Erie's natural resources.

Balanced Growth: Grow responsibly by equally balancing equity, environment, and the economy, strengthening community cohesion through safe and accessible connections, and preserving Erie's unique landscape, history, and character.

- As Erie grows, thoughtful planning can ensure growth and sustainability reinforce one another. By balancing environmental protection, economic opportunity, accessibility, and community connections, Erie can welcome change while preserving the qualities that residents value most.

Resilience: Build long-term community and environmental resilience through clean energy adoption, robust infrastructure, community cohesion, and education – empowering Erie to thrive into the future.

- Prioritizing community resilience ensures Erie can withstand and recover from social, economic, and environmental impacts related to a changing climate. It also allows resources and money to be used more efficiently for long-term planning and prevention instead of reactionary responses to emergencies.

Equity: Advance equity in Erie by ensuring everyone has a voice. Identify barriers to access and create tailored solutions that educate, empower, and invite engagement from all community members.

- Equitable outcomes are essential to the success of this plan. Centering equity means understanding who benefits and who bears burdens, as well as designing strategies to ensure they expand access, opportunity, and well-being for *everyone*.

Centering these Guiding Principles across all aspects of the planning, development, and implementation of this plan will ensure that it works for everyone, achieves beneficial outcomes, and is responsive and proactive to future challenges.

[SIDE PANEL] What Residents Love About Erie

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The project team asked the community what made Erie special and what they loved about Erie. The responses below informed the co-creation of the Plan's Vision Statement and Guiding Principles.

- *Community*
- *Parks, open space, and recreation*
- *People*
- *Growth*
- *Character and charm*
- *Nature*
- *Trails*
- *Views*
- *Businesses*
- *Commitment*
- *Downtown and Old Town*
- *Families*
- *Friendliness*
- *History*
- *Location*
- *Outdoor lifestyle*
- *Police*
- *Schools*
- *Size*
- *Small town feel*
- *Sustainability staff*
- *Two county perspective*
- *Uniqueness*

Developing the Plan

The SAP was developed through a structured and inclusive process that began with an existing conditions analysis to understand the community's current environmental, economic, and social landscape. This baseline analysis helped identify key strengths, challenges, and opportunities across Erie. Building on that

foundation, an equity analysis was conducted to ensure that the Plan reflects the needs and experiences of all residents, with particular attention to underserved and historically marginalized groups in Erie.

Engagement and outreach with community residents, partners, and staff was conducted throughout the Plan development process. It provided essential insight, shaped SAP priorities, refined strategies, and ensured the Plan reflects Erie's shared values with practical but ambitious solutions.

Existing Conditions Analysis

The Existing Conditions Analysis process consisted of reviewing local, regional, and state plans and policies relevant to Erie's sustainability efforts. The 2019 Sustainability Plan was reviewed in depth to understand initiatives Erie completed, started, or hadn't started, and to identify which initiatives should be built upon or brought forward into the Plan update.

Review of other plans and policies identified gaps, challenges, and opportunities for Erie to further sustainability efforts.

Key findings from the Existing Conditions Analysis can be found in each focus area's respective section.

[Call out box] *The following is a list of plans and policies reviewed for the Existing Conditions Analysis:*

- *Town of Erie Resilience Action Plan (2026)*
- *Town of Erie Beneficial Electrification Plan (2025)*
- *Erie Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Strategic Plan (2025)*
- *Town of Erie Comprehensive Plan (2024)*
- *Town of Erie Climate Emergency Proclamation (2024)*
- *Erie Economic Market Analysis (2024)*
- *Town of Erie Transportation Mobility Plan (2024)*
- *Town of Erie Electric Vehicle Procurement Policy (2024)*
- *Town of Erie Sustainable Purchasing Best Management Practices Guide (2024)*

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- *Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) (2024)*
- *Boulder County Sustainability, Climate Action, & Resilience Plan (2023)*
- *Regional Transportation Electrification Plan for Boulder County Communities (2022)*
- *Town of Erie Drought and Water Supply Shortage Plan (2021)*
- *Town of Erie Energy Action Plan 2.0 (2021)*
- *Boulder County Transportation Master Plan (2020)*
- *Town of Erie Energy Action Plan (2018)*
- *Erie Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Strategic Plan (2016)*
- *Weld County Town Website*

Equity Analysis

[Community Voices] “We must be cognizant of unintended consequences. If we’re restrictive, we can still get the unintended impacts without any of the positives.”

An Equity Analysis was conducted to ensure the SAP is culturally relevant, historically informed, and designed to mitigate potential inequitable outcomes. The project team evaluated data from the United States Census Bureau, Colorado EnviroScreen, the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), Environmental Justice Screen (EJ Screen), and other related statewide and federal tools and datasets. These resources provided a data-focused historical and cultural overview of Erie, including community demographics and socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities. The project team used the findings to refine the engagement approach and inform strategy development.

Key Findings

- **Historical Context:**
 - Understanding Erie’s extractive history (coal, oil, gas, etc.) will be important in identifying key strategies that could help restore any impacted lands and protect the health and well-being of the community.
- **Demographics:**

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- Erie is a relatively young, white, and affluent community. However, there are areas in the Town with lower income households, as well as areas with affluent BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities. Thoughtful outreach and targeted strategies will be important to ensure implementation of this plan supports all residents and does not create unintended burdens for lower-income and minority communities.
- **Environmental Risks & Hazards:**
 - Based on data findings, strategies should address or account for risks the Erie community faces, such as air toxics, fine particle pollution, proximity to oil and gas operations, floodplains, and high risk of ozone, wildfires, and drought.
- **Socioeconomic Vulnerabilities:**
 - Based on data findings, Erie's socioeconomic vulnerabilities are minimal. However, disparities may still exist. Exploration of Erie's manufactured home parks and consideration of lower income communities should be prioritized as the SAP's strategies are developed and implemented, ensuring they support the households most in need and level the playing field.
- **Engagement & Strategy Development:**
 - Previous engagement and Erie's demographics suggest a population engaged in sustainability, tactics like town halls and surveys may be successful.
 - Strategy development and community engagement must consider that Erie is part of two counties, each with different relationships and values regarding environmental protection.
 - Strategy development and community engagement should consider that Erie's census data may make the community appear more uniform than it really is. Some groups can be overlooked or left out. Using engagement approaches such as working with trusted community leaders, local organizations, and easy-to-use meeting tools can help reach these groups and better understand sustainability opportunities that reflect their needs and experiences.

Engagement Process and Findings

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The project team engaged Town staff, residents, community leaders and advocates, and local leadership to collect community insights and help guide the Plan in a direction that reflects community values. These efforts informed much of this plan including the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles, and the Plan’s strategies.

[call out box/side panel/visual] Engagement Goals

- *Ensure the engagement process reaches and connects with the voices of diverse community members, particularly those historically underrepresented and underserved in Erie.*
- *Educate residents about the Town’s current environmental and sustainability efforts, as well as the goals of the SAP.*
- *Collect specific, relevant, and actionable feedback from residents and stakeholders to inform the development of the SAP.*
- *Create opportunities for meaningful dialogue and collaboration between the Town, key partners, and residents.*

Engagement Tactics

[Community Voices] “Outreach needs to be targeted because there’s an extensive amount of outreach happening and it can get confusing [for people].”

The engagement process focused on listening to community concerns and priorities to inform the development of strategies for the Plan, while also considering equitable access to – and distribution of – the resources and benefits that result from it. Table 3 below details the engagement tactics, audiences, and objectives.

Table 3. Audiences and objectives for engagement tactics.

Engagement Tactic	Who Was Engaged	Why We Engaged Them
Staff focus group	One to two representatives from relevant departments	• Discuss sustainability and climate opportunities, challenges, and synergies across departments to help inform development of actionable and implementable strategies for the Plan. • Ensure that Plan strategies set Town staff up for success.

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Steering Committee	Community representatives, Town staff and leadership	• Help inform plan development and ensure historically underrepresented and underserved communities have a voice in this plan. • Co-create strategies that address equity challenges and emissions reduction in Erie.
Charette	Key Town staff and boards, Town Council, and the Sustainability Advisory Board	• Review Plan strategies and gather feedback. • Identify sustainability priorities for Erie.
Tabling Events (Erie Farmer's Market, Erie Arbor/ Earth Day Celebration)	Public at large	• Collect input on community priorities to inform Plan goals and direction. • Raise awareness about the Sustainability Action Plan.

How to Read this Plan

Plan Context

Erie as a leader, and Erie as a partner

Erie's direct and indirect areas of influence over communitywide emissions

The Town of Erie wears many hats when it comes to reducing climate pollution and supporting sustainability. However, there are some areas where the Town has more direct influence, and others where Erie's influence is more indirect or layered.

Areas of direct influence include things the Town can change or manage through local policies, programs, education, and investments. Examples include energy efficiency in buildings, townwide waste diversion, local transportation options, updates to the Unified Development Code, and municipal operations.

Indirect areas of influence include activities where the Town has a role to play, but its influence is more limited or complex. Examples include regulating emissions from oil and gas operations, the Front Range Landfill, and Erie residents' air travel through

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Denver International Airport. Making changes in these areas typically requires coordination with the private sector, regional agencies and organizations, state or federal regulations, and/or individual choices and behaviors. Because of this multi-layered process, progress may take more time, coordination, and advocacy.

Although making progress in the indirect areas of influence requires more coordination and can sometimes present more challenges, it is important that the Town of Erie maintains its role in reducing carbon pollution and advancing sustainability in these areas. Addressing these areas of indirect influence may require actions and coordination outside the scope of this plan, but this plan identifies ways the Town and its residents can still take meaningful action.

The Plan is narrated in a way that reflects this framing. For example, the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Forecast section includes key findings concerning emissions that are within Erie's direct influence. However, more of the story can be told in Appendix A, where Erie's full emissions profile, which includes indirect areas of influence, is examined.

Additionally, while the strategies in the "Erie's Path to Sustainability & Resilience" section are focused primarily on Erie's areas of direct influence, there are a few strategies touching on those with indirect influence.

Throughout the Plan, you can find sidebars labeled *"How you can make a difference."* These sidebars will offer ideas on how Erie residents and staff can advocate for change at the individual or local level within areas of indirect influence.

Even when important decisions that impact sustainability and emissions are made elsewhere, local action in Erie still matters!

Plan Structure

Figure 2 conveys the organizational structure of this plan. The Vision Statement is this plan's north star and serves as Erie's ideal end state. Further guiding the spirit of this plan are the Guiding Principles, which provide a decision-making framework to ensure that, as this plan was developed and as it is implemented, Erie stays true to its core values.

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The strategies in this plan are categorized into the following focus areas, and aim to address each of the questions below:

- **Buildings and Energy Use:** How can Erie reduce energy waste, transition to clean energy, increase efficiency, and improve the comfort and quality of its buildings?
- **Transportation and Mobility:** How can Erie encourage its residents to use active transportation and other forms of transit like buses? How can Erie continue to promote the transition to electric vehicles?
- **Waste and Materials Diversion.** How can Erie educate its residents about sustainable waste diversion and provide resources to improve these efforts?
- **Nature-Based Solutions:** How can Erie continue to protect its natural resources, maximize local resiliency, and improve environmental quality?
- **Education and Outreach:** What do Erie residents need to know to participate in the implementation of this plan and feel empowered to advance sustainability in their lives?

To keep Erie on track towards meeting its GHG emissions reduction goal and implementing the strategies in this plan, each focus area includes a set of key metrics to measure on a regular basis to ensure progress is being made in these sectors.

[Call out or side panel]

Two topics not included in this plan are oil and gas operations and management and water conservation in Erie.

Although this plan does not have an explicit focus on oil and gas, Erie's strives towards building and vehicle electrification, coupled with Erie's goals of increasing renewable energy supply to the Town, to reduce the need for oil and gas as an energy source.

Water is one of Colorado's most limited and vital resources, and long-term water security is essential to the resilience, economic stability, and quality of life in Erie. While this Sustainability Action Plan does not establish new water policies, water stewardship remains a top priority for the Town.

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Erie maintains a Drought and Water Supply Shortage Plan and a Water Efficiency Plan, supported by dedicated staff and strong regional partnerships. This Sustainability Action Plan is designed to complement—not duplicate—those efforts. Where intersections exist, initiatives related to energy efficiency, land use, green infrastructure, and climate resilience will be coordinated across departments to ensure alignment.

Education and outreach under this plan will also cross-promote Erie's water conservation programs, reinforcing community awareness of the interconnected nature of sustainability and responsible water management.

Erie's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

A major change between the 2019 plan and this plan update is the availability of Erie's communitywide greenhouse gas emissions data. In 2022, the Town of Erie completed its first-ever communitywide and municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for 2021. The Town compiled and analyzed the results of both inventories and developed a report and public-facing dashboard to clearly communicate key findings.

The 2021 inventory results were updated in 2024 with Erie's 2023 emissions data. Having this data on hand gives Erie a data-driven baseline for its emissions and allows the Town to track its progress towards reducing emissions across different sectors of the community, keeping it on course to a healthier, cleaner future.

Detailed in this chapter are the results of the 2023 greenhouse gas inventory, comparison to the 2021 inventory, and a discussion of the emissions forecast business-as-usual (BAU) results, which showcases what Erie's emissions footprint will be over time through 2050 if no action is taken.

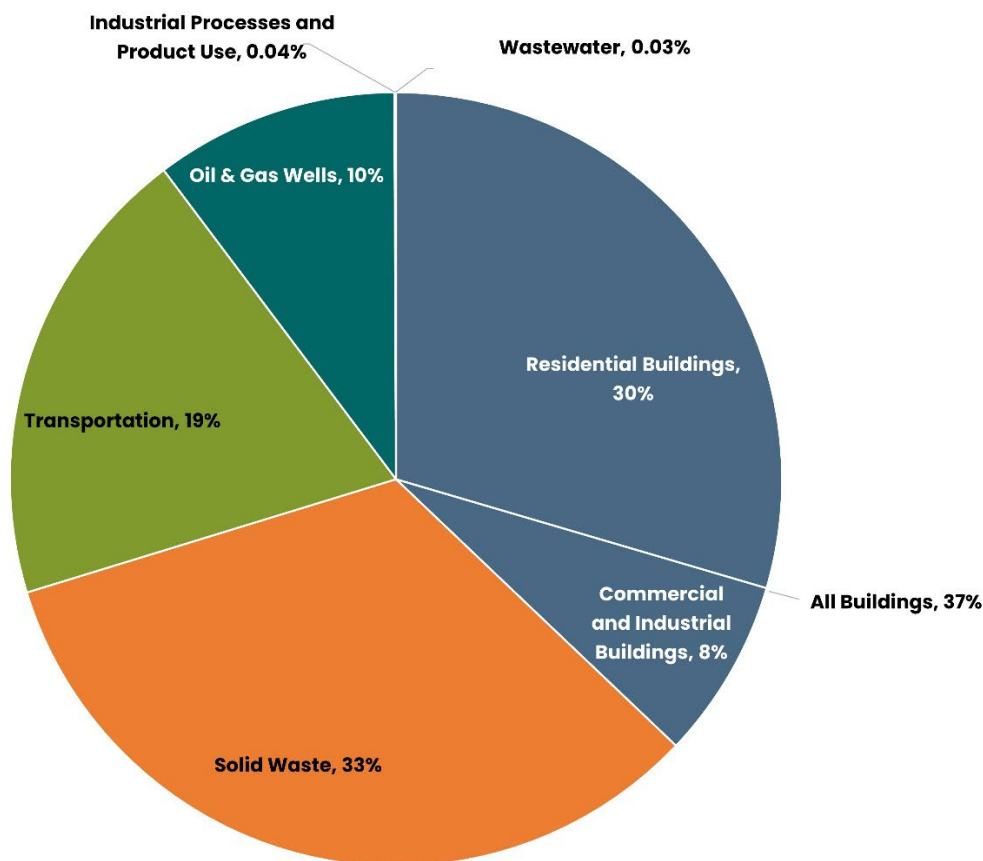
In addition to measuring Erie's baseline emissions and forecasting them through 2050 through the BAU, five strategies from this plan were modeled to estimate how implementation would further reduce Erie's emissions. These results are discussed in Appendix C: Strategy Modeling GHG Emissions Reductions Results.

2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Results

In 2023, the Town of Erie's community emitted 399,269 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (mt CO₂e), resulting in a 3% increase in total emissions since 2021. This total is equal to driving more than 93,000 gasoline powered cars for one year.² Despite the increase in total emissions, the Town of Erie saw an 11% decrease in per-capita emissions from 13 mt CO₂e per-capita in 2021 to 11 mt CO₂e per-capita in 2023. This means that, while Erie's total emissions went up, each resident in Erie was responsible for fewer emissions in 2023 than in 2021. The Town of Erie's 2023 communitywide emissions by sector are detailed in Figure 3 below.

² <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>

Figure 3. Town of Erie's 2023 communitywide emissions, by sector.



[Side panel or visual call out]

Erie's emission sources: Direct or Indirect Influence

Buildings (residential, commercial, industrial)	Direct influence	Erie has influence over the buildings within its boundaries, whether they are privately owned or Town owned. There are many local levers Erie can use to make cleaner, more efficient buildings.
Solid Waste	Direct & indirect influence	Erie can improve waste diversion efforts at the local level through rebate programs and policies,

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		but influencing what is going into the landfill from outside of Erie requires regional coordination and advocacy.
Transportation	Direct & indirect influence	Erie can continue to support local programming and rebates to increase ridership and advance the transition to electric vehicles (EVs). However, most transportation systems in Erie are governed by the State or the Regional Transportation District.
Oil & Gas	Indirect influence	Oil and gas operations near Erie are mostly regulated at the state level, but Erie can still advocate and collaborate regionally for policies that mitigate impacts from this industry.
Industrial Processes and Product Use	Direct & indirect influence	This sector captures emissions from commercial refrigerant leakage that occurs from refrigeration equipment. Building refrigerants can be regulated at a local, regional, state, or federal level. Policy could limit the types of refrigerants permitted. Additionally, services and programs could be offered to monitor refrigeration

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		efficiency and reduce leakage.
Wastewater	Direct influence	Erie manages its own wastewater, so it has direct influence over things like technologies to adopt, operations and maintenance, and upgrades.

While the Town of Erie may have limited influence over some of these sectors, there is always action that can be taken at the individual level that can further support Erie's state and regional advocacy efforts.

