

# GLOSSARY

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## #

**100-YEAR FLOOD** A flood having a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

**100-YEAR FLOOD PLAIN** The area of land susceptible to being inundated as a result of the occurrence of a 100-year flood.

## A

**ACRE-FOOT** A volume of water equal to 1 foot in depth covering an area of 1 acre or 43,560 cubic feet or approximately 325,851 gallons. One acre-foot of water serves about 2½ households for one year.

**ACTIVE DESIGN GUIDELINES** Strategies for designing neighborhoods, streets, and outdoor spaces that encourage active transportation and recreation, including walking and bicycling.

**ADAPTIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS** Systems that continuously monitor arterial traffic conditions and the queuing

at intersections and dynamically adjust the signal timing to optimize one or more operational objectives (such as minimizing overall delays).

Adaptive Traffic Signal Control approaches typically monitor traffic flows upstream of signalized locations or segments with traffic signals, anticipating volumes and flow rates in advance of reaching the first signal, then continuously adjusting timing parameters (e.g., phase length, offset, cycle length) during each cycle.

**AFFORDABLE AND SUBSIDIZED HOUSING** Housing for which the occupant(s) is/are paying no more than 30 percent of income for gross housing costs, including utilities. Some jurisdictions may define affordable housing based on other, locally determined criteria and use this definition as an approximate guideline or general rule of thumb.

**ALTERNATIVE FUELS** Alternative fuels are derived from resources other than petroleum. Some are produced domestically, reducing dependence on imported oil, and some are derived from renewable sources. They often produce less pollution than gasoline or diesel. Examples include biodiesel (derived from vegetable oils and

animal fats), natural gas, propane, hydrogen, and electricity.

**ANAEROBIC DIGESTION** A biological process that occurs when organic matter (in liquid or slurry form) is decomposed by bacteria in the absence of oxygen (i.e., anaerobic). As the bacteria “work,” biogas is released, which consists of approximately 60 percent methane and 40 percent carbon dioxide. Biogas can be used to generate electricity.

## B

**BENCHMARKING (ENERGY)** The process of accounting for and comparing a metered building’s current energy performance with its energy baseline, or comparing a metered building’s energy performance with the energy performance of similar types of buildings (based on use, such as comparing the energy performance of a hospital to that of other hospitals).

**BICYCLE LEVEL OF SERVICE** An evaluation of bicyclists’ perceived safety with respect to motor vehicle traffic. It identifies the

quality of service for bicyclists that currently exists within the roadway environment.

**BICYCLE LEVEL OF STRESS** A planning tool used to analyze existing and potential future conditions by measuring bicyclist stress with factors such as intersection crossings, traffic speeds, traffic volumes, and separation from vehicle lanes.

**BIKE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY** A program by the League of American Bicyclists to assess engineering, education, incentive programs and how a community encourages people to bike for transportation and recreation.

**BIOBLITZ** An intense period of biological recording within a specific area. A BioBlitz usually takes place over a 24 hour period and involves experts and amateurs taking an inventory of all the living organisms within an area. These areas are commonly parks or other urban spaces.

**BIODIVERSITY** The variety and variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they occur. Although it most often refers to the numbers of species, the term can apply to levels of organization ranging from genes to ecosystems.

**BIOGAS** The gaseous emissions from anaerobic degradation of organic matter (from plants or animals) by a consortium of bacteria. Biogas is principally a mixture of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) along with other trace gases.

**BIOLOGICAL INTEGRITY RATINGS** A scientific tool where several biological indicators are combined to identify and classify the biological integrity of water bodies of water.

**BIOMASS** Materials that are biological in origin, including organic material (both living and dead) from above and below ground, such as trees, crops, grasses, tree litter, roots, animals, and animal waste.

**BIOSWALES** Vegetated, mulched, or xeriscaped channels that provide treatment and retention as they move stormwater from one place to another. Bioswales slow, infiltrate, and filter stormwater flows. As linear features, bioswales are particularly suitable along streets and parking lots.

**BUSINESS AS USUAL (BAU)** A method of measuring future conditions using the assumption that future trends follow those of the past, and no changes in policies will take place.



