

Program Overview



Sustainable Neighborhood Network

Sustainable Neighborhoods Program





Program Overview

THE PROGRAM

The Sustainable Neighborhoods Program gives residents the opportunity to become active partners in building a vibrant and sustainable community. Neighborhoods participating in this unique certification program use guidance from city staff to organize workshops, projects, and events that enhance the livability of their neighborhoods and reduce residents' ecological footprints. Participating neighborhoods receive program credits for their efforts, earning them recognition from the community and the City.

BENEFITS

The specific benefits to residents and neighborhoods vary with the types of initiatives and projects that a neighborhood chooses. Whether it is increasing energy efficiency in residents' homes, converting lawns and common areas to water-wise landscaping, or organizing neighborhood food drives, participation will enhance the social, ecological, and economic strength of the neighborhood.



RECOGNITION

Neighborhoods participating in the program earn credits based on participation and project outcomes. The credits work like a point system; depending on the number of credits earned in a given year, neighborhoods may receive designation as a **Participating Sustainable Neighborhood** or an **Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood**. Those neighborhoods earning "outstanding" designation will receive recognition from elected officials and will receive custom neighborhood signage.

GOAL AREAS

The Sustainable Neighborhoods Program focuses on five broad goal areas. Neighborhoods use these goal areas to guide their selection of workshop topics and neighborhood initiatives. The goal categories are energy, air, water, land, and people.

Sustainable Neighborhoods Program Goal Areas





CERTIFICATION

In order to maintain certification as a **Participating Sustainable Neighborhood**, a neighborhood must earn a minimum of 60 credits in a year. To receive certification as an **Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood**, a neighborhood must earn a minimum of 100 credits in a year.

Credits are awarded for attendance at neighborhood workshops and special events as well as for developing neighborhood communication infrastructure, forming sustainability-related clubs, and for implementation of neighborhood projects. For specific details regarding certification and maintenance requirements, see the “Neighborhood Certification” brochure.

ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR CERTIFICATION CREDIT

- **NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOPS:** Educational events that provide information and resources that help residents turn awareness into action. In addition to workshops organized by the neighborhood, neighborhood participation in workshops and events organized by the City may also be eligible for credit.
- **SPECIAL EVENTS:** Neighborhood or communitywide activities that enhance sustainability through resident action (e.g., food drives, recycling days, neighborhood cleanups).
- **NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH:** Neighborhood outreach provides residents access to information on projects and initiatives to encourage participation and collaboration. Residents can earn credits by developing an outreach strategy and by utilizing various types of outreach channels.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD CLUBS:** A neighborhood club is an inclusive group of residents who share a similar sustainability interest or participate in a common activity on an ongoing basis.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** Implementation occurs when a neighborhood takes direct action to make a change that advances sustainability. There are two implementation categories; major and minor. City staff will work with you to help determine your implementation goals.



The Sustainable Neighborhoods Program and Sustainable Neighborhood Network were developed by the City of Lakewood, Colorado, as a neighborhood level implementation program for community sustainability.

For additional information, please visit
www.SustainableNeighborhoodNetwork.org

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