Key Takeaways

Energy

Energy from residential, commercial, and industrial buildings contributes a combined 37% to Erie's communitywide emissions. Building energy emissions occur from electricity, natural gas, propane, and stationary diesel with the largest emissions occurring from electricity and natural gas. Energy saw a 2% increase in emissions from 2021, primarily driven by an increase in residential and commercial natural gas consumption due to population growth.

Solid Waste

Solid waste emissions contribute 33% to Erie's communitywide emissions. Solid waste emissions occur from landfilled and composted waste with the largest emissions occurring from the Front Range Landfill. Despite a large majority of waste tonnage coming from outside of Erie, the inventory must account for those emissions according to the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories because this landfill is within Erie's town boundaries. For reference, **less than 1% of the waste disposed of in the Front Range Landfill in 2023 came from Erie's residents and businesses.**

Since 2021, solid waste emissions have seen an 8% increase, largely due to an increase in tonnage disposed of in the Front Range Landfill, which was likely driven by population growth across the Front Range.

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Erie-specific landfilled tonnage and emissions have gone up 3% since 2021. Despite this increase in tonnage, Erie has seen an 11% decrease in per-capita tonnage going from 0.60 tons per-capita in 2021 to 0.53 tons per-capita in 2023. This decrease in per-capita tonnage is likely driven by Erie's local waste diversion efforts, like the free Recycling Center facility which has consistently increased material collection opportunities in the past 5 years, increased education, and the Town's residential waste diversion rebates.

Transportation

Transportation emissions contribute 19% to Erie's communitywide emissions.

Transportation emissions occur from on-road vehicles, off-road equipment, transit buses, and air travel with the largest emissions occurring from air travel and on-road vehicles. Transportation has seen a 41% increase in emissions since 2021, primarily driven by an increase in on-road passenger vehicle emissions. Since 2021, on-road passenger vehicle miles traveled per-capita have increased 161% from 915 to 2,389 passenger vehicle miles traveled in 2023. These increases may be due to the lingering impacts the COVID-19 pandemic had on personal transportation in 2021 due to increased remote work, while 2023 saw an increase in returns to the office.

Erie's Emissions Forecast

Erie's 2023 inventory was used as the baseline for forecasting emissions through 2050. Emissions were forecast to include expected growth in population and employment, baseline trends in building and vehicle electrification, and key state and federal policies to create a business-as-usual (BAU) model. The BAU shows how emissions are expected to change without additional local action and helps identify emissions sources to focus on for future policy work.

More than half of Erie's 2023 greenhouse gas emissions are from sources that are not directly under local government influence, such as waste tonnage sent to the Front Range Landfill from non-Erie residents, Erie resident air travel out of the Denver International Airport (i.e., transboundary aviation), and oil and gas production. Excluding these sources creates a profile of emissions which the Town has more direct policy influence over outside of advocacy. These results are discussed below.

The results of the full scope BAU are discussed in Appendix B: Full scope BAU.

[CALLOUT]: HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Oil & Gas Operations (indirect influence/regional coordination)

While oil and gas operations are heavily regulated at the state and federal level, Erie still has an opportunity to minimize impacts from these activities and advocate for change.

What Erie and Erie Residents can do:

- *Support investments in clean energy to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.*
- *Support setbacks for future oil & gas locations, and other land use regulations to protect community health and safety.*
- *Advocate for more enforcement, monitoring, and transparency of operations.*

Erie's Direct Influence Business-as-Usual Results

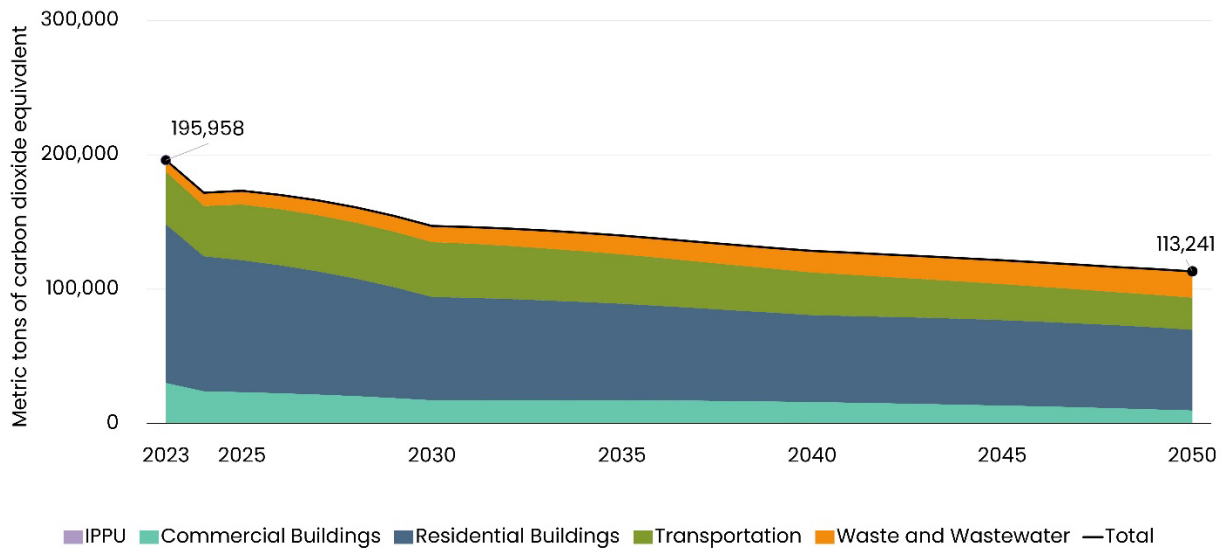
Erie's direct influence emissions are expected to decrease by 42% from 2023 levels by 2050. The largest decreases are seen in buildings and transportation due to utility renewable energy goals, baseline electrification in buildings and vehicles, and baseline building policy (i.e., building performance standards and building energy code updates). Baseline electrification was modeled to follow Rocky Mountain Institute's Energy Policy Simulator for Colorado using the state's Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap baseline including federal policy rollback scenarios (includes 63% electric vehicle adoption by 2050 and 65% heat pump adoption at equipment replacement by 2030). Statewide policies like the Clean Heat Plan, Advanced Clean Cars, and Advanced Clean Trucks, along with local plans like Erie's Beneficial Electrification Plan, all support this baseline electrification adoption timeline. Additional explanations of assumptions used in the model are discussed in Appendix D.

[CALL OUT]

While the BAU forecast shows emissions declining, these reductions alone will not achieve Erie's climate goals. Local action is still needed to accelerate progress, advance sustainability, and further reduce emissions.

The profile of Erie's BAU emissions over time are shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3. Town of Erie's direct influence communitywide business-as-usual emissions profile excluding landfill waste from non-Erie residents, transboundary aviation, and oil and gas, which are outside of Erie's direct influence.



Erie's Path to Sustainability and Resilience

The following section delineates the Plan's focus areas and strategies that will guide Erie's progress toward its sustainability and climate goals. Strategies were developed to align with and complement existing plans and initiatives in Erie, including the Comprehensive Plan. Strategies from other plans that directly support sustainability in Erie were also added to this plan to ensure consistency across Erie's efforts.

Strategies are organized into five key sectors and include a brief overview of existing conditions, the actions needed to drive change, sector-specific targets, and a call to action. Together, these strategies provide a roadmap for how the Town of Erie, community partners, and residents can work collaboratively to achieve meaningful and lasting impact.

Buildings and Energy

[visual call out] Erie's Call to Action

Erie's building sector presents a significant opportunity to reduce communitywide GHG emissions and improve the quality of life for residents. Erie must help residents

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take on this task through education and connecting them to available resources to support their journey towards improving their buildings.

Buildings play an important role in shaping both environmental and public health outcomes. They require energy to operate (think heating and cooling of spaces, lighting, cooking), which can contribute to air pollution and impact local air quality. Improving how buildings are constructed and operated can lead to cleaner air, lower energy use and costs, and healthier homes and workplaces. In Erie, existing buildings account for the largest share of energy use and generate more pollution than any other sector ([source](#)). This presents a great opportunity for the Town to reduce energy waste and switch to cleaner energy sources to power its buildings, which can improve building performance, occupant comfort and health, air quality, and can even lower energy bills!

Xcel Energy and United Power are the primary electricity providers, and Xcel Energy and Black Hills Energy are the primary natural gas providers for Erie, so they will be important partners in ensuring Erie residents are optimizing their energy-saving and electrification programs as they seek to upgrade their buildings.

Current Conditions

Electricity and Natural Gas Use

Building energy emissions occur from using electricity, natural gas, propane, and diesel to operate and power a building. The largest portion of emissions from Erie's buildings are from electricity and natural gas use, accounting for 36%. It is estimated that residential buildings are 89% of total building square footage in Erie³. This data also shows that most of Erie's existing buildings consist of residential spaces and are an important building type to target.

³ Residential square footage was estimated by multiplying the average home size in climate zone 5B (1,860 sq ft, from [ResStock](#)) by the number of households in Erie. [Erie's Community Profiles](#) report that there were 11,882 households in Erie in 2023. Commercial square footage was estimated to be 2,677,300 square feet and was obtained from assessor records provided by the Town of Erie.

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Erie's Comprehensive Plan estimates that between 2050 and 2055, up to 3,000 new housing units could be developed, and up to 6 million square feet of commercial and industrial could be built. This projection underscores the importance of designing buildings to be highly energy efficient and powered by clean energy sources, minimizing building emissions at the source and supporting a healthy, comfortable and efficient space for building occupants long-term.

With Xcel Energy and United Power's ambitious goals of 80% renewable energy sourced by 2030 and 100% by 2050, adding significant renewable energy to power the electric grid, Erie needs to focus on transitioning away from natural gas as a fuel source for buildings, and promoting building electrification. When this isn't possible, upgrading buildings to reduce energy waste and improve building performance can help reduce building emissions, improve air quality, and lower energy bills for building owners.

[Call-out]

- *Xcel Energy and United Power both have goals of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2030 (from 2005 levels) and providing 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050. ([Source](#))*
- *United Power has voluntarily agreed to the same targets as Xcel Energy for renewable energy adoption, but they have also strategically partnered with Xcel to purchase any excess low-carbon and renewable electricity from them and provide it to their customers. ([Source](#))*

ERIE IN ACTION [call out]

Erie adopted its first ever Beneficial Electrification Plan in May 2025. This plan strategically guides Erie to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Town's buildings and transportation sectors. The Beneficial Electrification Plan is instrumental in helping Erie reach its greenhouse gas reduction goals outlined in this plan, and the Town will use both plans in tandem to ensure a thoughtful approach is taken to enable accessible, cost-effective, and realistic transition away from fossil fuels.

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Renewable Energy Use

Erie's utilities offer a variety of renewable energy rebates and programs to its customers such as Xcel Energy's credits for on-site solar, which delivered over \$300,000 in savings through renewable energy and load management programs to customers in Erie in 2024 ([source](#)), and United Power's solar installation support and energy advising services ([source](#)).

In 2024, Xcel Energy's Renewable*Connect, Solar Gardens, Load Management, and EV Programs reached about 1,000 customers in Erie ([source](#)). This level of participation demonstrates interest in these programs while highlighting opportunities to expand outreach to the community and connect more residents and businesses to available resources to support building improvements and switch to cleaner energy systems.

[Call out] *In 2024, 424 projects were implemented through Xcel Energy's Energy Efficiency programs, including Energy Savings Kits, Home Energy Audits, Insulation Rebates, Residential HVAC, Small Business Energy Solutions, and more.*

Municipal Leadership

Erie has made significant strides in making its municipal operations more sustainable through reducing energy waste in its buildings and sourcing renewable energy to power its facilities. The Town conducted an energy assessment in 2023 of all municipally owned buildings and began tracking their energy use. Following this assessment, Erie secured \$700,000 from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for Energy Performance Contracting, which has supported the Town in achieving its goal of 100% net-zero GHG emissions for municipal buildings by 2030 (BE Plan 2025). Erie is also working to supply all municipal buildings with 100% renewable electricity through on-site installations. Additionally, all new municipal buildings and major renovations must be ENERGY STAR certified ([source](#)).

[Call out] ERIE IN ACTION

Over the last decade, the Lynn R. Morgan Water Treatment Facility implemented a variety of energy-efficiency projects to reduce its energy use.

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A hydro turbine was added, which generates electricity through incoming raw water at the Plant. Variable speed drives were added using energy rebates, and electrical use and costs are regularly tracked. With these upgrades, the annual electrical cost per gallon of water produced has reduced since 2011, while water production has increased significantly (Water & Wastewater Division staff)!

Targets & Strategies

Targets

1. **Achieve net-zero emissions** from residential and commercial building energy use by 2050.
2. **Reduce natural gas use** in existing residential buildings by 30,000 MMBtu by 2030, equivalent to electrifying or improving approximately 140 homes per year.
3. **Reduce total residential building energy use** by 465,300 MMBtu by 2040 and 930,600 MMBtu by 2050 to align with the Town's net-zero emissions goal.
4. **Maintain average commercial building energy use** at or below 1,000 MMBtu per premise.
5. **Electrify 50% of commercial buildings** by 2040 and 100% by 2050.
6. **Reduce energy use** in new residential construction by 30,000 MMBtu by 2030 compared to Erie's forecasted baseline.
7. **Further reduce energy use** in new residential construction by 38,030 MMBtu by 2040 and 76,050 MMBtu by 2050.
8. **Update applicable building energy codes** every three years to align with Colorado's best practices.
9. **Require all-electric new construction** by 2040.
10. **Install 12 MW of solar capacity** to offset electricity emissions and achieve net-zero municipal buildings by 2030.
11. **Require energy benchmarking** for commercial buildings between 20,000 and 50,000 square feet by 2030.
12. **Expand benchmarking requirements** to commercial buildings under 20,000 square feet by 2040.

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[Call out:] MMBtu stands for One Million British Thermal Units. This unit of measurement describes the heat content or energy value of fuels like natural gas. To put it into context, a MMBtu is roughly equal to 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

The strategies in this section will help Erie building owners reduce their energy use, utilize cleaner energy, and reduce emissions, all while building on Erie's current efforts. Erie and other partner organizations, such as Boulder County Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE), and Energy Smart Colorado, already offer supportive rebates and programs to help communities transform their buildings to be cleaner and more efficient, but there is significant opportunity to expand outreach and education to residents to increase participation in these programs. These strategies were carefully crafted with equity at the forefront, with a special focus on low-income households, small businesses, and other community members who may be historically underserved or underrepresented.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

[Community Voices] When asked what environmental considerations should be priority, one respondent said: "building electrification and thermostat requirements."

Codes and Policies

Energy codes and related policies are powerful tools Erie can use to reduce building emissions, improve building performance and comfort, and reduce air pollution. Erie is currently on the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), with electric preferred, solar, and electric vehicle (EV) ready provisions. Erie also adopted its Beneficial Electrification Plan in 2025, providing a roadmap for the Town to transition its buildings and vehicles away from fossil fuels towards electric energy sources, and actions Erie to identify opportunities to update building codes to align with their electrification goals. In fact, this plan set a goal of installing five residential heat pumps during the 18-month implementation period. Upon completion, Xcel Energy reported a total of 135 heat pumps were installed in Erie, all of which qualified for Xcel rebates.

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Codes and policies are especially useful for Erie as it is projected to see considerable growth in the coming decades. It will be important for Erie to use these levers to ensure that all new developments in Erie are built to the highest quality and use cleaner, more efficient technologies, like heat pumps.

Building Energy Use

As seen in Erie's greenhouse gas emissions inventory, buildings use a large share of the community's total energy, meaning they have an outsized impact on local energy costs, air quality, and emissions. Erie can minimize energy waste in buildings by promoting better building design through advanced energy codes (as described above) for new buildings and connecting residents to resources that help them upgrade their equipment in existing buildings with more efficient or all-electric replacements. Cleaner, more efficient equipment in Erie's buildings will not only lower energy bills and improve indoor and outdoor air quality, but they can also improve community resilience by easing the pressure on the regional electric grid, especially when energy demand is high.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Renewable Energy Empowerment and Innovation

In addition to reducing energy use at the building level, Erie aims to continue to embrace renewable energy adoption and innovation by taking advantage of Xcel Energy and United Power's renewable energy programs. Participating in programs, like community solar and green power purchasing, can help lower the cost of installing solar, heat pumps, or other clean energy technologies while assisting the Town in reaching its renewable energy goals. Erie will continue to explore more innovative solutions, like geothermal heat pumps, which provide reliable, low-carbon heating and cooling across entire neighborhoods. It will be important for Erie to engage in equitable programs focused on low-income households, ensuring the benefits of community-scale renewable energy programs are felt across all residents.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Municipal Leadership

As Erie continues to improve its building sector, the Town must continue to lead by example and demonstrate its commitment to a more sustainable and resilient community. This strong leadership will inspire the community to take action at the individual level, strengthening the impact on Erie's emissions and increasing overall sustainability.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Transportation and Mobility

[visual call out] Erie's Call to Action

Erie's transportation sector can significantly reduce communitywide emissions while improving air quality and quality of life. Erie will continue to support the prioritization of multi-modal connectivity, the transition to EV's, and charging infrastructure improvements.

Transportation is more than just how you move between different places; it helps shape daily life in Erie. How people travel in Erie affects local air quality, traffic congestion, access to jobs, schools, and other important services. This plan outlines strategies to improve how residents move around town while reducing traffic and transportation-related pollution. These changes can lead to cleaner air and a healthier community.

Achieving this requires action from everyone in Erie, including Town staff, residents, businesses, and community partners. By investing in safe and convenient walking, biking, and public transit options, increasing the use of electric vehicles, and building on existing partnerships and opportunities, Erie can make getting around easier, cleaner, and better for everyone.

Current Conditions

Transportation accounts for about 20% of Erie's emissions ([source](#)). Erie is considered a commuter town, with residents traveling out and back daily for work, primarily using single-occupancy vehicles ([source](#)). At the same time, residents

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have expressed strong interest in expanded transportation options via the 2025 Community Survey. While Erie has an off-street network of more than 70 miles of trails, key connections to destinations such as schools and grocery stores are limited. Erie residents also have access to transit services through Boulder County, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and the Regional Transportation District (RTD), but ridership is low ([source](#)). Together, these conditions present an opportunity for the Town to improve accessibility, strengthen connectivity, and expand transportation options for Erie residents.

