



CITY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTION *WHAT DOES IT MEAN?*

Natural Environment

- Manitou Springs is committed to pollinator-friendly landscaping and organic land management practices throughout the city that promote healthy local ecosystems.



- Our trees are important members of the community and help provide for a more sustainable future. We will protect existing trees wherever possible and commit to growing our tree canopy and urban forests for the future.
- Our creeks are a barometer for our community's environmental health. We will monitor the creek in support of improved water quality and healthy ecosystems.
- Our air is an important factor in our community's health. We are educating the community about air pollution and working with regional partners to improve air quality throughout the region.

Air, Waste, & Food

- Plan Manitou calls for a local food assessment. We reaffirm our commitment to performing a local food assessment in the next year and to improving local access to nutritious food.



- Single-use plastics and polystyrene foam (known as Styrofoam) are resource-intensive and primarily end up in landfills. We are researching policies that reduce our waste by tackling single-use plastics.
- Hazardous waste (light bulbs, batteries, household chemicals, etc.) are dangerous if disposed of improperly. The City is exploring the best ways to help the community dispose of hazardous waste responsibly.
- Green waste (food scraps and biodegradable materials) don't belong in landfills, either. The City is evaluating composting options to divert waste away from landfills and put our green waste to good use in the community.

Planning & Transportation

- Permeable surfaces filter storm water before it enters the creek. We are exploring Low Impact Development and permeable surface requirements in new construction, redevelopment, and infrastructure to protect our water.
- Our community's built environment contributes to our carbon emissions. We are researching low-carbon and green building practices to apply to new buildings and significant remodels to reduce our community's carbon footprint.
- How we move around town impacts our sustainability and pollution. We will increase the number green transportation trips (walking, biking, transit) through the implementation of quality design and supporting live-work-play opportunities.



Business & Residential

- We recognize our green businesses as important allies in making Manitou Springs more sustainable. We are developing a Green Business Program to assist merchants with water conservation, energy efficiency, and waste reduction.
- Residential areas are a huge opportunity to reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. We will work with home and property owners on energy efficient and sustainable practices to improve local air quality and sustainability.



Municipal Operations

- We will implement a process to gauge the sustainability of current municipal practices and outline steps for improvement.
- We will evaluate our efforts every three months to make sure we are on the right track, and readjust when necessary.
- The City is full of unique expertise on City Staff, in the community, and from our community partners that we can tap to make the Manitou Springs a model for sustainability.