**CAR SHARE** Automobile rental service intended to substitute for private vehicle ownership.

**CARBON BUDGET** The precise quantity of carbon dioxide that humans can emit and still limit warming to 2 C (3.6 F) above pre-industrial levels.

**CARBON SEQUESTRATION** The process by which trees and plants absorb carbon dioxide, release the oxygen, and store the carbon.

**CDBG** Community Development Block Grant program from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.

**CIDER DAYS** Lakewood's signature event held on the first full weekend in October each year. Celebrating the area's agricultural heritage in remembrance of more than 40 apple orchards that were once landmarks in Lakewood, the event hosts the state's largest classic and antique tractor pull and features vintage machinery displays, interactive activities and amusements, historic demonstrations, and a variety of exhibitors and vendors.

**CITIZEN ACADEMIES** City of Lakewood opportunities for residents to learn more about the City. Academies include Citizens' Planning Academy, Youth Police Academy, Civics 101, Small Business Academy, and Citizen Police Academy.

**CITY CORE COMMUNITY VALUES** City Council's core community values are the following: safe community, open and honest communication, fiscal responsibility, education and information, quality transportation options, quality economic development, physical & technological infrastructure, quality living environment, and community sustainability.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** Any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for an extended period of time. In other words, climate change includes major changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns, among others, that occur over several decades or longer.

**CLIMATE FUTURES** Also referred to as climate scenarios, which are plausible and often simplified descriptions of how the future may develop based on a coherent and internally consistent set of assumptions about driving forces and key relationships.

**CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS PLAN (CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN)** A comprehensive set of strategies developed to guide a community in efforts to adapt to climate-related risks and impacts to infrastructure, ecology, economic systems, and social well-being.

**CLIMATE VULNERABILITY STUDY** The analysis of the expected impacts, risks, and the adaptive capacity of a region or sector to the effects of climate change.

**CO-WORKING ESTABLISHMENTS** Establishments that provide office space or other working environments for people who are self-employed or working for different employers. Co-working spaces facilitate sharing of equipment, ideas, and knowledge.

**CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENT (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e)** Emissions of greenhouse gases are typically expressed in a common metric so that their impacts can be directly compared, as some gases are more potent (i.e., have a higher global warming potential) than others. The international standard practice is to express greenhouse gases in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

**COMMUNITY COHESION** A state of harmony or tolerance between people from different backgrounds living within a community.

**COMMUNITY RESILIENCE** The capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multihazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment.

**COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECTS** A solar-electric system that provides power and/or financial benefit to multiple community members.

**COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL MARKETING** An approach to achieving behavior change that merges knowledge from psychology with expertise from social marketing.

**COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE** A community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation so that the farmland becomes, either legally or spiritually, the community's farm, with the growers and consumers providing mutual support and sharing of the risks and benefits of food production.

**COMPLETE STREETS** Roadway design and operating practices that are intended to safely accommodate diverse users and activities including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, public transport users, people with disabilities, and adjacent businesses and residents.

**COMPOSTING** The bio decomposition of organic material, such as animal wastes, plant residues or sludges in the presence of air by controlled methods including mechanical mixing and aerating.

**COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING STRATEGY** A planning tool to assist communities establish priorities for creating and preserving diverse, affordable housing choices.

**CONSERVATION EASEMENTS** A legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows landowners to continue to own and use their land, and they can also sell it or pass it on to heirs.

**CORRIDORS** Components of the landscape that facilitate the movement of organisms and processes between areas of intact habitat.

**COVER CROPS** Cover crops are plants sowed into agricultural fields, either within or outside of the regular growing season, with the primary purpose of improving or maintaining ecosystem quality.

**CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)** A strategy used by architects, city planners, law enforcement officers and others, using the physical environment to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, including graffiti.

**CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS** A group of six widespread and common air pollutants that EPA regulates on the basis of standards set to protect public health or the environment (see National Ambient Air Quality Standards). The six criteria pollutants are carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide.

**CROSSCUTTING STRATEGIES** Strategies that leverage the benefits of multiple implementation strategies. There are three crosscutting strategies in the Sustainability Plan: The Sustainable Energy and Water Resource Center, the Sustainable Business Hub, and the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program. These strategies are introduced as implementation strategies in the Energy, Water, and Built Environment; the Sustainable Economy; and the Community Cohesion and Public Health chapters, but are incorporated into each of the plan's goals in order to enhance the scope and effectiveness of implementation.