Electric vehicle use in the Town is increasing, with EV registrations almost doubling between 2021 (512) and 2023 (951) ([BE Plan 2025](#)). To support this continued growth, the Town owns and operates 28 charging stations available to community members at any time. Town residents also have access to a variety of rebates and incentives through the State of Colorado, Xcel Energy, United Power, and the Colorado Energy Office. Internally, Erie also adopted an EV Procurement Policy to transition the Town's fleet to EVs, with a goal to transition 50% of the Town's light duty fleet to EVs by 2030 and 100% by 2040 ([source](#)).

Erie continues to work towards expanding and improving transportation and mobility across town. The Town utilized grant funding to establish and operate a Flex Ride service (the Erie Bee), developed an anti-idling campaign, and supports Transit Oriented Development (TOD).

Targets and Strategies

1. **Increase zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs)** on the road in Erie to 30% by 2030, 60% by 2040, and 95% by 2050.
2. **Expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure**, including 50 chargers by 2030, with at least 3 high-speed (Level 3) chargers.
3. **Electrify the Town's municipal fleet**: 50% of light-duty vehicles by 2030, 100% by 2040; all medium- and heavy-duty fleets and equipment by 2050.
4. **Enhance transit service** by adding one new bus route by 2030, one more by 2040, and another by 2050.
5. **Increase transit ridership** by 10% by 2030, 15% by 2040, and 20% by 2050.
6. **Establish and track e-bike and e-scooter programs** once operational, including miles traveled and user participation.

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7. **Complete trail and active transportation networks** by filling gaps identified in the Connecting YOU to Fun Playbook.
8. **Implement active transportation facility thresholds:** add 5 miles of new or upgraded bike facilities per year and roughly 1 mile of new or upgraded sidewalks per year, based on available budget and project timelines.

The strategies in this plan will help reduce residents' reliance on cars, increase the number of EVs on the road, improve access to multi-modal options like walking and biking, and increase transportation services to improve local and regional connectivity. These strategies were carefully crafted to ensure that all Erie residents can live, work, and play within their own community, especially low-income households, small businesses, and other community members who may be historically underserved or underrepresented.

[Community Voices] When asked what environmental considerations should be priority, several respondents mentioned more public transit and bike lanes.

Transportation Mode Shift

Transportation-related pollution reduces air quality and can negatively impact human and environmental health. According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 7 out of 8 census blocks in Erie rank in the 94th percentile or higher for air toxic emissions, which are air pollutants caused by vehicle exhaust and other activities. All of Erie's census blocks are in the 82nd percentile or higher for air pollution ([source](#)). One of the best ways to reduce transportation-related pollution is to provide multi-modal options for Erie residents to move around in a safe, convenient, and reliable way. This makes it easier for residents to rely less on their cars to get around, while reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality and safety, and improving community health.

[Community Voices] "I'd like to see more off-road and all-wheel drive safe bike lanes to neighboring cities."

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Electric Vehicles

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Electric vehicles are the best of both worlds: residents can enjoy their independence with a single-occupancy vehicle while reducing their contribution to Erie's transportation emissions. While EVs may be more expensive than gas vehicles to purchase upfront currently, the costs are steadily decreasing, and they are more affordable to power, as electricity is cheaper than gasoline ([source](#)).

Erie already understands the benefits of EVs – in 2023 the Town adopted an EV-ready building code for residential and commercial new construction and offers incentives for EV-ready retrofit projects. Erie can continue to support the adoption of EVs by expanding its EV-related policies and incentive programs, leveraging partnerships and opportunities to expand charging infrastructure, and educating the community on the benefits of EVs while directing them to available resources to help them make the switch.

[Community Voices] "Allow sharing of at-home charging so people without charging capacity can still have EVs."

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

[CALL OUT] HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE (indirect influence)

Reducing emissions and supporting sustainable transportation initiatives, like transitioning to electric vehicles, comes down to an individual's personal decision. In addition to on-road vehicle emissions, much of Erie's emissions come from the Erie Municipal Airport and Denver International Airport. Erie residents have limited influence on emissions coming from air travel, but they can still make choices about how and when they travel to reduce their impact.

What Erie and Erie Residents can do:

- Limit unnecessary flights whenever possible.*
- Support and advocate for sustainability initiatives at the airport and within airlines. Flight search resources often now share the efficiency of the flight schedule and resulting emissions. Choose a lower emission flight; often they are more direct and quicker, when possible.*
- Transition to an EV or take public transportation whenever possible.*
- Advocate for sustainable aviation fuel and more efficient aircraft design.*

Waste and Materials Diversion

[visual call out] Erie's Call to Action

Waste diversion will be a key strategy in both reducing Erie's emissions and fostering a culture of sustainable waste management across the Town. Erie can reduce waste and improve waste diversion efforts locally and advocate at the regional and state level for better waste management infrastructure, policies, funding, and systems.

Under the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC), emissions from waste facilities like landfills located within Town limits must be included in Erie's inventory, even when most of the waste is coming from outside the community.

[Call Out]

Less than 1% of the waste disposed of at the Front Range Landfill in 2023 came from Erie's residents and businesses ([source](#)).

This protocol makes Erie's waste emissions look higher than the amount actually generated by residents and businesses. However, reducing landfill-bound waste, and specifically organic materials, both locally and regionally, is still one of the most powerful levers Erie has to reduce its overall emissions.

Looking ahead, Erie's next steps for waste and materials management are more than just reducing trash; it is about reshaping how the community values resources, designs systems, and takes responsibility for its future. With strong leadership at the Town, inclusive engagement, and strategic investments, Erie can turn its waste challenge into an opportunity, cutting emissions, securing funding, and building a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient community for generations to come.

Current Conditions

Between 2021 and 2023, emissions from the solid waste sector increased by 8%, driven largely by rising tonnage at the Front Range Landfill. The Front Range Landfill sits within Erie's boundaries and accounts for roughly 30% of the Town's greenhouse gas emissions. Erie-specific landfilled tonnage and emissions also increased by 3% during this period. At the same time, Erie has made meaningful progress: per-capita

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disposal has decreased by 11%, dropping from 0.60 tons per person in 2021 to 0.53 tons per person in 2023. This trend shows that individual and household waste reduction efforts are working, but they are being outpaced by broader system-level challenges ([source](#)).

While Erie's recycling and organics recycling rates are lower than many of its regional neighbors, the Town has demonstrated strong leadership in recognizing the importance of sustainable waste management and supporting its residents and businesses to improve their diversion practices.

In 2022, the Town adopted a zero-waste policy for internal and external events to increase waste diversion. Erie also adopted a Pay-as-You-Throw ordinance in March 2020, but this policy is not currently enforced. Today, all waste collection is handled by private haulers, though Erie does manage a Recycling Center that accepts single-stream recycling, cardboard, yard waste, scrap metal, and food scraps. The Town also hosts clean-up events twice a year to help residents dispose of hard-to-recycle items.

ERIE IN ACTION

In 2024, Erie adopted a Sustainable Purchasing Best Management Practice Guide, an internal document that guides the Town's procurement practices, ensuring all products that are purchased meet high standards of sustainability, social well-being, and economic vitality.

In addition to Erie's current waste policies and initiatives, the Town also offers a range of waste diversion rebates, including composting and recycling pickup, disposal support for hard-to-recycle items, and incentives for businesses to use reusable bags, compostable service ware, and reusable to-go items.

[CALL OUT]

Erie has explored the creation of a materials reuse center to divert construction and deconstruction materials, partnered with regional organizations to expand access to reuse and hard-to-recycle services, and developed townwide green purchasing guides where cost-benefit is shown. These initiatives demonstrate what is possible when leadership and

community engagement are aligned and set the stage for the next phase of waste reduction and diversion.

Targets & Strategies

1. **Increase recycling diversion rates** for Erie-focused waste to 42% by 2030, 60% by 2040, and 90% by 2050.
2. **Increase organics diversion** (including composting) to 40% by 2030, 65% by 2040, and 90% by 2050.
3. **Enroll businesses in waste diversion programs**, targeting at least five participants per year until a communitywide program is established.

The strategies developed for Erie's waste-related sectors will help reduce landfill disposal, increase recycling and organics diversion, and lower greenhouse gas emissions, while building on the Town's strong foundation of waste reduction programs and services. These strategies were intentionally designed with equity in mind, prioritizing accessible infrastructure, education, and financial support for residents, small businesses, and community members who may be historically underserved or underrepresented, and ensuring that the benefits of a more circular, resource-efficient system are shared across the Erie community.

[Community Voices] "It would be great to see if we can encourage codes that support creative building practices as they relate to waste and recycling."

Recycling and Organics Recycling

Waste reduction and diversion are critical opportunities for Erie to lower greenhouse gas emissions, conserve resources, and reduce costs associated with landfill disposal. Expanding infrastructure and services, such as at the Erie Recycling Center, curbside organics recycling, and hard-to-recycle and reuse programs will help capture materials that would otherwise be landfilled while supporting a more circular local economy. Paired with smart policies, regional partnerships, and state-level initiatives like Extended Producer Responsibility, these strategies can reduce waste, extend the life of landfills, lower community emissions, improve local air quality, and create a more resilient and resource-efficient waste system for Erie.

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[Community Voices] When asked in the 2026 Community Survey what environmental considerations should be a priority, many respondents mentioned composting and recycling.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Construction and Deconstruction Waste

Construction and deconstruction (C&D) activities generate a significant volume of waste, much of which can be avoided, reused, or recycled with the right policies and infrastructure in place. Strengthening coordination between the Sustainability and Building Divisions, encouraging best practices such as modular and deconstructable design, and expanding local reuse and recycling opportunities for C&D materials can conserve resources while creating local jobs. Together, these strategies will help ensure that growth and redevelopment in Erie align with the community's long-term sustainability and resilience goals.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Erie Town Facilities and Events

Town facilities and events provide a visible and influential opportunity for Erie to lead by example in waste reduction and diversion. Municipal leaders have implemented zero-waste policies at community events, and ongoing measurement and tracking will help identify gaps and measure progress. Education and engagement efforts such as the Zero Waste Champions volunteer program can further boost participation and improve outcomes. Together, these actions increase diversion rates, lower emissions from waste disposal, and reinforce a culture of sustainability across Town operations and community events.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Erie Businesses

Local businesses play an important role in Erie's waste system and broader sustainability efforts. Continuing pilot programs and incentive-based approaches, such as organics recycling and waste diversion rebates, can help businesses overcome cost and logistical barriers. In parallel, partnerships with local business organizations and the Colorado Green Business Network of Erie elevate and

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celebrate socially responsible businesses, encouraging peer learning, community engagement, and broader adoption of practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support a resilient, value-driven business community.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

[CALL OUT] HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE (indirect influence)

With most of the waste and emissions from Erie's landfills coming from the region, not Erie residents, many decisions related to the landfill and its operations must happen regionally, but local action is still important.

What Erie Residents Can Do:

- *Continue to reduce waste at the local level through reuse, organics recycling, and recycling.*
- *Check out local hard-to-recycle diversion opportunities such as CHARM, SustainAbility, hazardous material collection facilities in both counties, and others.*
- *Advocate for more methane capture at the operational landfill.*
- *Support the Town in efforts and programs related to expanding waste diversion.*
- *Learn more about where waste goes, what can be recycled or reused, and what must go to the landfill. Use your knowledge as power to be more intentional about the products you buy and how you manage your waste.*

Nature-Based Solutions

[visual call out] Erie's Call to Action

Nature-based solutions (NBS) offer Erie an opportunity to take meaningful action by working with nature to address community challenges and protect the environment. Prioritizing NBS can help Erie reduce its emissions, strengthen climate resilience, and improve human and environmental health, all while deepening the community's connection to the natural environment.

Nature-based solutions focus on protecting and restoring natural ecosystems and integrating nature into the built environment. These types of strategies include managing stormwater, protecting habitats, and reducing the impacts from climate

events. Integrating NBS into planning and development in Erie will help preserve its natural resources and ecosystems, while creating a healthier and more resilient community.

Current Conditions

The Town of Erie manages about 285 acres of agricultural lands on designated open spaces, leased to qualified operators. According to Erie's Comprehensive Plan, most undeveloped land is used for agricultural activity, open space, and rural preservation, which are strictly protected through land use regulations and are highly valued by the community.

Erie recognizes the importance of its natural resources and has several townwide initiatives to protect them. Erie has received the "Tree City USA" designation from the Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of its forestry programs and successful management of public tree resources for over 25 years. Erie also offers rebates to residents to replace their turf with low-water plants as well as rebates for residents, homeowners' associations (HOAs), schools, and non-profits to purchase qualifying trees. In addition to Erie's efforts to protect trees and conserve water, the Town has several pollinator-friendly gardens and has partnered with Resource Central since 2004 to provide rebates to residents participating in their Garden-In-A-Box and Lawn Removal programs.

Erie in Action (call out)

In 2025, Erie began a partnership with the Community Fruit Rescue program to support up to 12 pilot fruit harvests annually for Erie residents, including the donation of the excess fruit collected to the Erie Community Food Bank.

Although Erie has taken significant steps to safeguard its natural resources, the Town remains vulnerable to extreme heat, poor air quality, and drought. This plan builds on Erie's existing initiatives and projects to help mitigate these risks and strengthen community resilience. For example, Erie adopted the Drought and Water Supply Shortage Plan in 2021, providing a clear framework for preparing for and responding to water shortages and emergencies.

Targets and Strategies

The strategies in this section build on Erie's strong foundation of nature-based sustainability efforts and focus on advancing initiatives that strengthen the Town's connection to nature. Strategies include supporting the Town's local food and agriculture systems, using pollinator friendly practices, conserving water, protecting

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and expanding Erie's tree canopy, encouraging balanced development, and investing in green infrastructure to enhance resilience and environmental well-being.

Targets

1. **Install and expand community gardens**, with 2 gardens by 2030 and at least 1 additional garden by 2040 and 2050.
2. **Implement a local food rebate program** to encourage vegetable gardens and other food-growing initiatives by 2030.
3. **Expand tree planting participation**, enrolling 5 residences, HOAs, or businesses by 2030, 15 by 2040, and 25 by 2050.
4. **Update the Landscape Code** to require green infrastructure for Town-funded development by 2030 and expand requirements to all commercial development by 2040.
5. **Assess the feasibility** of a one-in, one-out tree policy for new development and additions by 2030.

Local Food & Agriculture

Many communities rely on lengthy, unpredictable food supply chains. This means that if a climate event or other external disruption occurs, communities could lose access to critical food sources. Supporting local food systems gives communities more security and resilience in the event food supply chains are cut off or disrupted. Other benefits of local food and agriculture are healthier food choices, reducing pollution associated with packaging, manufacturing, and distribution, and it can strengthen community cohesion and connection. The strategies outlined in this section will help Erie expand its local food systems while also supporting keystone pollinator species that inhabit Erie.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Natural Resources

Erie deeply values its natural resources, and the Town understands that protecting the high quality of its air, land, water, and ecosystems is key to a healthy, resilient community. By protecting these resources, Erie will be in a better position to respond to climate impacts. The strategies in this section highlight the work Erie is already doing and aim to expand upon the Town's efforts, keeping up all the good work.

[Community Voices] When asked what environmental considerations should be priority, one respondent said: "Don't cut down trees."

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Codes and Policies

Codes and policies are powerful tools Erie can use to protect natural ecosystems and enhance community resilience; they help make these practices the norm and expectation. Erie can use these levers to ensure new and existing development minimizes impacts on its natural ecosystems, while supporting smart and balanced growth.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Education and Outreach

[visual call out] Erie's Call to Action

Education and outreach are foundational to Erie's ability to reduce communitywide emissions and create a sustainability-forward culture. By equipping residents, businesses, and community partners with clear, actionable information, Erie can increase participation in sustainability programs and ensure climate strategies translate into real, measurable outcomes.

As Erie grows, informed and engaged residents, businesses, and organizations will be essential to achieving the Town's climate and sustainability goals. Education and outreach empower the community to understand everyday choices, such as energy use, transportation habits, waste practices, impacts on emissions, and environmental health. Without broad awareness and participation, even the strongest policies and infrastructure investments can fall short.

Erie in Action (call out)

In 2024, Erie passed a Climate Emergency Proclamation, emphasizing the urgent need for climate action, including the development and commitment to goals to mitigate climate impacts ([source](#)).

Now is the time to strengthen Erie's education and outreach strategy. The Town must invest in consistent messaging, hands-on learning opportunities, and partnerships with schools, community organizations, HOAs, and local businesses. Outreach efforts should be data-informed, using participation and feedback to improve effectiveness

over time. Equity must remain central, ensuring all residents have access to information, resources, and opportunities to engage in a culturally relevant fashion.

Current Conditions

Erie has already built a strong foundation for community engagement around sustainability. The Town offers a variety of educational opportunities and resources to teach residents about topics such as waste diversion, energy efficiency, electrification, and climate action. Current efforts include environmental education during Erie's annual Arbor and Earth Day celebration, online resources covering fire preparedness, waste management, and information about programs and funding for home and business energy upgrades. Erie also hosts community hard to recycle events, promotes zero-waste practices at Town events, and operates the Recycling Center as both a service and educational resource.

In recent years, Erie has strengthened these efforts by hiring dedicated staff to coordinate sustainability programs, partnerships, and community events that connect residents and businesses with sustainability resources. Erie continues to partner with schools to support youth-led sustainability initiatives and also participates in regional and statewide collaborations, such as Colorado Communities for Climate Action, and supports programs like the Colorado Green Business Network of Erie. Lastly, the Town has demonstrated leadership by sharing best practices for managing natural areas, parks, and rights-of-way to support ecological health and biodiversity.

Together, these efforts have built momentum and community trust, setting the stage for the next phase of education and outreach that will reach more residents, businesses, and youth across Erie.

Targets & Strategies

Targets

1. **Host or participate in at least five community events** annually by 2030 to educate residents about sustainability.
2. **Double participation in local and regional sustainability programs** by 2030, with at least 20% of incentives or resources directed to income-qualified households or priority areas.

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3. **Engage youth and arts/cultural groups** in sustainability education and collaborative projects by 2030.
4. **Develop a sustainability curriculum** for Town staff by 2030.
5. **Support Erie neighborhoods** in the Sustainable Neighborhood Network, helping them achieve certification by 2030 and maintain credits through 2050 and beyond.

