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NEWS RELEASE

City of Durango adopts new sustainability plan

Durango, CO: City councilors on Tuesday adopted a new sustainability plan that helps the community become resilient to climate change and in a way that is equitable to all residents.

The creation of the plan involved extensive feedback from community members and input from multiple city departments. The plan replaces the city's 2015 Municipal Sustainability Action Plan and utilizes a new structure designed to be more strategic and adaptable.

"Sustainability has long been a priority of both community members and the City of Durango," said Mary Pool, the city's sustainability manager. "This plan will help inform and align efforts throughout the community."

The plan highlights four priorities: greenhouse gas reductions, resiliency to climate change, health and wellbeing of residents and visitors, and equitable implementation of actions. The plan further outlines five main that categorize sustainability work: energy; transportation and development patterns; consumption and waste; water; and natural systems and ecology. Information for each sector explains how sustainability principles apply to these areas, and establishes key indicators that will be used to measure progress.

The plan also establishes a process for city staff to perform annual tracking and reporting regarding actions taken that affect sustainability indicators. Through this process community members can receive updates on progress, provide feedback to the city, express their concerns, and inform priorities for future action.

MORE

The city will be soon rolling out two new programs aimed at encouraging community involvement in sustainability:

- Green Durango Grants program. This will provide \$1,000-\$5,000 to community members and organizations to implement projects and programs that align with the Sustainability Plan. The city will accept applications in mid-June. More information can be found at durangogov.org/sustainability.
- Green Business Certification. The program is a partnership with the Four Corners Office of Resource Efficiency (4CORE), which provides guidance, financial incentives, and recognition for business looking to reduce their resource consumption and be more sustainable. More information can be found at fourcore.org/programs/green-business-certification/.

For more information please contact Marty Pool, City of Durango Sustainability Manager, at marty.pool@durangogov.org or visit durangogov.org/sustainability.

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