**CROWDFUNDING** The use of small amounts of capital from a large number of individuals to finance a project.

**CROWDSOURCING** The practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting contributions from a large group

of people and especially from the online community rather than from traditional employees or suppliers.

## D

**DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS** Utility sponsored programs designed to encourage consumers to modify their level and pattern of resource use.

**DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (DRCOG)** A nonprofit, membership organization of local governments in the Denver region. DRCOG is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Regional Planning Commission, and Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

**DISTRICT-SCALE SUSTAINABILITY** A wide spectrum of activities and focused strategies that have the potential to help cities achieve sustainability goals by shifting the focus from an individual building or citywide efforts to a customized district scale.

**DIVERSION RATE** The amount of material being diverted for recycling or composting compared to the total amount that was previously disposed of.

## E

**EARTH DAY CELEBRATION** The City of Lakewood's annual Earth Day fair.

**ECOLOGICAL (ENVIRONMENTAL) STEWARD-SHIP** The responsibility for environmental quality shared by all those whose actions affect the environment.

**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES** The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control; cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and supporting services, such as nutrient cycling that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.

**ECOSYSTEMS** The interacting system of a particular biological community and its nonliving environmental surroundings, or a class of such systems (e.g., forests or wetlands).

**EMISSION PATHWAY** The trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions over time.

**ENERGY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES** Energy from resources that are naturally replenishing such as biomass, hydro, geothermal, solar, wind, ocean thermal, wave action, and tidal action.

**ENERGY RESOURCE MIX** The types and proportion of resources used to produce energy.

**ENERGY USE INTENSITY** A measure of a building's energy use as a function of its size or other characteristics, typically expressed as energy per square foot per year.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES** Plants and animals that have become so rare they are in danger of becoming extinct.

## F

**FLOOD PLAINS** The area which would be inundated during the occurrence of the base flood or 100-year flood.

**FLOODWAY** The channel of a gulch or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the 100-year flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than six inches at any point.

**FOOD DESERTS** An identified area, generally within lower-income neighborhoods, that has low access to healthful whole foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, and may have a higher concentration of fast-food restaurants and convenience stores. The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines low access as an area where at least 500 people of 33 percent of the census tract's population resides more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store.

**FOSSIL FUELS** A general term for organic materials formed from decayed plants and animals that have been converted to crude oil, coal, natural gas, or heavy oils by exposure to heat and pressure in the Earth's crust over hundreds of millions of years.

## G

**GENETIC VARIATION** Naturally occurring genetic differences among organisms in the same species.

**GPS TECHNOLOGY** Technologies that use satellite navigation systems to determine ground position and velocity (location, speed, and direction). GPS stands for Global Positioning System.

**GREEN BUILDINGS** Buildings and sites designed with consideration of efficient use of energy, water, and materials, and reduced impacts on human health and the environment through better siting, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and waste removal.

**GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE** An adaptable term used to describe an array of products, technologies, and practices that use natural systems to enhance overall environmental quality and provide utility services. As a general principle, green infrastructure techniques use soils and vegetation to infiltrate, evapotranspire, or recycle stormwater runoff.

**GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK (GIN)** An interconnected network of green open spaces that bring together natural and built environments to provide a range of ecosystem services including clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and carbon sinks.

**GREEN PROCUREMENT** The purchase of environmentally friendly products and services, the selection of contractors and the setting of environmental requirements in a contract.

**GREEN ROOFS** Also known as rooftop gardens, green roofs are planted over existing roof structures and consist of a waterproof, root-safe membrane that is covered by a drainage system, lightweight growing medium, and plants.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EFFECT** Trapping and buildup of heat in the atmosphere (troposphere) near the Earth's surface. Some of the heat flowing back toward space from the Earth's surface is absorbed by water vapor, carbon dioxide, ozone, and several other gases in the atmosphere and then reradiated back toward the Earth's surface. If the atmospheric concentrations of these GHGs rise, the average temperature of the lower atmosphere will gradually increase.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** The release into the Earth's atmosphere of any of various gases that contribute to the greenhouse gas effect.

**GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY** An accounting of greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted to or removed from the atmosphere over a period of time.

**GREENHOUSE GASES** Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

## H

**HABITAT CONNECTIVITY** The degree to which the landscape facilitates animal movement and other ecological flows.

**HABITAT CORRIDORS** Components of the landscape that facilitate the movement of organisms and processes between areas of intact habitat.

**HABITAT FRAGMENTATION** The process by which habitat loss results in the division of large, continuous habitats into a greater number of smaller patches of lower total area, isolated from each other by a matrix of dissimilar habitats.

**HABITAT HUBS** Large patches of continuous habitat, the size of which is determined by local factors and management standards.

**HABITAT TYPES** An ecological or environmental area that is inhabited by a particular species of animal, plant, or other type of organism. It is the natural environment in which an organism lives or the physical environment that surrounds a species population.

**HEALTHY EATING AND ACTIVE LIVING (HEAL)** A program sponsored by LiveWell Colorado that provides training and technical assistance to help city officials adopt policies that improve their communities' physical activity and retail food environments.

**HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS** The combined household expenses for housing and transportation.

## I

**ICE CORES** A cylindrical section of ice removed from a glacier or an ice sheet in order to study climate patterns of the past. By performing chemical analyses on the air trapped in the ice, scientists can estimate the percentage of carbon dioxide and other trace gases in the atmosphere at a given time. Analysis of the ice itself can give some indication of historic temperatures.

**INCUBATORS (BUSINESS)** A flexible combination of business development processes, infrastructure, and people designed to help businesses grow through vulnerable or early stages of development.

**INDICATOR SPECIES** An individual species that serves as a measure of the environmental conditions that exist in a given locale.

**INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)** The IPCC was established jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization in 1988. The purpose of the IPCC is to assess information in the scientific and technical literature related to all significant components of the issue of climate change. The IPCC draws upon hundreds of the world's expert scientists as authors and thousands as expert reviewers. Leading experts on

climate change and environmental, social, and economic sciences from some 60 nations have helped the IPCC to prepare periodic assessments of the scientific underpinnings for understanding global climate change and its consequences. With its capacity for reporting on climate change, its consequences, and the viability of adaptation and mitigation measures, the IPCC is also looked to as the official advisory body to the world's governments on the state of the science of the climate change issue.

**INVASIVE SPECIES** Nonindigenous plant or animal species that can harm the environment, human health, or the economy.

## J

**JOBS TO LABOR FORCE RATIO** A ratio comparing the total number of jobs available in a community against the total number of individuals available for work.

## K

**KILOWATT HOUR** A standard metric unit of measurement for electricity. One kilowatt-hour is equal to 1,000 watt-hours, and one watt-hour is the amount of energy delivered at a rate of one watt for a period of one hour.

**KILOWATTS** A unit of electric power equal to 1,000 watts.

## L

**LAKWOOD LINKED INITIATIVE** A City initiative started by Mayor Bob Murphy that fosters collaboration, communication, and cooperation in Lakewood's neighborhoods.

**LAKWOOD'S INSPIRE ARTS WEEK** A multiple day event that encourages local residents to get out and experience arts and culture in Lakewood. Participating Lakewood art and cultural organizations offer discounted or free special events.

**LAND COVER** The observed biophysical cover or physical land type such as forest or open water on the Earth's surface.

**LAND USE** The human use of land including the arrangements, activities, and inputs people undertake on the land.

**LED** Light-emitting diode; a semiconductor diode that emits light when conducting current.

**LEED SILVER** A level of LEED certification - there are four levels: certified, silver, gold, and platinum.

**LEED** Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. To receive LEED certification, building projects satisfy prerequisites and earn points to achieve different levels of certification.

**LIVEWELL COLORADO** A nonprofit organization committed to reducing obesity in Colorado by promoting healthy eating and active living through education, policy, and environmental efforts.

**LOCAL FOOD ASSETS** Resources, facilities, services, or spaces that are available to Lakewood and are used to support the local food system. This includes assets such as community gardens and orchards, urban farms, farmers markets, food processing infrastructure, community composting facilities, and neighborhood food networks.