Education and outreach are essential to building long-term community engagement and supporting behavior change that advances Erie's sustainability goals. Coordinated, inclusive, and accessible communications can help residents, businesses, and institutions better understand and participate in programs that reduce emissions, conserve resources, save money, and improve quality of life. These efforts should prioritize equity and cultural responsiveness, particularly for residents who may be harder to reach through traditional communication channels, including those who speak languages other than English, come from diverse cultural backgrounds, or are experiencing housing cost pressures. By elevating local success stories, strengthening partnerships with schools, businesses, neighborhood groups, and regional organizations, and embedding sustainability into Town planning and operations, Erie can foster a shared culture of sustainability and empower community members to take meaningful climate action.

General

The strategies in this section focus primarily on strengthening education and outreach across all of Erie's sustainability efforts. These strategies provide a foundation for how the Town communicates, engages, and collaborates with the community and regional partners to increase awareness, participation, and equitable access to sustainability resources.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Buildings and Energy

Targeted education and outreach around buildings and energy can accelerate the adoption of energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy across Erie's homes and businesses. Many energy efficiency programs offered through Xcel

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Energy are underutilized because residents may not know these opportunities exist or how to access them. By showcasing real-world examples of clean energy solutions, expanding access to trusted information and financial resources, and supporting ongoing education for building and development professionals, the Town can reduce barriers to action and ensure successful implementation of current and future codes and policies. Prioritizing clear, equitable outreach, especially to low-income households and small businesses, will help ensure that the benefits of cleaner, more efficient buildings, including lower energy costs, improved comfort, and reduced emissions, are accessible to all members of the Erie community.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Transportation & Mobility

Education and outreach focused on transportation and mobility can help residents better understand and adopt low-emission, healthy, and affordable ways to get around Erie and the region. Engaging, accessible events and partnerships, such as transit promotion, e-bike safety training, and community mobility events, can normalize alternative transportation choices and build confidence among users of all ages and abilities. Together, these strategies will support a more connected, safe, and sustainable transportation system that meets the needs of Erie residents.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Waste Materials & Diversion

Education and outreach focused on waste diversion is key to increasing participation in recycling, organics recycling, reuse, and sustainable purchasing across Erie. Equipping Town staff with sustainable purchasing guidance supports waste reduction within municipal operations; while educating local businesses about Extended Producer Responsibility, the polystyrene ban, and emerging waste diversion programs ensures they can access new resources and opportunities as they become available. Together, these efforts will strengthen communitywide waste reduction behaviors and help Erie move toward a more circular and resilient materials system.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Nature-Based Solutions

Education and outreach around nature-based solutions can help Erie protect and enhance the community's ecological health, biodiversity, and resilience to climate impacts. Highlighting completed sustainability projects, like Erie's pollinator gardens, as real-life examples can inspire and educate. Expanding outreach to residents, building owners, and HOAs to normalize WaterWise landscaping and align with Erie's Water Efficiency and Drought Management plans supports water conservation, reduces landscape maintenance needs, and improves ecosystem health. Together, these strategies will deepen community stewardship of natural resources and reinforce the role of nature-based solutions in building a more sustainable Erie.

PLACEHOLDER FOR STRATEGIES

Conclusion: Working towards a more Sustainable Erie

The Sustainability Action Plan reflects Erie's commitment to thoughtful climate action that protects community health, supports economic vitality, and preserves the natural environment that makes Erie such a special place to live. As Erie continues to grow, addressing climate impacts, such as poor air quality, drought, and extreme weather, are critical to maintaining quality of life and building long-term resilience. This plan provides a clear, data-driven roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in five key sectors while balancing environmental protection, equity, and economic opportunity.

Progress toward the SAP's goals will be tracked through defined metrics and regular reporting, ensuring transparency, accountability, and the ability to adapt strategies as conditions, technologies, and community needs evolve. Ongoing evaluations will help the Town prioritize actions, measure success, and make informed decisions over time.

The success of this plan rests on shared responsibility and interdepartmental coordination. Residents, businesses, community organizations, and regional partners all have an important role to play by participating in Town programs, making

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sustainable choices in daily life, supporting local and regional policy efforts, and staying engaged as the Plan is implemented. Through collective action and continued collaboration, Erie can lead in sustainability and build a healthier, more resilient, and more equitable future for generations to come.

Appendix A. Full Scope BAU

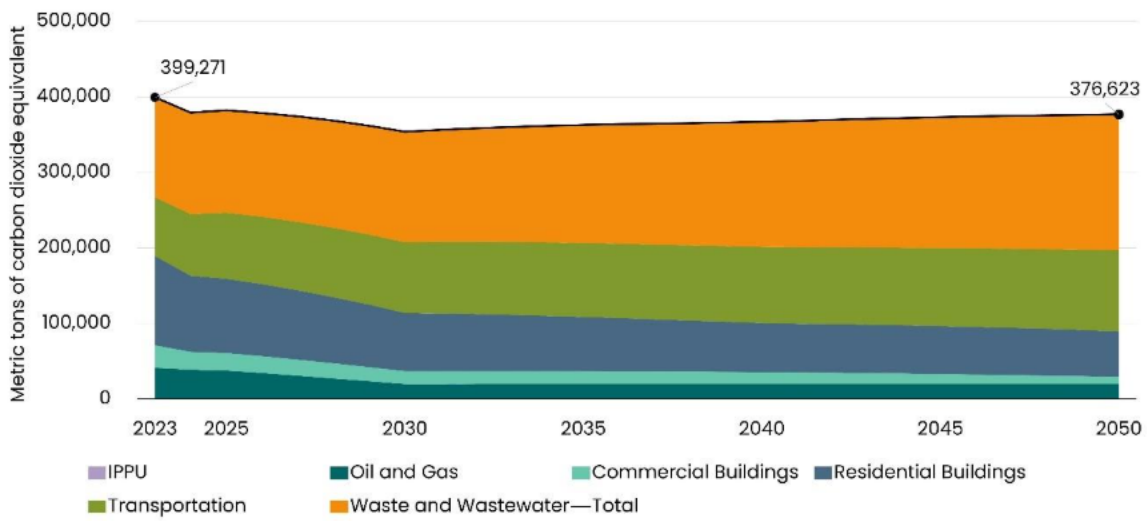
When considering the full scope of Erie’s baseline emissions, regardless of direct influence, emissions are expected to decrease by 6% from 2023 levels by 2050. This decrease in emissions is mainly driven by utility renewable energy goals and baseline electrification in transportation and building energy. Baseline electrification was modeled to follow Rocky Mountain Institute’s Energy Policy Simulator for Colorado using the state’s Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap baseline including federal policy rollback scenarios (includes 63% electric vehicle adoption by 2050 and 65% heat pump adoption at equipment replacement by 2030). Statewide policies like the Clean Heat Plan, Advanced Clean Cars, and Advanced Clean Trucks, along with local plans like Erie’s Beneficial Electrification Plan, all support this baseline electrification adoption.

Waste remains a major source of emissions as the model assumes a growth in regional tonnage sent to the Front Range Landfill. One limitation to this assumption is that the estimated capacity of the landfill is approximately 40,000,000 short tons, and at the current regional population growth levels the landfill is estimated to meet that capacity in 2029 if it continues accepting the current level of waste.² Due to current discussions around expanding the landfill, the model assumes waste grows along with regional population out to 2050, disregarding the current estimated maximum capacity, introducing a level of uncertainty. Additional explanations of assumptions used in the model are discussed in Appendix B: BAU Assumptions.

The profile of Erie’s full scope BAU emissions over time are shown in Figure A1 below.

Figure A1. Town of Erie’s communitywide BAU emissions profile, inclusive of all emissions sources.

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Appendix B: BAU Assumptions

Table 1. BAU assumptions.

Driver	Description	Source
Population	Erie's population is expected to increase by 98% from 2025 to 2050. Population growth rates are used to project changes in Town of Erie residential waste tonnage, vehicle miles traveled, in-boundary aviation, and off-road fuel use.	Town of Erie's 2025 Community profile .
Employment	Erie's Employment is expected to increase 178% from 2025 to 2050. Employment growth rates are used to project changes in non-residential building square footage.	2021-2024 employment counts were obtained from the Town's demographics website . 2050 employment forecast was obtained from the Town's 2024 Economic Market Analysis using the moderate growth estimate.
Households	Erie's households are expected to increase 106% from 2025 to 2050. Household growth rates are used to project residential building square footage.	Town of Erie's 2025 Community profile .
Transportation electrification	Includes state EV tax credits and incentives, federal rollback and repeal of EV incentives and Advanced Clean Cars and Trucks	Rocky Mountain Institute's Energy Policy Simulator for Colorado .

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	regulations. Models EVs as: • 57% of light-duty vehicles by 2050. • 21% of heavy-duty vehicles by 2050.	
Building electrification	Heat pump adoption upon replacement of existing equipment: • 7% of equipment replacements are heat pumps by 2030. • 65% of equipment replacements are heat pumps by 2030-2050.	Rocky Mountain Institute's Energy Policy Simulator for Colorado.
Building energy code	The BAU models the 2021 IECC and assumes this remains in place in the future.	Erie's building codes website. Note this was the adopted code at the time this forecast was developed and does not reflect Erie's currently adopted code.
Building Performance Standards	Square footage over 50,000 in the Town was provided by Town of Erie. Building type weighted baseline and target EUIs were estimated based on the building type specific targets in the State's BPS program.	Building Performance Colorado.
Oil and gas	Oil and gas emissions are forecast to achieve a 36% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2025 and a 60% reduction by 2030 from 2005 baseline emissions	Colorado's Oil and Gas emissions reduction goals.

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	following the State's goals.	
Electric grid emissions	Expected greening of the grid from Xcel Energy's stated emissions reduction goals. United Power left Tri-State and entered a power supply arrangement with Xcel Energy in 2024. Therefore, Xcel's emission factor forecast is used to estimate all communitywide emissions for Erie. Xcel Energy's emission factors are forecasted based on stated goals for an 80% reduction in emissions by 2030 and 100% reduction by 2050 when compared to 2005.	<u>Xcel's Carbon Reduction plan.</u>
Front Range Landfill	Erie's proportion of waste is projected based on population forecasts. Front Range Landfill tonnage and emissions are projected to grow with Boulder and Weld County population growth from the Colorado Demography Office.	<u>CO Demography Office County population projections.</u>

Appendix C: Strategy Modeling GHG Emissions Reductions Results

As part of the planning process, a GHG emissions reduction model was developed to estimate the drawdown potential of five local strategies for reducing emissions in Erie over time. The model was developed to be flexible, with user-defined inputs for levers that Erie staff can adjust to understand their GHG emissions reduction potential. The following strategies used for modeling were selected by the steering committee and Erie staff:

1. Regularly evaluate and adopt the most recent energy code to ensure alignment with the state requirements. Where feasible, explore the adoption of above-code amendments to reduce carbon pollution and advance community priorities.
2. Continue to prioritize energy efficiency and all-electric heating and cooling systems for all existing buildings in Erie, including Town facilities and affordable housing projects.
3. Work with RTD, CDOT, Boulder County, and other partners to support transit infrastructure, increase transit service frequencies and geographic service, and expand vehicle-sharing opportunities. Prioritize connections to key areas such as schools, grocery stores, and neighboring cities as Erie continues to build out its parks and trails system, and transit services.
4. Continue to explore and pilot waste diversion policies for the Town such as enforcing the current Pay-As-You-Throw ordinance, a communitywide hauler, and/or a universal recycling ordinance.
5. Incentivize smart growth practices such as higher density, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse to protect Erie's natural resources, agricultural industry, and the environment as Erie grows.

The modeled strategies are estimated to reduce Erie's direct influence emissions by 51-81% by 2050 in comparison to 2023 baseline levels. These emission reductions include the 42% reduction from BAU impacts, with the modeled strategies representing 9-39% of total emission reductions.

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Due to uncertainty in the specific details of how each strategy will be implemented, a range of estimated impacts were calculated. The low-end impacts were estimated assuming minimal implementation, while the high-end impacts were estimated to follow the targets outlined in this plan. Figure 1 visualizes the range of reduction potential the modeled strategies are estimated to have on Erie's direct influence emissions. Table 2 presents the range of GHG emissions reduction potential for each modeled strategy. See Appendix D for assumptions on how low and high-end impacts were estimated.

Figure 4. Range of Erie's direct influence GHG emission reductions from modeled strategies.

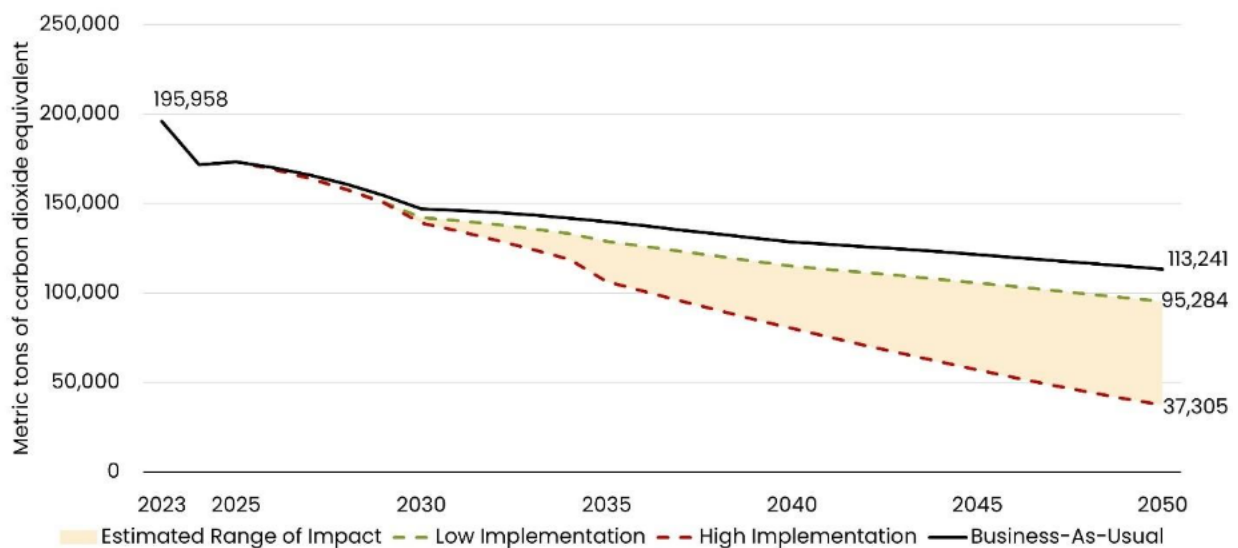


Table 2. Range of Erie's direct influence GHG emission reductions, by modeled strategy.

Strategy	Reductions in Erie's direct influence GHG emissions by 2050 relative to 2023 levels.
Strategy #1: Building energy codes	2-23%
Strategy #2: Incentives for building electrification	2-7%
Strategy #3: Transit expansion	0.02-0.2%
Strategy #4: Smart growth	0.3-1%
Strategy #5: Waste management	5-7%

See Appendix D: Strategy Modeling GHG Reductions Assumptions for key assumptions and sources for how each strategy was modeled.

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Appendix D: Strategy Modeling GHG Emissions Reductions Assumptions

The GHG emissions reduction strategy model was developed to be flexible with user-defined inputs that the Town of Erie can use to determine different implementation pathways for the modeled strategies. Each strategy defines a program start year, target value (i.e. share of replaced heating equipment to be electrified annually), and a year to reach the target value. The following sections outline how each strategy was modeled.

Strategy #1: Building energy codes

This strategy models continued adoption of recent building energy codes and packages by Erie to reduce GHG emissions. At the time of modeling, it assumed that Erie would adopt the 2024 IECC building energy codes in spring 2026.⁴ Users can define energy code amendments for energy efficiency, all-electric, or net-zero requirements for future energy code updates. The user can also define renewable energy requirements for offsetting on-site energy use. This strategy assumes 90% code compliance from all residential and commercial buildings.

Estimated GHG emissions reductions for this strategy range from 2–23% relative to 2023 baseline emissions. The low implementation scenario assumes 2024 IECC building energy code adoption in 2026. The high implementation scenario assumes net-zero new building energy consumption starting in 2030.

Strategy #2: Incentives for building electrification

This strategy is modeled as the replacement of existing space cooling, heating, and water heating equipment at the end of their useful life with high-efficiency electric equipment. Users can define the target share of replaced equipment electrified annually. All heating and cooling equipment is assumed to have an average equipment lifespan of 14 years ([RMI's Energy Policy Simulator](#)).

⁴ In April 2026, Erie adopted the 2024 IECC with electric-preferred, EV-ready, and solar-ready requirements.

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This strategy was modeled to consider electrification impacts on the following end uses for both residential and commercial buildings: space heating, water heating, and space cooling. Natural gas used for laundry, cooking, and industrial processes are not considered in this strategy. This strategy only considers electrification on top of baseline levels accounted for in the BAU to avoid double counting impacts.

Estimated GHG emissions reductions for this strategy range from 2–7% relative to 2023 baseline emissions. The low and high implementation scenarios assume 75% and 100% of space and water heating equipment replaced annually are replaced with high-efficiency heat pumps, with adoption ramping up linearly from 2026 to 2036.

Strategy #3: Transit expansion

This strategy is modeled as a user-defined increase in transit coverage and/or service hours within Erie. Users can define the percent increase in transit service and year to start increased service. The methodology in the [Handbook for Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions in Western States](#) for Extend Transit Network Coverage or Hours (T-25) was used to estimate vehicle miles traveled and emissions impacts for this analysis.

GHG emissions are estimated from the reduction in passenger vehicle use that occurs from increased transit service and access. The reduction in passenger vehicle miles traveled due to this occurrence is determined using default factors from state and regional sources ([Town of Erie's transit mode share](#) and [Handbook for Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions in Western States](#)). The additional fossil fuel consumption from increased transit bus use was considered to be minimal and not included in this model.

Estimated GHG emissions reductions for this strategy range from 0.02–0.20% relative to 2023 baseline emissions. The low and high implementation scenarios assume 20% and 240% increase in transit service hours or miles by 2035. The high implementation scenario is set based on the maximum increase based on recommendations from the [Handbook for Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions in Western States](#).

Strategy #4: Smart growth

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This strategy is modeled using a user-defined percent increase in density. A default factor for percent reduction in passenger vehicle miles traveled per 1% increase in density is then applied to passenger vehicle miles traveled to determine emissions reduction. (Stevens 2016, Journal of the American Planning Association).

