

Progress to Date and Concurrent Efforts

Existing Climate Efforts

Columbia is already taking initiative to mitigate its climate impact and promote community wellbeing. Columbia's City Council and staff worked to create sustainability programs for the community, adopted building codes and policies to support climate change action, and improved municipal operations. To date, the City has taken the following steps, organized by sector.

Climate

- Endorsed the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.
- Established the Mayor's Climate Protection Awards to recognize local businesses and organizations that promote sustainability.
- Formed a Mayor's Task Force to guide development of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Health, Safety, and Well-being

- Advocates for local, healthy food production.
- Partners with regional emergency responders on preparedness planning.
- Created nine public warming/cooling centers.
- Participates in the Voluntary Action Center's Air Conditioner Exchange and Summer Fan programs.
- Collaborated to create an Agriculture Park.

Energy

- Adopted Renewable Energy Standard ordinance that require an increasing percentage of electricity to be generated with renewable sources.
- Provides solar PV rebates and loans for customers.
- Has entered into 10MW solar PPA.
- Operates Landfill gas to energy plant at the municipal landfill.

Transportation

- Provides Go COMO bus services.
- Uses CNG and electric vehicles.
- Updated building and zoning codes.
- Adopted Vision Zero to make Columbia's roads safer.
- GetAbout Columbia's efforts to improve walking and biking opportunities.
- Implements Columbia Imagined.
- Maintains and builds trails systems connecting residents, including the development of a 30-mile loop.

Waste

- Provides waste audits and consulting.
- Maintains a bioreactor landfill/bioenergy plant.
- Provides yard waste and recycling drop-off centers.
- Manages household hazardous waste and paint for re-use.

- Provides waste education through: public events, the recycling ambassadors program, compost workshops, the CoMo Recycle and Trash App, and Waste Wizard.
- Runs programs to properly dispose of waste through: drug takeback, e-waste, tire collection, fix-it fairs, and commercial food waste recycling.

Housing and Buildings

- Provides energy efficiency incentives, energy loans, and rebates to residential and commercial customers.
- Created the Community Land Trust Lynn Street Cottages.
- Runs buyout programs for homes in floodplains.
- Provides home repair and rehabilitation funds to low- and moderate-income families.

Natural Resources

- Conducts habitat restoration projects.
- Manages native pollinator gardens.
- Uses native plants to landscape roundabouts, medians, and along roads .
- Adopted the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan to prepare for infestation.
- Purchasing land and creating parks so that no one is more than two miles from recreational green space.

Water Supply and Quality

- Proposed water treatment plant upgrades.
- Inspects and maintains hundreds of stormwater treatment and control structures.
- Sells rain barrels and provides homeowners with native, low-input landscaping assistance.
- Created backup storage of water for emergencies.
- Adopted stormwater management program and plan.

Education and Outreach

Activities and programs include:

- Recycling Ambassadors
- Tree Keepers
- Stream team
- Composting workshops and community gardens
- Energy and water conservation education
- Classroom and school waste audits
- Native plant education
- “Fix it” fairs
- Bicycle safety classes and repair co-op