**LOCAL MULTIPLIER EFFECT** The greater local economic return generated by money spent at locally owned independent businesses compared to corporate chains or other absentee-owned businesses. The multiplier results from the fact that independent locally owned businesses recirculate a far greater percentage of revenue locally compared to absentee-owned businesses.

**LOCATION QUOTIENTS** An analytical statistic that measures a region's industrial specialization relative to a larger geographic unit (usually the nation). An LQ is computed as an industry's share of a regional total for some economic statistic (earnings, GDP by metropolitan area, employment, etc.) divided by the industry's share of the national total for the same statistic. For example, an LQ of 1.0 in mining means that the region and the nation are equally specialized in mining while an LQ of 1.8 means that the region has a higher concentration in mining than the nation.

**LOW-VOC MATERIALS** Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are organic chemical compounds whose composition make it possible for them to evaporate under normal indoor atmospheric conditions. VOCs are commonly found in paints sealants, adhesives, and cleaners. VOCs are of concern as an indoor air pollutant due to the potential for VOCs to adversely affect the health of people that are exposed. Impacts may include various health problems, such as nausea, tremors, and headaches. Low-VOC is a general term that defines a broad spectrum of VOC contents that are significantly less than those of conventional products.

## M

**MICROGRID PROJECTS** A small-scale power grid that can operate independently or in conjunction with the area's main electrical grid. Any small-scale localized station with its own power resources,

generation and loads, and definable boundaries qualifies as a microgrid.

**MODE-SHIFT** A change between methods of travel.

**MODERATE DROUGHT** As defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Drought Mitigation Center: “Some damage to crops, pastures, streams, reservoirs, or wells; some water shortages developing or imminent; voluntary water-use restrictions requested.”

**MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION** Transportation systems that include various modes (walking, cycling, automobile, public transit, etc.) and connections among modes.

**MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE** Residential solid waste and some nonhazardous commercial, institutional, and industrial wastes. This material is generally sent to municipal landfills for disposal.

## N

**NATURAL HERITAGE** The sum total of the elements of biodiversity, including flora and fauna and ecosystem types, together with associated geological structures and formations.

**NATURAL SYSTEMS** Ecological systems that exist independent of any human involvement. Natural systems consist of all the physical and biological materials and their intertwined processes.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARTICIPATION PROGRAM** A City-funded, annual program that accepts applications for community improvements that will provide benefits to the residents of the community.

**NEONICOTINOIDS** A group of insecticides that are used widely on farms, as well as around our homes, schools, and city landscapes. Used to protect against sap-sucking and leaf-chewing insects, neonicotinoids are systemic, which means they are absorbed by the plant tissues and expressed in all parts, including nectar and pollen. Unfortunately, bees, butterflies, and other flower-visiting insects are harmed by the residues. Extremely concerning is the prolific inclusion of these insecticides in home garden products. Home garden products containing neonicotinoids can legally be applied in far greater concentrations in gardens than they can be on farms—sometimes at concentrations as much as 120 times as great, which increases the risk to pollinators.

**NEUROTOXINS** A substance that is poisonous or destructive to nerve tissue.

**NEXTDOOR.COM** An online social network that allows users to connect with people in their neighborhood.

**NONRENEWABLE SOURCES** Any natural resource that exists in limited supply and cannot be replaced if it is used up; also, any natural resource that cannot be replenished by natural means at the same rates that it is consumed.

**NONPOINT-SOURCE POLLUTION** A diffuse source of pollution, having no single point of origin, commonly used to describe water pollution caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground and carrying natural and human-made contaminants into lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries, other coastal waters, and groundwater. Atmospheric deposition and hydrologic modification are also sources of nonpoint water pollution

## O

**ON-BOARD DIAGNOSTICS** Hardware or software that monitors and reports the status of a vehicle's systems.

**ORGANIC WASTE** The biodegradable component of the waste stream that is of biological origin but does not contain any listed waste, radioactive waste or hazardous waste.

**OUTSTANDING SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS** The highest level of certification achievable for neighborhoods participating in the City of Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhoods Program.

## P

**PERMEABLE PAVEMENTS** A range of sustainable materials and techniques for permeable pavements with a base and subbase that allow the movement of stormwater through the surface. In addition to reducing runoff, these pavements effectively trap suspended solids and filters pollutants from the water.

**PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES** Any motor vehicle that can be recharged from an external source of electricity, such as wall sockets, and the electricity stored in the rechargeable battery drives or contributes to drive the wheels.

**POINT-SOURCE POLLUTION** A fixed location or facility that discharges pollution, such as a factory smokestack, a ship, an ore pit, a ditch, or a pipe discharging treated industrial wastewater or treated sewage into a waterway.

**POP-UP RECREATION ACTIVITIES** Organized but temporary activities intended to increase engagement or test new concepts or programs.

**PREINDUSTRIAL** Pertaining to society before industrialization.

## R

**RAIN GARDENS** A depressed area of the ground planted with vegetation, allowing runoff from impervious surfaces such as parking lots and roofs the opportunity to be collected and infiltrated into the groundwater supply or returned to the atmosphere through evaporation and evapotranspiration.

**REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS** Held on the first Tuesday in November in odd-numbered years.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY** Energy resources that are naturally replenishing such as biomass, hydro, geothermal, solar, wind, ocean thermal, wave action, and tidal action.

**RESILIENT COMMUNITY** The capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multihazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment.

**RETROFITS** Involve the installation of more efficient equipment into an existing building or process.

**RIDE SHARING** Refers to carpooling and vanpooling, in which a vehicle carries additional passengers when making a trip, with minimal additional mileage.

## S

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM** Sustained efforts by parents, schools, community leaders and local, state, and federal governments to improve the health and well-being of children by enabling and encouraging them to walk and bicycle to school.

**SELF-RELIANT LOCAL ECONOMY** Economic self-reliance refers to an individual's ability to supply his or her own needs without external assistance. It refers to the amount of income needed to satisfy basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter, without receiving public assistance like food stamps, Medicaid, child care, public housing or aid from family or friends. A self-reliant local economy extend this concept to the community as a whole.

**SENSE OF PLACE** A term that includes a broad range of factors. It is the combination of natural location and created features that makes each place unique.

**SEVERE DROUGHT** As defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Drought Mitigation Center: Crop or pasture losses likely; water shortages common; water restrictions imposed.

**SHARING ECONOMY** An economic model in which individuals are able to borrow or rent assets owned by someone else.

**SLASH** Debris from trees and other plants.

**SOCIAL CAPITAL** The collective value of all social networks, and interactions and the inclinations that arise from these networks to do things for each other. The term social capital refers to a wide variety of specific benefits that flow from the trust, reciprocity, information, and cooperation associated with social networks. Social capital creates value for the people who are connected and, at least sometimes, for bystanders as well.

**SOCIAL COST OF CARBON** A monetary estimate of the economic damages associated with a small increase in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. Used to determine the benefit of policies that reduce carbon emissions, the SCC considers the costs to society of a range of climate impacts to agricultural productivity, human health, property, and infrastructure damage from extreme weather events and sea level rise, diminished biodiversity, and loss of ecosystem services. It is reported in dollars per metric ton of carbon dioxide.

**SOCIAL EQUITY** The fair, just, and equitable access to livelihood, education, and resources; full participation in the political and cultural life of the community; and self-determination in meeting fundamental needs.

**SOLAR OUTPUT** Also referred to as solar radiation, radiation emitted by the sun, or short-wave radiation. Solar radiation has a distinctive range of wavelengths (spectrum) determined by the temperature of the sun.

**STAR COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM** A national certification program that recognizes sustainable communities through a framework of best practices intended to help community leaders assess their sustainability, set targets, and measure progress. For more information, visit [www.starcommunities.org](http://www.starcommunities.org).

**STATE-LISTED NOXIOUS WEEDS** Nonnative, aggressive, and invasive plant species with the potential to be eradicated or controlled in the state. List A weeds are nonnative species whose distribution in Colorado is still limited. Preventing new infestations are the highest priority. Eradication of all List A species is required by law.

**SUBMETERING** The installation of metering devices to measure actual consumption. Submetering allows you to monitor energy or water usage for individual tenants, departments, pieces of equipment or other loads individually to account for their actual energy or water usage.

**SUBSIDIZED HOUSING** Economic assistance aimed at alleviating housing costs and expenses for people with low to moderate incomes. Forms of subsidies include direct housing subsidies, nonprofit housing, public housing, rent supplements, and some forms of cooperative and private sector housing. In the United States, subsidized housing is often called “affordable housing.”

**SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD** An easy to read, often single page, real-time user interface, showing a graphic presentation of the current status (snapshot) and historical trends of an organization’s key performance indicators to enable instantaneous and informed decisions to be made at a glance.

**SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS HUB** See Implementation Strategy SE1-E, Page 61.

**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCE CENTER** See Implementation Strategy BE1-C, Page 39.

**SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM** See Implementation Strategy CC1-D, Page 102.

**SUSTAINABLE SITES INITIATIVE (SSI)** A program based on the understanding that built landscapes have the capacity to protect and restore our natural systems. Developed by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the U.S. Botanic Garden, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin, SSI offers a rating system and guidelines to define land development and management practices that complement the functions of healthy ecosystems.

**SYSTEMIC, PERSISTENT NEUROTOXINS** A toxin that specifically acts upon neurons, their synapses, or the nervous system in its entirety.

**T**  
**THREATENED SPECIES** Plants and animals that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Endangered species are those plants and animals that have become so rare they are in danger of becoming extinct.

**TREE CANOPY COVERAGE** The proportion of land area covered by tree crowns as viewed from the air.

**TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE BUSINESS MODEL** A measure of a company’s economic value through “people account,” which measures the company’s degree of social responsibility, and through

“planet account,” which measures the company’s environmental responsibility.

## U

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)** A program developed in 1972 to assess global, regional, and national environmental conditions, to develop international and national environmental instruments, and to strengthen institutions for the wise management of the environment.

**UNIVERSAL DESIGN** Creating places and environments that can be accessed, understood, and used regardless of age, size, and ability.

**UPWARD MOBILITY** The capacity or facility for rising to a higher social or economic position.

**URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT** An independent agency that assists local governments in the Denver metropolitan area with multijurisdictional drainage and flood control problems.

## V

**VARIABLE RATE COLLECTION SYSTEM** A trash collection program, often referred to as Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT), where the cost of service reflects how much you throw away and provides incentives for you to recycle.

**VULNERABLE POPULATIONS** Groups that are not well integrated into community systems due to socioeconomic status, geography, gender, age, disability status, ethnicity, or health characteristics.

## W

**WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITY** A national recognition program developed to encourage towns and cities across the U.S. to establish or recommit to giving a high priority to supporting safer walking environments. The WFC program recognizes communities that are working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, access, and comfort.

**WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS** Places where people live within walking distance of places they commonly want to visit including schools, grocery stores, park and recreational facilities, community institutions, and neighborhood-serving commercial businesses.

**WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDIES** Studies that identify categories of waste generated and methods of disposal. Waste characterization studies can be conducted on a variety of scales including individual buildings and entire communities or regions.

**WASTE DIVERSION** The prevention and reduction of generated waste through source reduction, recycling, reuse, or composting.

**WASTE-TO-ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES** The conversion of nonrecyclable waste materials into useable heat, electricity, or fuel through a variety of processes, including combustion, gasification, pyrolyzation, anaerobic digestion, and landfill gas (LFG) recovery.

**WATER USE INTENSITY** A measure of water use as a function of a building or site size or other characteristics.

**WATERSHED** An area from which water drains and contributes to a given point on a stream or river.

**WAYFINDING SYSTEMS** A system of signs, maps, and other graphic or audible methods used to convey location and directions to travelers.

**WINDSOURCE** A voluntary program from Xcel Energy that allows customers to pay a monthly fee to purchase renewable energy generated from wind.

**WORKFORCE** The number of people in a community engaged in or available for work.

**WORKFORCE READINESS SCORE** A Colorado Department of Education diploma endorsement criteria that measures the level of preparedness of students for postsecondary education or the workforce upon completing high school. The indicator reflects student graduation rates, dropout rates, and school averages of the Colorado ACT composite scores.

**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)** A specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources.

## X

**XERISCAPE** Landscape with water conservation and environmental protection as a major objective. Features may include efficient irrigation, limited turf areas, and native plant selection.

## Z

**ZERO WASTE** A goal that is ethical, economical, efficient, and visionary to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use. Zero waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and avoid burning or burying them. Implementing zero waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.