Estimated GHG emissions reductions for this strategy range from 0.3-1% relative to 2023 baseline emissions. The low and high implementation scenarios assume 22% and 100% increase in density in Erie by 2035.

Strategy #5: Waste management

This strategy was modeled in two tiers: impacts from the Extended Producer Responsibility Act (EPR) and impacts from local organics diversion.

EPR

Strategies such as a Pay-As-You-Throw ordinance, a communitywide hauler, and a universal recycling ordinance align with Colorado's EPR program. This strategy models how the EPR impacts waste produced by the Town of Erie as well as regional waste in the Front Range Landfill, when considering the full scope of emissions. This model utilizes the "Medium" scenario for the EPR (39%-45% diversion by 2030 and 54%-60% diversion by 2035 in the front range, [Executive Summary Table 15](#)) that was approved by the [Joint Budget Committee in April 2024](#). It is assumed that Erie and the region meet the targets outlined in this scenario.

Organics diversion

This strategy is modeled as a user-defined organic waste diversion target in Erie. This strategy only looks at organics diversion from waste produced by Town residents and businesses and does not consider any regional waste impacts. The strategy calculates both emissions reduced from avoided landfiling and increased emissions from composting. The model utilizes the Boulder County waste characterization to separate out organic material that can be diverted from the landfill.

Estimated GHG emissions reductions for the modeled waste strategies range from 5-7% relative to 2023 baseline emissions. The low and high implementation scenarios assume 20% and 85% compost diversion targets, with compost diversion ramping up

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linearly from 2026 to 2050. The model assumes that recycling diversion targets from EPR do not change between low and high implementation scenarios.

Appendix E. Engagement Materials

E1. Engagement Tactics and Attendance

Engagement Tactic	Number of Engagements	Attendance/ Participation
Arbor/Earth Day	1	70+
Farmer's Market	2	42
Staff Focus Groups⁵	1	11
Steering Committee⁶	4	19
Charette	1	7
Total Numbers	9 engagements	149+ participation

E2. Arbor/Earth Day Event Voting

The project team led an engagement activity for the Town of Erie's Arbor/Earth Day event to get community feedback for the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) update. The main goals were to gather feedback on:

- What sectors are most important to the community.
- What sustainability means to the community.
- What environmental considerations Erie should consider for the Plan update.

Participants could vote with dot stickers on the top three sectors (Buildings and Energy Use, Transportation and Mobility, Waste Diversion, Education and Outreach, Land Use and Built Environment, and Local Ecosystems and Watersheds) that are most important to them and that Erie should prioritize.

⁵ No materials are included for the Staff Focus Group because no collateral materials were developed. Please ask the Erie sustainability team for access to meeting notes.

⁶ Materials for Steering Committee Meetings #3 and #4 are not included because no collateral materials were developed. Please ask Erie's sustainability team to access meeting notes.

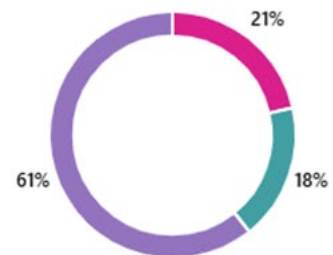
Sector	Votes
Local Ecosystems and Watersheds	101
Waste Diversion	92
Land Use and Built Environment	85
Transportation and Mobility	65
Education and Outreach	55
Buildings and Energy Use	35
Total Votes	433

E3. Farmer's Market Survey Results

May 2025 Questionnaire Results – 28 Respondents

1. How familiar are you with Erie's 2019 Sustainability Plan?

Very familiar	0
Somewhat familiar	6
Slightly familiar	5
Not at all familiar	17



2. How important is it that Erie takes steps to protect its environment?

Very Important Important Neutral Low importance Not at all important

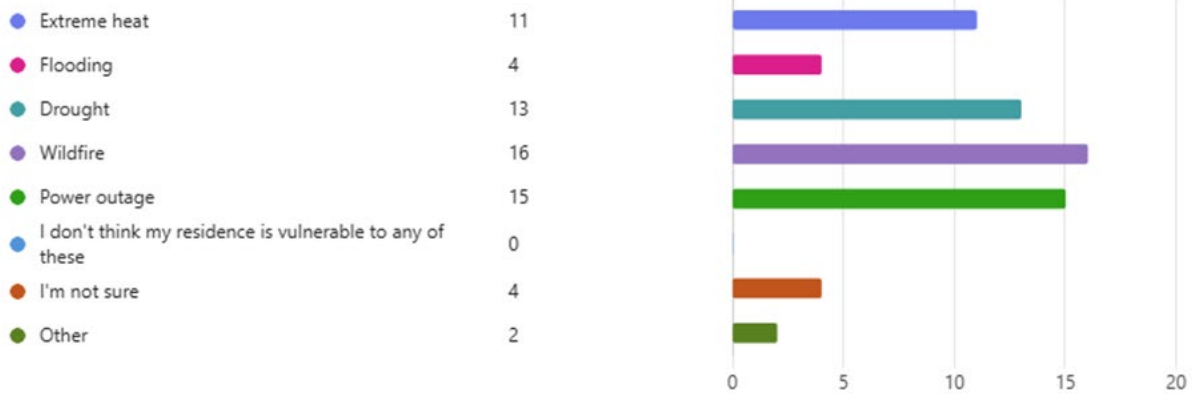


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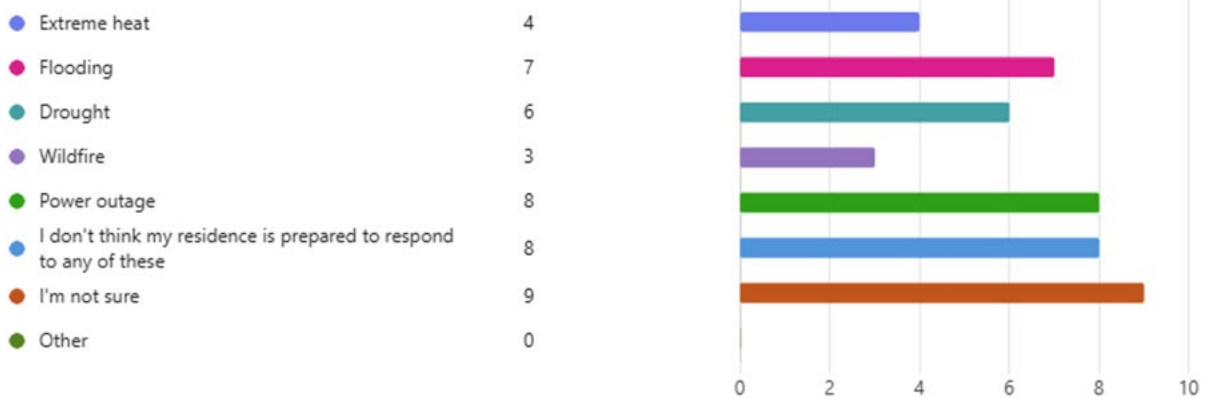
3. What environmental impacts do you think Erie is most vulnerable to?



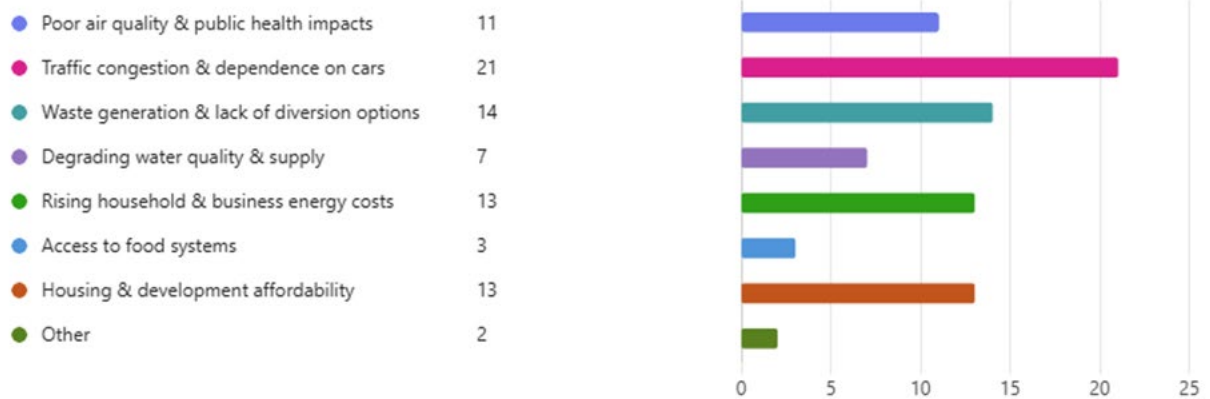
4. Do you believe your residence is vulnerable to any of the hazards listed below? Select all that apply.



5. Do you believe your residence is prepared to respond to any of the hazards listed below? Select as many apply.



6. What sustainability-related challenges do you think Erie is most vulnerable to?

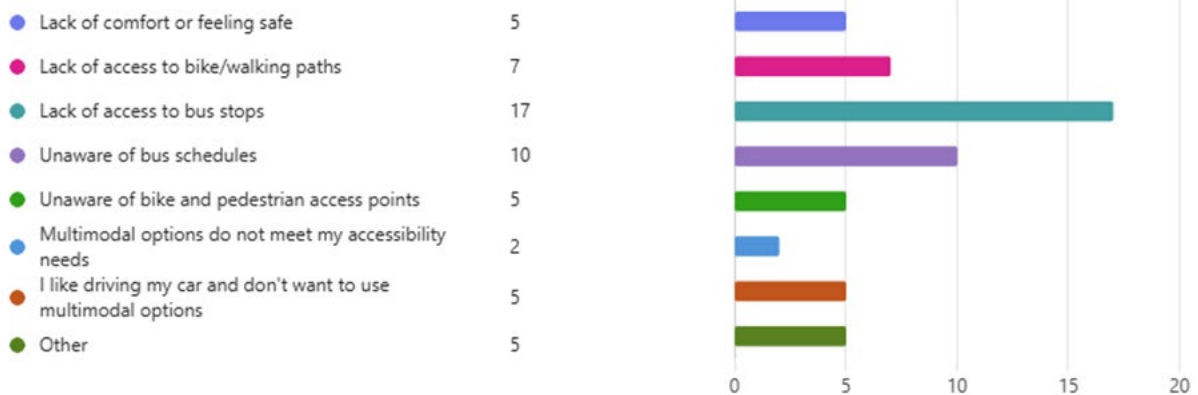


7. How would you rate your access to the public transportation system in Erie?

Very good Good Neutral Poor Very poor

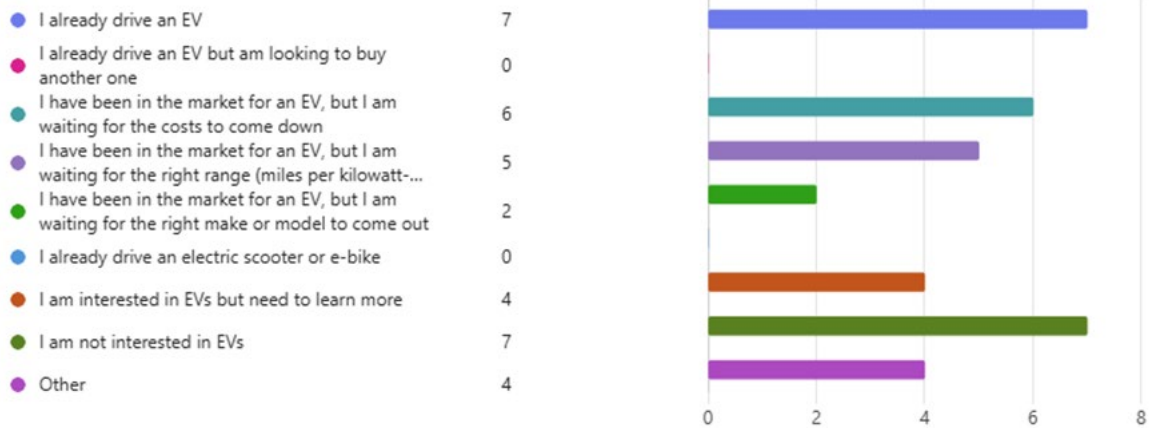


8. We know that most Erie residents drive a single occupancy vehicle as their primary mode of transportation in Town. What would help the community increase ridership as well as other multimodal opportunities like biking, walking, and rideshare? Select all that apply.



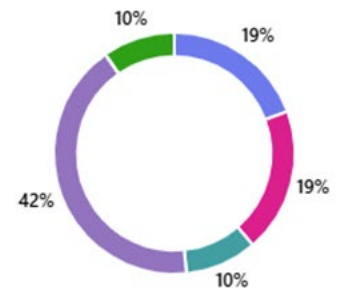
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9. Are there any barriers preventing you from driving an electric vehicle (EV)? Select all that apply.



10. If your household does not use an organics recycling (composting) service, what barriers exist that are preventing you from using them?

The cost of service is too high	6
I compost in my yard	6
I drop off my compost elsewhere	3
I am unfamiliar with organics recycling and am not sure why I should do it	13
I am not interested in organics recycling	3



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11. What might encourage you to recycle your organic waste (lower cost, better service, more education, community drop off areas, yard waste collection, etc.)?

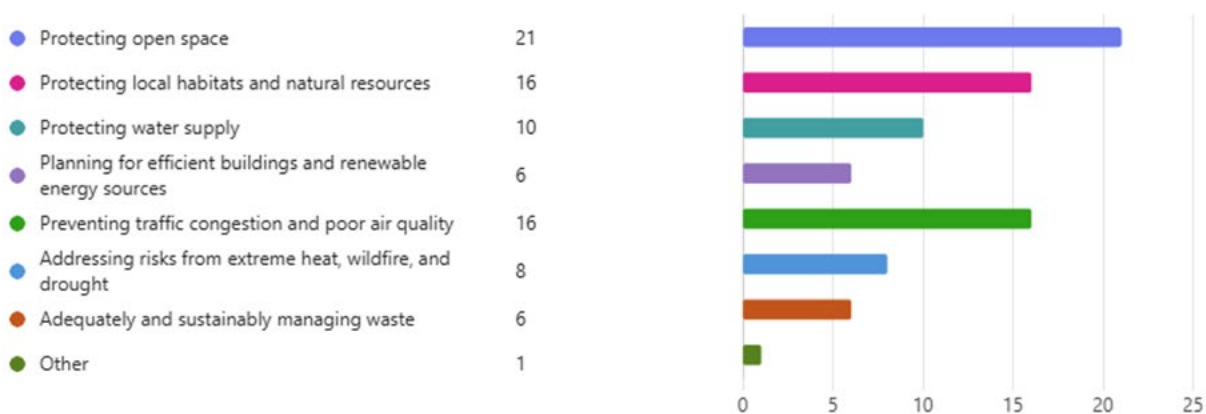
28 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	More education
2	anonymous	Low cost service
3	anonymous	Make it easy
4	anonymous	Na
5	anonymous	Yes
6	anonymous	More education
7	anonymous	Pay me
8	anonymous	Accessibility
9	anonymous	Cost and benefit
10	anonymous	Better service
11	anonymous	Having a bin
12	anonymous	Service with the rest of my trash
13	anonymous	Not sure
14	anonymous	Easy access, and more information on provider

DRAFT

15	anonymous	lak
16	anonymous	Convenience like trash service
17	anonymous	Not really sure
18	anonymous	Nothing
19	anonymous	Na
20	anonymous	Some kind of reward
21	anonymous	Ease. Insuring lack of critters
22	anonymous	Ease of use.
23	anonymous	Making it super easy
24	anonymous	Ease of use
25	anonymous	I rent, and composting is not an option at my residence. Community drop off areas would be quite helpful.
26	anonymous	Yard waste collection, community dropoff areas, other no-cost options
27	anonymous	I own 4 bins for composting because this is extremely important to me. Start penalizing people who throw out their yard waste in the trash, and you'll probably see a huge shift in mindset and action. It's like when we were all forced to now bring our own plastic bags to the store. Or just provide composting pickup services.
28	anonymous	Community drop off

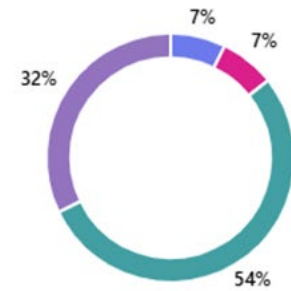
12. What environmental considerations should be priority as the community grows?



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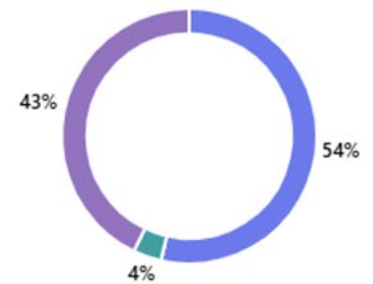
13. How much do you rely on local businesses in Erie for purchasing goods and services? (Food, retail, healthcare, entertainment)

I can purchase everything I need from small businesses in Erie	2
I can purchase most of what I need from small businesses in Erie	2
I can purchase some things I need from small businesses in Erie	15
I can purchase very few things I need from small businesses in Erie	9
I can't purchase anything from small businesses in Erie	0



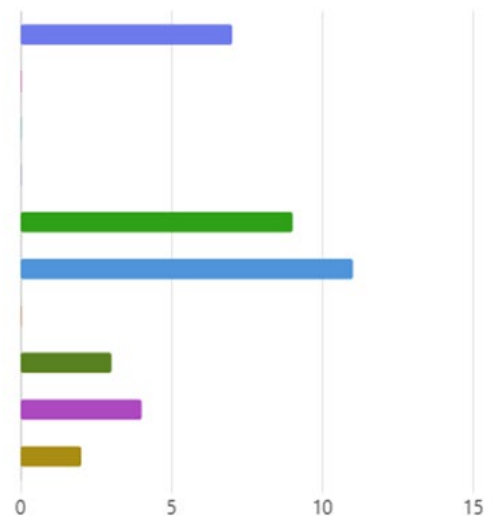
14. Have you made any energy efficiency improvements in your home or business?

Yes, in my home	15
Yes, in my place of business	0
Yes, in both my home and place of business	1
No	12



15. If yes, which improvements have you made?

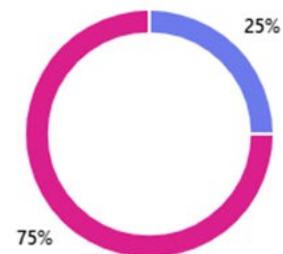
Insulation (attic, wall, crawlspace, foundation)	7
Heat pump	0
Cold climate heat pump	0
Geothermal heat pump	0
Window replacement	9
Smart thermostat	11
Heat pump hot water heater	0
Induction cooktop	3
Solar installation	4
Other	2



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16. If you made energy improvements, did you utilize any utility rebates, incentives, auditing programs, or other services offered by your utility or Erie?

● Yes 4
● No 12



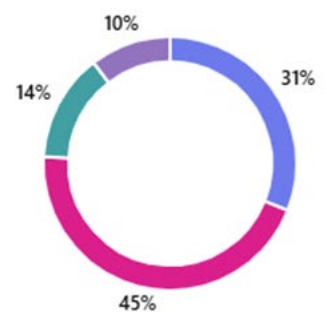
17. Which program or service did you use?

4 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Solar
2	anonymous	Appliance rebates
3	anonymous	Appliance rebate
4	anonymous	Lawn replacement

18. Are you interested in making energy efficiency improvements in your home or business? Or if you have already made improvements in your home or business, are you interested in making more?

● I'm interested but I can't afford it 9
● I'm interested but need to learn more about energy efficiency 13
● I'm not interested in making energy efficiency upgrades 4
● Other 3

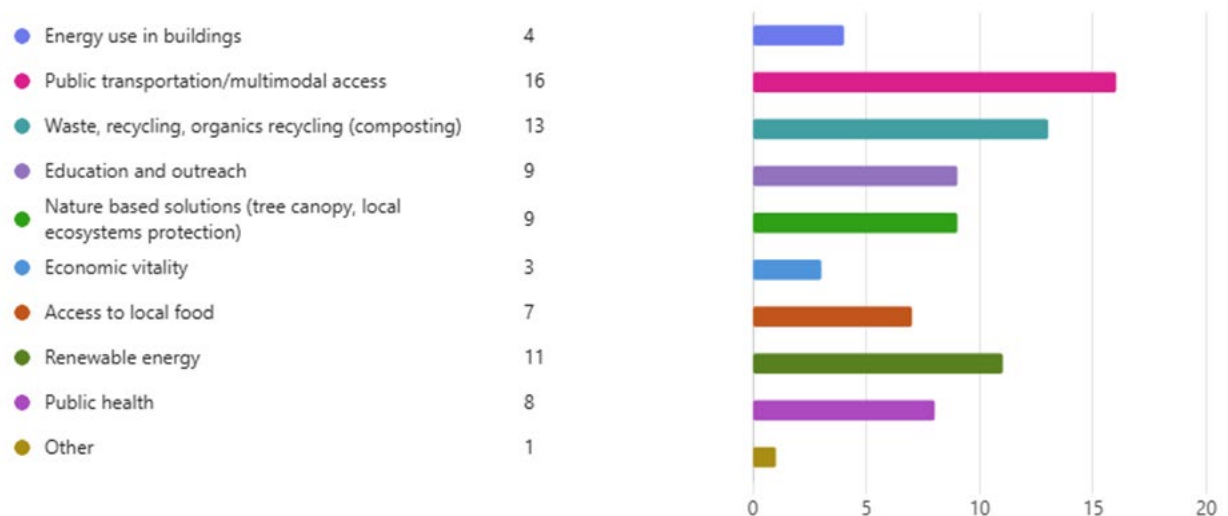


19. If interested, which improvements would you be most curious about?

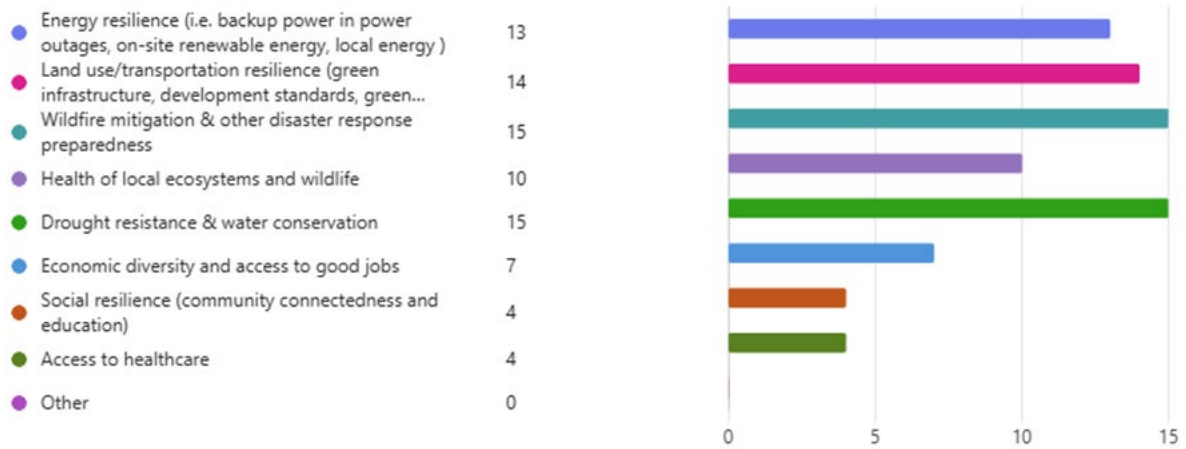
13 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Solar
2	anonymous	Insulation
3	anonymous	Solar
4	anonymous	Solar, xeriscaping
5	anonymous	Getting rid of gas
6	anonymous	Solar
7	anonymous	Heat pump geothermal
8	anonymous	Heating and cooling systems
9	anonymous	Solar is dumb how it works now. Lots of batteries charged by solar. Only way it works.
10	anonymous	Solar
11	anonymous	Solar
12	anonymous	Anything I can do
13	anonymous	Solar

20. What topics should be a top priority for the Sustainability Plan update?

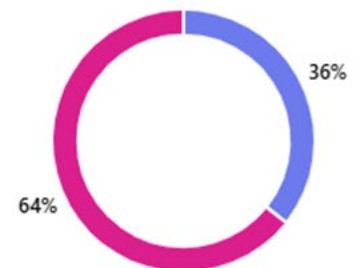


21. What resilience-related topics should be a top priority for the Sustainability Plan update and the Resilience Action Plan?



22. Would you be interested in filling out some brief demographic information?

- Yes 10
- No 18



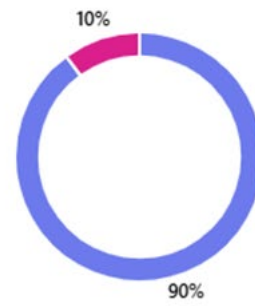
23. What is your age?

Under 18	0
19-30	0
31-50	6
51-70	4
70+	0



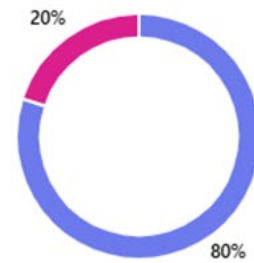
24. What is your gender?

Female	9
Male	1
Non-binary	0
Prefer not to say	0



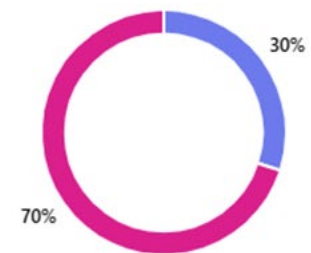
25. Which Town of Erie district do you live in?

District 1	8
District 2	2
District 3	0
I do not live in Erie	0



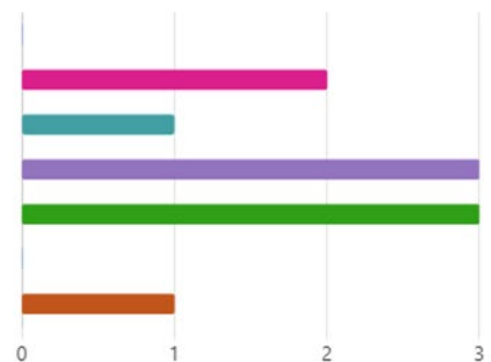
26. Which county do you live in?

Town of Erie, Boulder County	3
Town of Erie, Weld County	7
I do not live in the Town of Erie	0



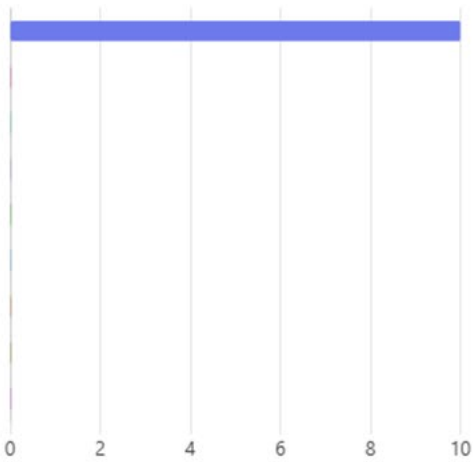
27. What is your household income?

\$10,000-\$50,000	0
\$51,000 – \$90,000	2
\$91,000 – \$150,000	1
\$151,000 – \$200,000	3
201,000 – \$500,000	3
Over \$500,000	0
Prefer not to say	1



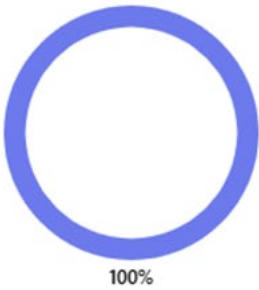
28. What is your race?

White	10
Hispanic or Latino	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0
Asian	0
Black or African American	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Multiracial	0
Prefer not to say	0
Other	0



29. What is the primary language spoken in your home?

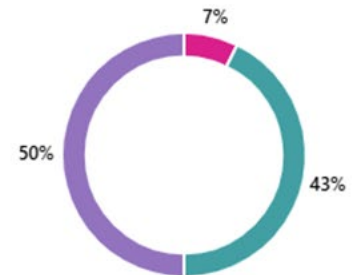
English	10
Spanish	0
Other	0



June 2025 Questionnaire Results – 14 Respondents

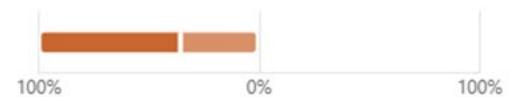
1. How familiar are you with Erie's 2019 Sustainability Plan?

Very familiar	0
Somewhat familiar	1
Slightly familiar	6
Not at all familiar	7



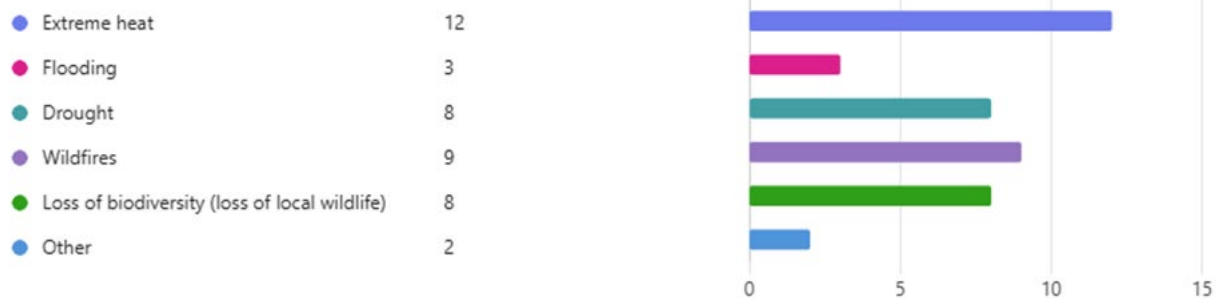
2. How important is it that Erie takes steps to protect its environment?

Very Important Important Neutral Low importance Not at all important

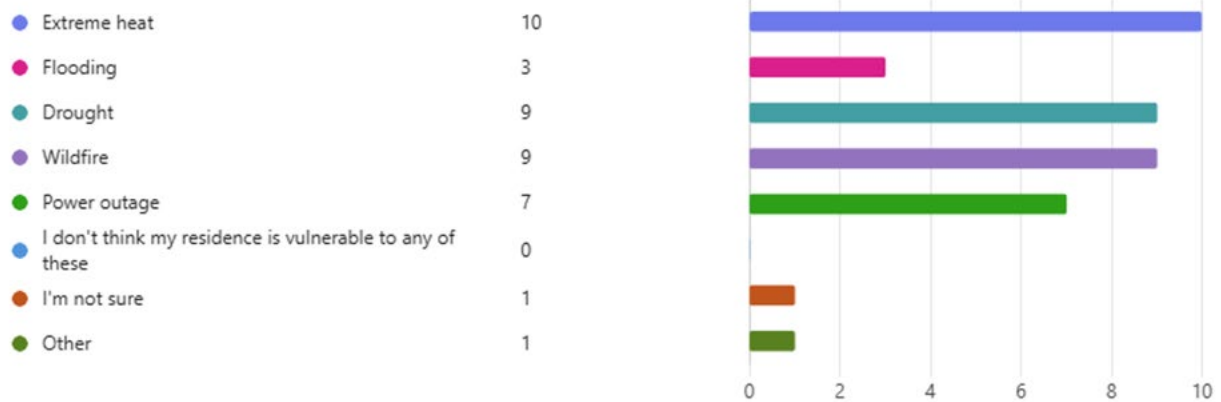


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3. What environmental impacts do you think Erie is most vulnerable to?

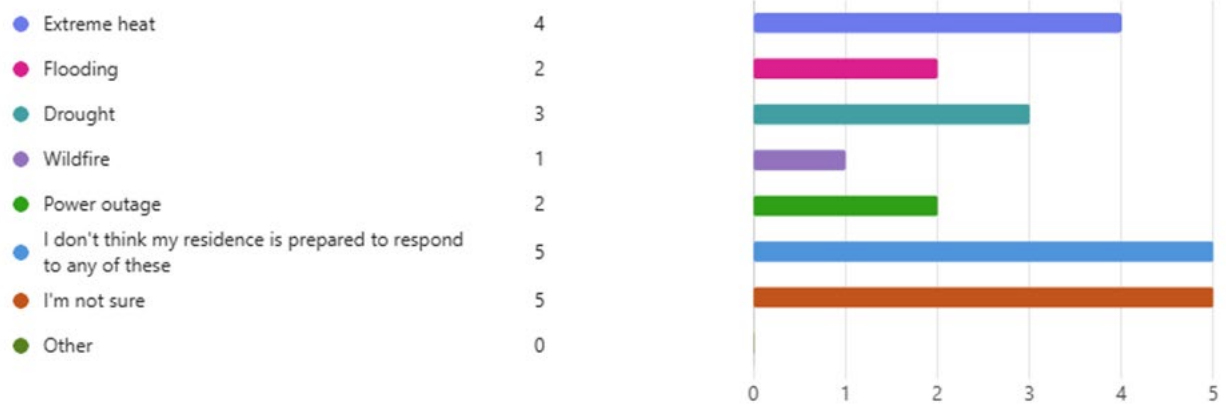


4. Do you believe your residence is vulnerable to any of the hazards listed below? Select all that apply.

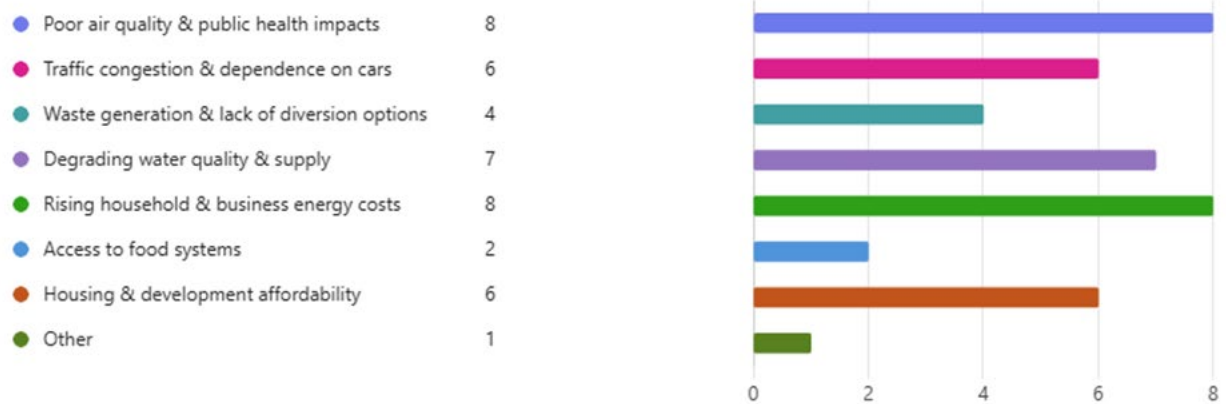


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5. Do you believe your residence is prepared to respond to any of the hazards listed below? Select as many that apply.

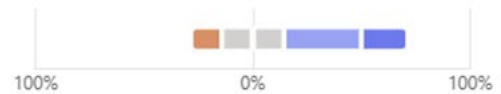


6. What sustainability-related challenges do you think Erie is most vulnerable to?



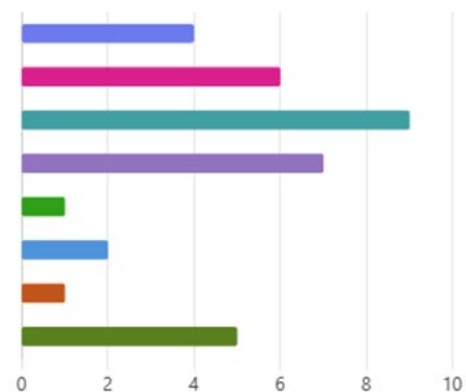
7. How would you rate your access to the public transportation system in Erie?

Very good Good Neutral Poor Very poor



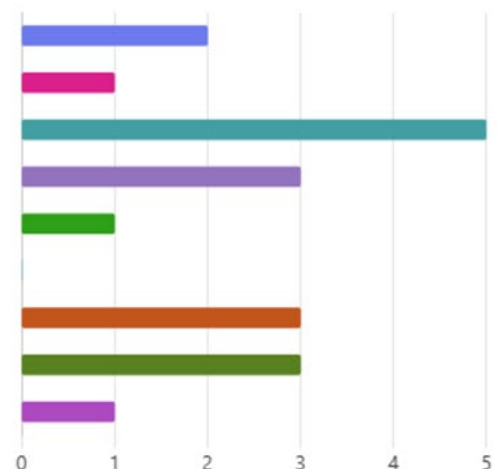
8. We know that most Erie residents drive a single occupancy vehicle as their primary mode of transportation in Town. What would help the community increase ridership as well as other multimodal opportunities like biking, walking, and rideshare? Select all that apply.

- Lack of comfort or feeling safe 4
- Lack of access to bike/walking paths 6
- Lack of access to bus stops 9
- Unaware of bus schedules 7
- Unaware of bike and pedestrian access points 1
- Multimodal options do not meet my accessibility needs 2
- I like driving my car and don't want to use multimodal options 1
- Other 5



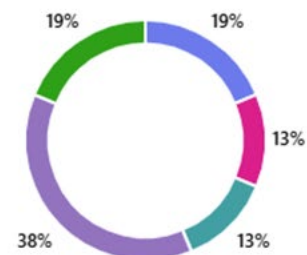
9. Are there any barriers preventing you from driving an electric vehicle (EV)? Select all that apply.

- I already drive an EV 2
- I already drive an EV but am looking to buy another one 1
- I have been in the market for an EV, but I am waiting for the costs to come down 5
- I have been in the market for an EV, but I am waiting for the right range (miles per kilowatt-... 3
- I have been in the market for an EV, but I am waiting for the right make or model to come out 1
- I already drive an electric scooter or e-bike 0
- I am interested in EVs but need to learn more 3
- I am not interested in EVs 3
- Other 1



10. If your household does not use an organics recycling (composting) service, what barriers exist that are preventing you from using them?

● The cost of service is too high	3
● I compost in my yard	2
● I drop off my compost elsewhere	2
● I am unfamiliar with organics recycling and am not sure why I should do it	6
● I am not interested in organics recycling	3



11. What might encourage you to recycle your organic waste (lower cost, better service, more education, community drop off areas, yard waste collection, etc.)?

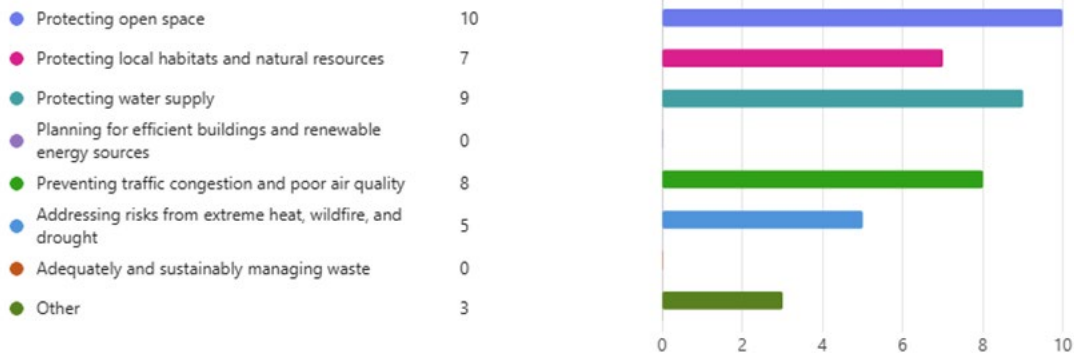
14 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Drop off areas
2	anonymous	Lower cost and better service
3	anonymous	Knowledge, community drop off areas
4	anonymous	More education
5	anonymous	Already doing
6	anonymous	Just haven't started it yet at my new home. We had a huge compost bin at previous residence
7	anonymous	Provide an option with our trash and recycling service. Fort Collins does this very well. I used live there and they have a great program to dispose of trash, recycle and composting. We loved it. I hate how Erie handles it.
8	anonymous	More knowledge about the existence of a home composting program.
9	anonymous	Have it part of our regular waste management system and cost. Trash, recycle and compost bin

DRAFT

10	anonymous	When I lived in San Antonio, there was this amazing company that had a very inexpensive service called compost queens. They had 5 gallon buckets you could get and biodegradable plastic bags and the stuff called Bo Kashi. You would take anything that was not meat or dairy so organic fruit and veggie scraps essentially and those would go into the compost and you would layer in the Bo Kashi. This service as long as I dropped off was \$10 a month. They had different tiers of Service available where you could have them pick up once a week or once every two weeks and you would pay a different amount. They also had the option to get compost back after you had been with them for so long. They also donated a lot of their compost to local farms. I live in an apartment, I don't know where I would keep this bucket let alone if I qualify for composting food scraps, which would help limit trash. When I lived in San Antonio, we had for a family of five about one bag of trash a week because we eat plant-based and we cook from scratch most nights and we do a lot of fresh produce. And we had a huge recycling bin to top that off.
11	anonymous	N/a
12	anonymous	Already there!
13	anonymous	Composting bin, access to community compost and worm bins
14	anonymous	Education and cost

12. What environmental considerations should be priority as the community grows?



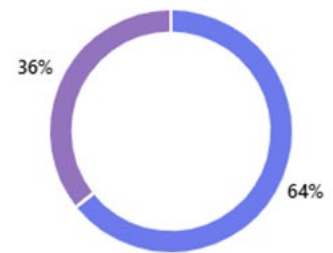
13. How much do you rely on local businesses in Erie for purchasing goods and services? (Food, retail, healthcare, entertainment)



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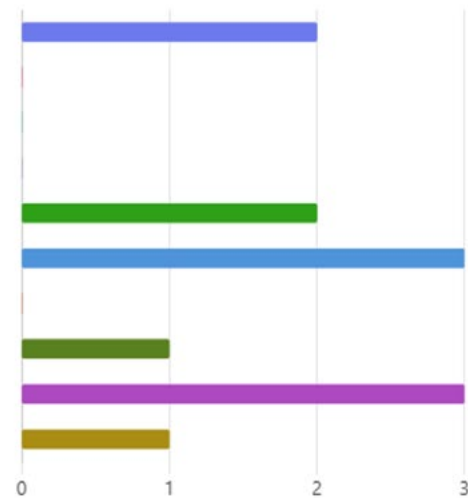
14. Have you made any energy efficiency improvements in your home or business?

● Yes, in my home	9
● Yes, in my place of business	0
● Yes, in both my home and place of business	0
● No	5



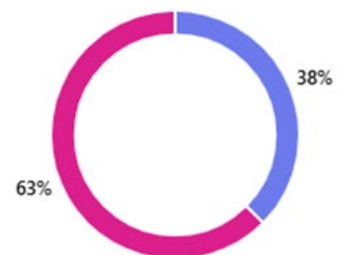
15. If yes, which improvements have you made?

● Insulation (attic, wall, crawlspace, foundation)	2
● Heat pump	0
● Cold climate heat pump	0
● Geothermal heat pump	0
● Window replacement	2
● Smart thermostat	3
● Heat pump hot water heater	0
● Induction cooktop	1
● Solar installation	3
● Other	1



16. If you made energy improvements, did you utilize any utility rebates, incentives, auditing programs, or other services offered by your utility or Erie?

● Yes	3
● No	5



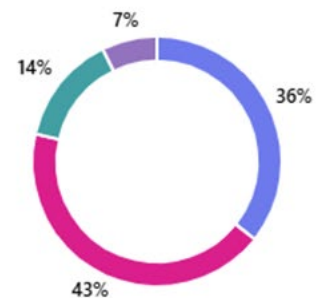
17. Which program or service did you use?

3 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Ev, electric bike, induction stovetop, grass rebate, resource central rebate
2	anonymous	Something for our solar install. And the tree program
3	anonymous	Excel

18. Are you interested in making energy efficiency improvements in your home or business? Or if you have already made improvements in your home or business, are you interested in making more?

I'm interested but I can't afford it	5
I'm interested but need to learn more about energy efficiency	6
I'm not interested in making energy efficiency upgrades	2
Other	1

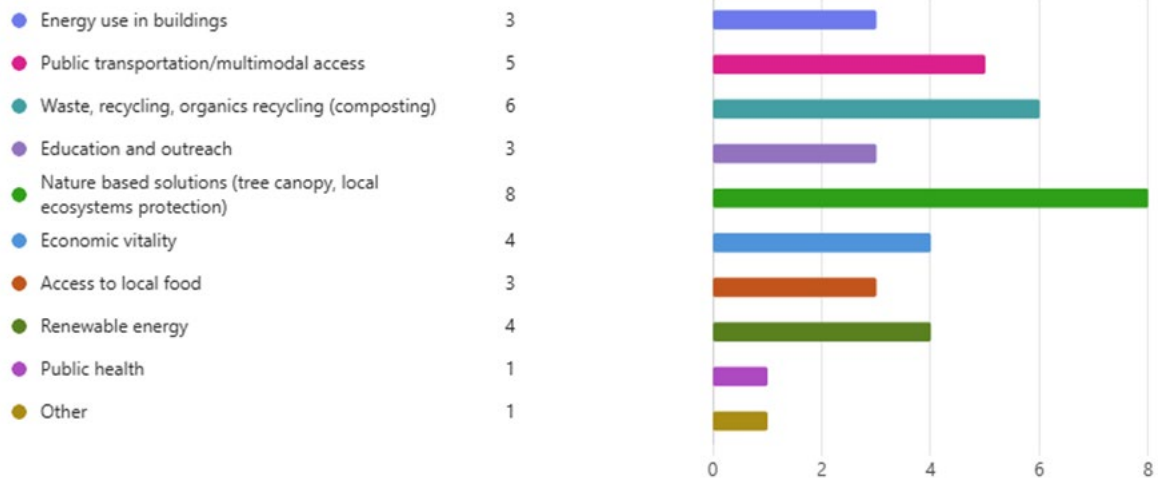


19. If interested, which improvements would you be most curious about?

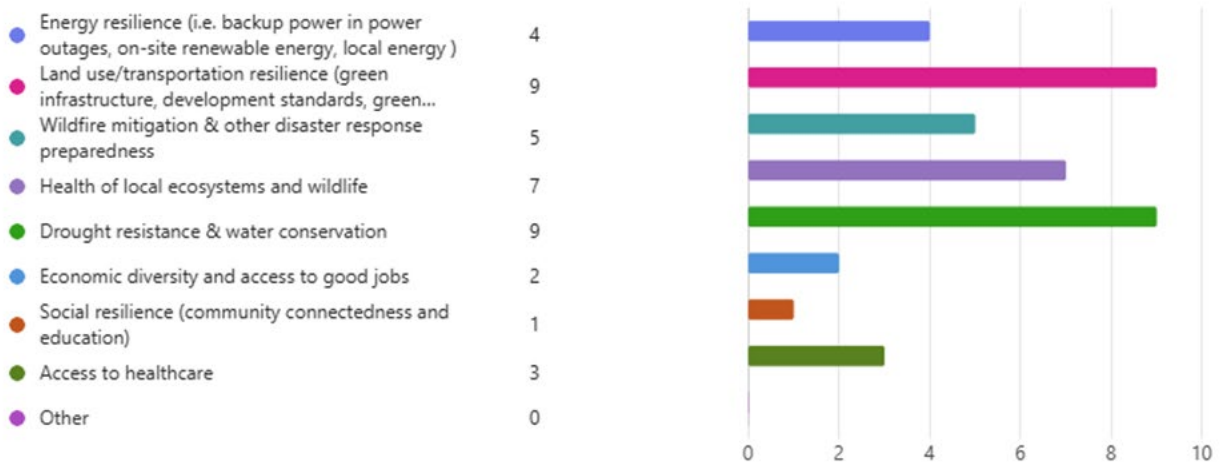
8 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Solar panels
2	anonymous	Solar
3	anonymous	Can't think of it
4	anonymous	Solar panels for home
5	anonymous	I'm interested in many ways to make our home more energy effort so not know where to start.
6	anonymous	Induction stove, attic fan and insulation, windo replacement, split ac different areas of the house
7	anonymous	Induction stove top and heat pump
8	anonymous	Public transportation

20. What topics should be a top priority for the Sustainability Plan update?

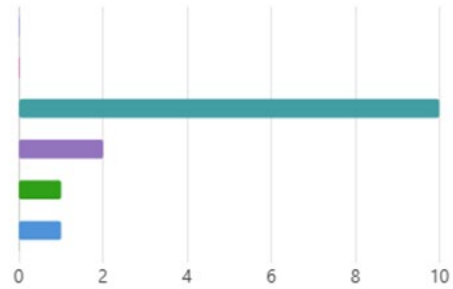


21. What resilience-related topics should be a top priority for the Sustainability Plan update and the Resilience Action Plan?



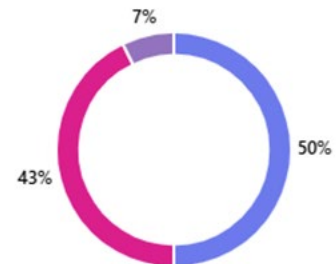
22. What is your age?

Under 18	0
19-30	0
31-50	10
51-70	2
70+	1
Prefer not to say	1



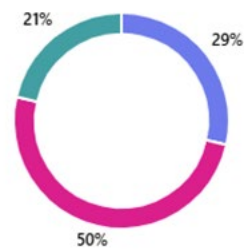
23. What is your gender?

Female	7
Male	6
Non-binary	0
Prefer not to say	1



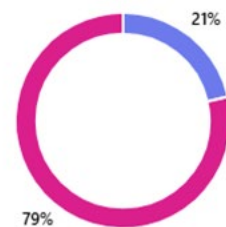
24. Which Town of Erie district do you live in?

District 1	4
District 2	7
District 3	3
I do not live in Erie	0



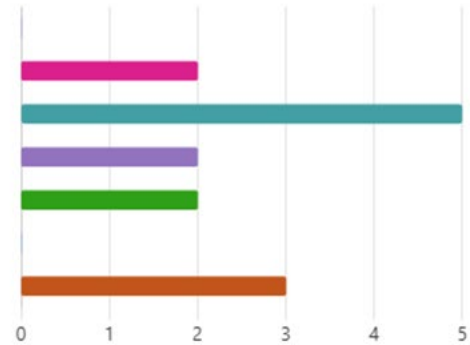
25. Which county do you live in?

Town of Erie, Boulder County	3
Town of Erie, Weld County	11
I do not live in the Town of Erie	0



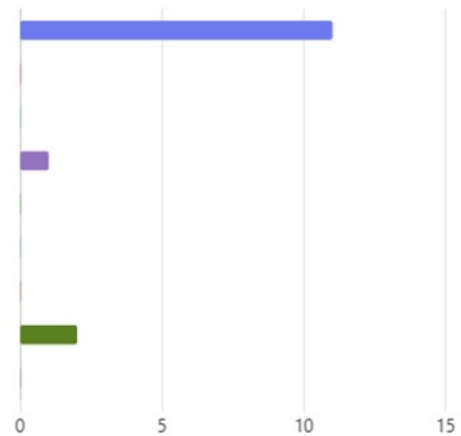
26. What is your household income?

● \$10,000-\$50,000	0
● \$51,000 – \$90,000	2
● \$91,000 – \$150,000	5
● \$151,000 – \$200,000	2
● 201,000 – \$500,000	2
● Over \$500,000	0
● Prefer not to say	3



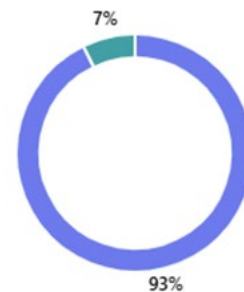
27. What is your race?

● White	11
● Hispanic or Latino	0
● American Indian or Alaska Native	0
● Asian	1
● Black or African American	0
● Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
● Multiracial	0
● Prefer not to say	2
● Other	0



28. What is the primary language spoken in your home?

● English	13
● Spanish	0
● Prefer not to say	1
● Other	0



E4. Charette Results

DRAFT

Visioning Exercise

What qualities or values in Erie do you believe should guide future decision making for the community? What matters most in Erie?

Response	Additional Votes
Budget	3
Keep local businesses at the front line in Erie – shop in Erie	2
Make it easy and possible for residents to participate in waste diversion programs	2
Inclusivity	1
Conservation of natural and cultural heritage	1
Connectivity/community pride	1
Water accessibility	1
Mindful, sustainable growth and stewardship	1
Equity (subsidize where needed)	1
Environmental decisions that provide the largest return and biggest bang for your buck	1
Erie should lead waste reduction and be an example	0

What does a thriving, resilient Erie look like to you today?

Response	Additional Votes
Integrated community with the natural world	4
Great community resources, great government and city staff	3
Safe trails (e-bike rules) and bike paths to everywhere	3

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Activity in Old Town	3
Sustainable growth	1
People using our trails and open space	1
People enjoying each other at community events	1
Happy bees	0
Policies that don't add to residents' existing cost burdens	0
Wildfire resilience	0
Community facilities to handle population growth	0
Economically sustainable	0
People out and about enjoying the Town and environment	0

Think about Erie 10–20 years from now. What desired outcomes would you like to see?

Response	Additional Votes
Walkable neighborhoods with access to restaurants, etc. Without vehicle travel	7
More residential waste diversion (plastics, building materials)	2
More business to support homes	2
Fully built out and adequate transportation system for autos, pedestrians, and bikers	3
Full support of invertebrate pollinator species of interest	2
More and easier hazardous waste collection	1
End of life plan for e-bikes, scooters, etc.	1

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Residents have equitable access to reduce their personal impacts	1
Fewer residents needing to commute (working locally or from home)	0
Low crime rate	0
Access to healthcare	0
Quality and safety of environment, especially for kids and elders	2
Well-kept roads, greenways, downtown	0
People wanting to come here	0

Plan Framework & Priorities Exercise

Nature-Based Solutions		
Top Priority		
Strategy/ Effort	Barriers/ Challenges	Solutions/ Opportunities
• Pollinator district certified • Using open space to enhance watershed protection and water quality • Water conservation • Drought resiliency	• Communication and coordination between stakeholders • Availability of open space to support • Cost, education, and people seem to like grassy areas	• Open space and trails strategic plan and prioritization • Landscaping ordinances • Turf removal rebates • Appliance upgrade rebates • Education
Medium Priority		
• Environmental Education Center • Town owned composting facility	• Finding a suitable location • Funding • Staffing	• Take a look at similar facilities (e.g. Lafayette)

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- Connectivity of our greenway along Coal Creek - Trees	- Finding land and willing sellers - Possible brown fields	Open space and trails strategic plan and prioritization
Low Priority		
Restoration of degraded lands – conversion from agriculture	Challenging environment and maintenance	Lots of ag land “available”

Transportation		
Top Priority		
Strategy/ Effort	Barriers/ Challenges	Solutions/ Opportunities
- Build out Erie Transportation Plan – build out of trail system - Offset costs for businesses to install EV chargers - Connect businesses with services to inform employees - Get more people to bike	- Budget - Cost – who will pay for offset? - Businesses need parking	- Transportation fee - Phased system - Erie Bee Flex Ride - Bike festivals or casual routes like the Boulder 360 or 180 path
Medium Priority		
Subsidize RTD pass	Cost burden of RTD pass	HOA Eco Pass like Boulder – or BID organize for employees
Low Priority		

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Free public EV charging to get people at businesses	Who pays for free charging?	Business cost – share but get more customers
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Waste and Materials Diversion		
Top Priority		
Strategy/ Effort	Barriers/ Challenges	Solutions/ Opportunities
- Three cart PAYT system - E-bikes, scooters, etc. End of life plan for batteries and devices - Curbside compost collection - Add compost to recycling center - Permanent recycling center - Plastic and foam diversion plan for residents - Online ordering waste	- Cost to residents. Would they be willing to pay? - Cost - Where to deposit? - PAYT program barriers - Politics	All compost
Medium Priority		
- Zero waste Town support for external events - Connect people with better ways to get rid of unwanted things	Cost	Free swap of items after garage sale days

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- Encouraging the re-use of items/or upcycle - Local collection of hazardous waste materials		
Low Priority		

Buildings and Energy		
Top Priority		
Strategy/ Effort	Barriers/ Challenges	Solutions/ Opportunities
- Preserving historic properties - Incentives to use heat pumps - Solar shades for parking lots	- Loss of parking during construction - Cost - Education	- Incentivize preservation with rebates on water for the tree canopy of Old Town - Partner with Xcel
Medium Priority		
- Single family residential landscape retrofits - Wind farm	- Cost and efficiency - Electric grid capacity	
Low Priority		
Adaptive retrofits of existing building stock		

E5. Steering Committee Meeting #1 Activities

Visioning Exercise

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Prompt #1: What core values should drive the Sustainability Plan update? What matters most in Erie?

- Improve the lives of residents
- Achievable and realistic goals
- Grow Recycling Center --> sort yard
- Shift inclusive to equitable and accessible
- Resilience
- Walkability and vitality
- How we can root what people actually want and will use --> wisely using resources
- Incentivize sustainable practices to bring companies in
- Respect for history --> rural, natural character
- Collaboration with businesses
- Fiscal responsibility
- Develop workforce and opportunities in Erie
- Healthy, clean, and safe environment

Prompt #2: How can we ensure fairness and equitable access around the outcomes of the Plan?

- Equitable access = variety of forms to access from
- Identify stakeholders
- Address barriers
- Tailored solutions for different stakeholders
- Education
- Built in flexibility
- Embrace diversity
- Encourage feedback
- You can't fully do that

Prompt #3: What are some real-world challenges and opportunities we must acknowledge to successfully develop and adopt this plan?

- **Challenges**
 - Feasibility
 - Fear of funding repercussion
 - Cost
 - Apathy
 - Immigrants don't feel safe

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- Communication
- Federal uncertainty
- Adoption across industries
- Incentives
- Misinformation
- **Opportunities**
 - Incentivize
 - Education
 - Youth/schools
 - Technology
 - Family events
 - Partnerships

Strategy Exercise

Waste and Materials Diversion

Gaps, opportunities, or areas of expansion	Idea	Impact	Key Players	Barriers
Expand recycling of green waste, sort yard, limb drop	Municipal and private tree debris/chip sorted in Erie. Mulch available for pick up	Muni waste re-used, not hauled to landfill, residents	Parks, Sustainability, timber, logs, brush grinding vendor	Cost, space for sort yard
Money for recycling cans	Build on state programs where available	Incentivize recycling of cans, lower income families	Residents, HOAs, supermarkets	Location, machine availability, hauler opposition, cost, results
Education and awareness of waste diversion/ what can be	Increase education on compostable items	Compost facilities, less contaminated materials, will turn less away	Communications, compost haulers, residents	Production of education materials

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composted currently				
Organics recycling				Apartment complexes
Construction and demolition				
Extended producer responsibility			CAA - Circular Action Alliance	

Buildings and Energy

Gaps, opportunities, or areas of expansion	Idea	Impact	Key Players	Barriers
Evacuation center – heat, hail, fire, threat, rolling brownout	Resilience hub Training and safety protocols Climate hazard map	Impacted residents	Town, police department, emergency operations, utilities --> should be all depts	Cost, infrastructure, and location building systems

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	Power resiliency			
Development for electrification --> retrofits	Building performance standards/ benchmarking Solar expansion	Resilient spaces Less reliance on stressed resources	Cottages (all electric community) Partnering with DRCOG	Xcel capacity for electrification --> unequipped to expand Lack of diversity in energy Resiliency Contractors Land planning/delays
Retrofits	Provide opportunities to existing/older residential buildings --> incentives	Residents --> especially long-term residents Community connection	Cottages (all electric community) Partnering with DRCOG	Funding
Streamline comms with utilities --> communicating technical needs early			Xcel Developers	Xcel rebates and development delays – makes the rebate harder to access
Solar parking covers	Parking lots could have parking covers	Reduce heat island effects, more green energy	Power companies, parking lot owners	Cost, infrastructure, location, impact of construction
Density via shared spaces/homes	ADUs	Shared resources, decreased water per additional resident	Homeowners, HOAs, metro districts, Town	Building codes

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Transportation and Mobility

Gaps, opportunities, or areas of expansion	Idea	Impact	Key Players	Barriers
E-bike and bike parking expansion	Create more stations at parks	Incentivize biking to events or in general	Parks and rec, Town, business owners	Infrastructure and cost
Car share/rideshare	Online signup	Reduce trips, build community, help people with barriers of getting around	Residents Police Department Comms	Organizing Insurance/waivers Behavior change Interest
Micromobility – scooters, e-bikes	Add scooters and e-bikes Bike event through Town Casual 10k on bikes	Help more people get around Healthy and active Keeps people in town – scooter locally Reduces need for parking	Medics Private group for contract Police Department	Established parking Helmets/ safety Where they'd be allowed If you can't use these things, alternative options
E-bike safety courses	Educate residents to increase safety and adoption	Adoption	DCC organization	Cost Lack of awareness Exposure
More off road and AWD safe bike lanes to	More off road and AWD safe bike lanes to neighboring cities	Commuting to other cities	Public Works Roads Other municipalities	Cost Long range planning Infrastructure

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neighboring cities		Good connectivity in Town		
Increase ability for work from home	More people stay home for work	Reduce car commuting	Residents Internet providers	Internet/ quality speed
Still Town facilities without any or enough EV chargers for fleet and personal vehicles	Add charging capacity to fleet and personal parking	Allow fleet EV to grow... overnight charging capacity, more personal cars can be EVs	Staff, fleet, energy providers	Cost, capacity of electric services
Charge share	Allow sharing of charging so people without charging capacity can still have EVs	Allow more EVs versus charging ratio	Private residents	How to calculate fees, submeter, payments?

Nature-Based Solutions

Gaps, opportunities, or areas of expansion	Idea	Impact	Key Players	Barriers
Composting	Residential Commercial Backyard Town of Erie policy for Parks and Open Space	Trash diversion Air quality Pollinator support Education	Wompost Parks and Open Spaces HOAs Northern Water State Seed suppliers	Education Communication Pragmatic structure Policy

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				Cost needed for compost drop off location
Expand guidelines for all public landscaping and Town funded projects to use native pollinator friendly plants				
Identify and manage invertebrate pollinator species of interest				
Bioswales, naturalized drainages and community facing stormwater features	Combine with beautiful public places and explainers native and water- resistant species			
Adoption of integrated pest and pollinator management	Denver has rooftop pollinator gardens --> gardens in a box No accessible grocery stores --> healthy options			
Trees	Native planting Combating UHI effect with shading Food forests	People in public spaces		

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Agriculture/ equestrian --> horse parks	Regenerative agriculture Agrivoltaics Community gardens		Jack's Solar Garden for agrivoltaics	
Highlighting 3 rd spaces (outside of public parks)				
Green schoolyards	Native plants, water use reduction, etc.	Students Reduced resource strain		

E6. Steering Committee Meeting #2 Activity Results

Instructions:

1. There are two breakout rooms.
2. Each group will be assigned two sectors to review.
3. Groups will review each sector for 10 minutes (20 minutes total).
4. For each sector:
 - a. Review the list of strategies for that sector.
 - b. Answer the questions in the tables below.

Group 1 (Molly): Buildings & Energy, Waste Materials & Diversion

Group 2 (Natalia): Nature-Based Solutions, Transportation & Mobility

Group 1

Buildings & Energy

Questions	Notes
Do these feel feasible?	• Code adoptions – working on strategy on how we want to proceed with that – nothing decided yet – hoping to have something completed by mid-2026.
What's missing?	• Weatherization – gap • 100% agree- most important upgrade to make to houses.

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	• Older water heaters in home – situation where house isn't tight enough – when EnergySmart or Xcel does it, they have necessary testing after upgrades that are performed to make sure they don't happen – didn't have ability to make sure that was going to happen. Didn't feel comfortable having rebates for those just as the Town. • Especially in old homes in Town – have a case in Denver – apartment not weathered – lost a tenant because energy bills became higher. • Safety rebates if they want efficiency upgrade – make something certified to do testing after the fact. • Older housing stocks probably not a problem – not the case across all housing stock. Hard to make rebates – we should work to solve it. Putting heat pump on old house and not touch anything. • LEED certification (SolSmart) – gap? • Cost prohibitive, bureaucracy – outcomes can be great, but lots of workarounds you can utilize. Gold star when you don't need a gold star. • LEED at one time was driving innovation but codes to a large degree are following that lead- trying to pursue a platinum certification – juice may not be worth the squeeze. • Geothermal heat pumps – cold climate heat pumps – do struggle. • Explore funding opportunities for geothermal – already have rebates for air source heat pump (ASHP). • Erie does offer geothermal rebate – have only done one – this more targeted for municipal facilities – Chad explored this. • Scale question – municipal. • Chad – exploration becoming more limited – feasibility becoming less. • Geothermal where feasible – funding opportunities with individual building – pursuing for individual
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	buildings – funding is becoming more challenging. Looking at this for Erie Community Center – payback would have been over 100 years. • Energy usage of data centers – valuable to put in here? Having some enforcement mechanism on high energy usage building coming into Town. • Undue restriction on data center project – opt for local government directly adjacent – would not see benefits but would feel impacts. • Grid not local – rates will still go up.
Based on our guiding principles, which strategies per sector do you think are the most important for Erie to address?	
How can we make sure these strategies provide the greatest benefit to our equity priority communities?	
Notes on specific strategies	• Building division isn't aware of time of sale – not aware when property is sold – if we want to ask any questions for reporting – could ask them at the time of building permit – already ask certain questions in building permit forms. • Strategies to support buildings below 50k sq. ft. – can help them meet compliance – navigate what is out there. Many incentives, rebates, grants – building owners don't know about it. Need to provide technical assistance. Has helped us understand – don't need to provide a grant. Teach benefits of energy efficiency.

Waste

Questions	Notes
Do these feel feasible?	

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What's missing?	• Unified Development Code updates – is this in there? • Don't have listed specifics requiring recycling or compost bins. Only review that there is a trash enclosure. Could look to sustainability to make comments to request bins be present. Most recently with King Soopers on Hwy 7 – added compost bins after the fact – needed to work with them to add trash enclosure. Could work through what that would mean. Nature and dirtiness of composting. Have this tagged for future updates. • Good tie into broader policy – universal recycling ordinance – bring this forward and tie in as well. • Maybe size of trash enclosures – Longmont started URO – curious what planning divisions role was in that and how they combatted that • Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – super important – are we saying we will identify codes to drive multifamily builders to situate their waste and recycling areas so frontload container can be? • Requirement that recycling be offered to multifamily homes if there is no requirement that they build to collect it. – phased in 2026 for all residential homes and residents. Haulers blending pick up with multifamily pick up – use front load containers to expedite that. Multifamily homes will have to situate space for front load container – short term could put out for 4 plex – 95-gallon containers – this is for 10 or more families in the complex where it will be difficult. • EPR passed at state level – required producers to pay for the waste they're creating. Offset cost for residents. • Pass on cost of reduced shelf life –will have free recycling.
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Based on our guiding principles, which strategies per sector do you think are the most important for Erie to address?	
How can we make sure these strategies provide the greatest benefit to our equity priority communities?	
Notes on specific strategies	• Culturally relevant waste baseline (audit) can scare people. -use the term “assessment”. • Provide zero waste kits – reusables for participants • Got to figure out to develop codes to encourage creative building practices as it relates to waste and recycling – get away from them – encourage creative means for waste storage areas that get us better quality and yield – direct access to dumpsters. • Construction and demolition (C&D) waste – working with architects and consultants – don't know that's front of mind. It might not be a comfort zone. Phased approach policy – going to have to have some outreach and education. If putting in Request for Proposals (RFPs), will bring in a unique – education and outreach with vendor partners and consultant.

Group 2

Nature-Based Solutions

Questions	Notes
Do these feel feasible?	• This whole section is brand new and there's a lot of work already being done. Boulder County is putting in a lot of effort into this. How do we invest in resilience for the town and the quality-of-life piece?

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What's missing?	• I'm trying to get momentum for Erie to become a pollinator district through the butterfly pavilion. A lot of those goals align with that so we could make a call out. • We can definitely make a call out for that. • I know Erie has a dark sky policy. Could potentially remove lights in certain areas. That could address energy consumption and maintenance. • Love that. Karen sent a note that the migratory season for birds is coming up and lights really affect them. Even having something seasonal for that would be great. • If public safety people have a dark city, it might be a challenge. If there were certain areas of Town where we could do that, it would be cool, but hard for the whole town. • The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) discussed at the last meeting approaching the accepted list of trees for non-fruit bearing trees for public spaces. Now that we're partnering with an organization for this, we have someone to manage those trees. • Does 7 cover that? • Maybe a call out specifically for trees.
Based on our guiding principles, which strategies per sector do you think are the most important for Erie to address?	
How can we make sure these strategies provide the greatest benefit to our equity priority communities?	

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Notes on specific strategies	• In Europe, saw trees with fruits. Canopy + food. • Good point – Mackenzie brought it up – community gardens – can flush out to be more about fruit trees – locally grown food generally. • Same experience at Kenosha Farm –cherry trees –sour cherries abundant. • For the Nature-based line 5, I'd consider including "Parks, open space, and protected land". That is another land use that's in the Comprehensive Plan.
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Transportation

Questions	Notes
Do these feel feasible?	• RTD coordination might be risky based on how collaborative they are willing to be, especially if we only have one bus that doesn't drop off employees in a convenient location for frequent use. • Collaborating with RTD for eco passes doesn't seem super beneficial because we have one bus that comes from Boulder and doesn't drop off people in a convenient location. • Financial impacts for building a multimodal road will take some money, requires right of way, building infrastructure that's expensive. • It's going to be difficult over time to get people out of their cars. The practicality is that it's more of a regional approach. • On electric vehicle (EV) stations, hopefully there is some funding to build these. • It's part of the Plan. We have an EV team that is in charge of this. • Multi-family barriers to EV charging, the cost and availability. A lot of these don't have driveways. We can develop a right of way EV charging policy that is transparent and equitable. • If you have a plan, how are you going to finance it? • We made a fiscally constrained plan with the vision of what everyone wants, looked at historical spending and mapped out a short, medium, and long-range budget associated with what that would look like. We can forecast how much

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	might be available in the future and pair that with the needs. Priorities are based upon how we go from SOV to 55% in the future and shifting everything. • https://www.erieco.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21782/2024-Erie-Transportation-Mobility-Plan • It's a good point. Sustainability has not always been integrated into the transportation plans so it's important to call it out in multiple plans. It gives us more capital when we show how important it is across different conversations and areas. This allows us to amplify transportation work and make it longer lasting. • We also just launched a survey to staff about a pass and saw a lot of support. Most people are interested in it for Erie and along the Front Range. There are some organizations that when there are gaps in transportation they can come in and provide you with services. • Could be an educational opportunity.
What's missing?	• What do you think of the goal of 50 knowing we'll have 35 by the end of the year? We've been pretty successful with the funds. Any thoughts on goals we can add? • Thumbs up from John. • It might be nice to pair it with a plan to get sustainable energy for those chargers. Maybe some parking covers that are solar. If we tie where they're being charged in the shade and it uses solar, it could have a huge impact. It would also encourage people who don't have EVs to buy them and take advantage of it. The amount of EVs we have is only concerning when thinking about where the energy comes from. • Excellent. • We do have a pretty clean grid. Right now, the solar aspect of them is really expensive so it's not very feasible at the moment. • Emphasize offsets with United and Xcel Energy. It's not a huge cost for us to do so. We'd need council's support to approve that spending. Solar comes down to economies of scale. • What about the fleet, John?

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	• I don't handle that. One of the things that's important is that when you think about parking, you've got destinations and parking happens regardless. There are a lot of opportunities to charge EV in different areas. What about the disincentive for certain vehicles that are polluting? If there's paid parking, we can exclude EVs but have a financial burden for those that don't. • Used EVs – no marketing about it – for low-income communities – buying secondhand EV – friend just bought used EV. • Sustainability advertises used EV rebates from the state – will continue to do so especially as federal tax credit goes away. Can double down on the marketing. • Try one for free – Boulder library.
Based on our guiding principles, which strategies per sector do you think are the most important for Erie to address?	
How can we make sure these strategies provide the greatest benefit to our equity priority communities?	
Notes on specific strategies	• The 2024 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) aligns with 2019 SAP – as we start to move that and bring updates to plan, will want to move those into TMP because all priorities and financials associated with infrastructure in the plan and aligned with multimodal, bikeshare, etc. That is being discussed. Alignment is key. To go farther, aligning with municipal code and engineering standards that influence maintenance and operations side of things.

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	• We have active projects to add more stops and they're re-routing one of the airport buses to come through Erie. Around that issue, we're also working with Boulder County, which has become its own agency, and they're looking to establish new routes. RTD isn't proactive about transportation, but if we were to pay for their programs and services like Boulder, you build a clientele, and they can see the value of it. • Last year there was a plan to update the transportation plan. Took 2019 sustainability goals and started to set those as the guiding principles of that document to identify where we're going to go from where we are now to that. As a result, we compiled all growth needs in the town and identified necessary projects associated with that and grouped them into priority areas.
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