



# Goals, Target Areas and Project Ideas

These are just suggestions - feel free to improvise.



## Sustainable Neighborhoods Program



## Goal:

Promote energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy in the neighborhood.

## Target Areas:

- Residential Energy Efficiency and Conservation
- Renewable Energy Sources
- Green Building

## Initiative & Project Ideas

### Home Energy Squad Audits

Organize a neighborhood sign-up for Xcel Energy audits to make your homes more energy efficient. Each home will receive LED bulbs, programmable thermostats, energy-efficient showerheads and sink aerators, and weather-stripping—all professionally installed.

### Neighborhood Wind Energy

Encourage neighbors to sign up for wind-sourced energy through Xcel's Windsource program.

### Community Solar

Educate neighbors about community solar options through Clean Energy Collective or SunShare and organize a neighborhood sign-up to receive monthly utility bill credits.

### Energy Efficiency Catalog

Assemble a list of discounts, rebates, products, and financial incentives for installing solar panels or energy-efficiency improvements.

### Green Building Design Workshop

Hold a workshop with local experts to educate neighbors on green building design options, including landscaping for energy reduction and green rooftops.

### Solar Mapping

Map the solar potential of rooftops in your neighborhood and share the results with the neighborhood.

### ENERGY STAR Campaign

Have neighbors take the ENERGY STAR pledge to change energy behaviors, install energy-efficient appliances, and track energy usage.

### Weatherization Workshop

Invite local experts to present on products and projects to insulate homes against too-cold and too-hot temperatures.

### Energy Check out Kit

Check out a watt meter and a thermal leak detector from the Wheat Ridge library to learn how much energy your appliances use and where air leaks are in your home.

### Efficient Front Porch Light Bulbs

Go door-to-door replacing conventional light bulbs with LEDs to save energy.

### Organize a Refrigerator Roundup

Recycle aging refrigerators and freezers through Xcel Energy's pickup program and receive \$50 for each item recycled.



SUSTAINABLE WHEAT RIDGE  
RENEWABLE ENERGY





## Goal:

Reduce emissions generated in the neighborhood and improve both outdoor and indoor air quality.

## Target Areas:

- Transportation
- Indoor Air Quality
- Trees and Vegetation
- Carbon Footprint Reduction

## Initiative & Project Ideas

### **Neighborhood Transportation Pledge**

Research different pledge programs that promote improving air quality by reducing weekly trips. Set up a prize system to incentivize participation.

### **Vehicle Maintenance Workshop**

Learn to improve vehicle efficiency and reduce emissions.

### **Bike to Work Day**

Plan a group bike ride or host a station for riders on Bike to Work Day.

### **Carpool Network**

Promote regional carpooling programs or create one for the neighborhood.

### **Alternative Transportation Map and Guide**

Develop a resource for existing and new residents in the neighborhood highlighting bike, pedestrian, vehicle sharing and other features.

### **Missing Links Assessment**

Map barriers to walking and bicycling in the neighborhood.

### **Electric Vehicle Showcase**

Invite neighbors to display their EVs and educate the community on the benefits of going electric.

### **Anti-Idling Pledge**

Establish an anti-idling pledge in your community to reduce emissions and improve air quality.

### **Tree Planting**

Hold events to plant trees in yards or along the street to improve air quality.

### **Carbon Footprint Challenge**

Create a neighborhood challenge for reducing household carbon footprints. Set goals with neighborhoods and track progress.

### **Electric Lawn Equipment**

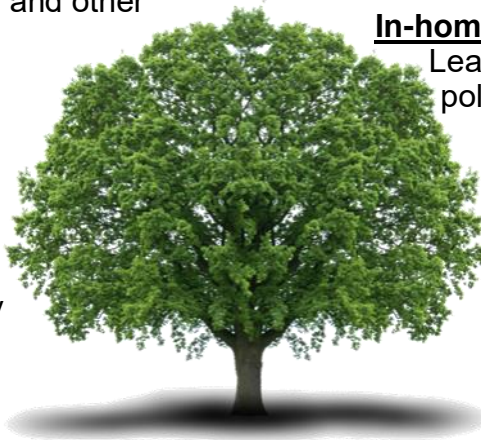
Promote the use of electric lawn equipment. Research and communicate different purchasing options with the community. Redeem an electric lawn mower rebate from Sustainable Wheat Ridge and the Regional Air Quality Council.

### **In-home Air Quality Workshop**

Learn about sources of indoor air pollution and how to address them.

### **Radon Detectors**

Test homes for high levels of radon.





## Goal:

Conserve water resources and improve water quality in the neighborhood and the city.

## Target Areas

- Indoor and Outdoor Water Conservation
- Storm water Management
- Stream/Gulch Protection

## Initiative & Project Ideas

### Home Water Audits

Research indoor and outdoor water conservation practices and develop an at-home water audit for your neighbors to evaluate water inefficiencies.

### Water Efficiency Blitz

Organize contractors to provide water audits, leaky faucet repair and education for the neighborhood all in one day.

### Water Conservation Fair

Give neighbors the opportunity to learn about WaterSense products and services to reduce water use and talk with local businesses about water use reduction and conservation services.

### Garden in a Box

Acquire a simple garden in a box template from a local entity or develop one for the neighborhood as a resource. These systems contain low-water plants for addressing landscaping needs.

### Leaky Faucet Repair Team

Build a team of neighborhood volunteers who can be contacted to repair leaky faucets.

### Adopt-a-Gulch

Commit to regular cleanup days of local waterways.

### Plant Restoration in the Greenbelt

Restore new plants and trees in selected areas of the Greenbelt with the IES Tree Project. Collect GPS data to locate the new plants.

### Rain Barrel Workshop

Rain barrels are now legal in Colorado! Hold a workshop to inform residents of what they need to know for installing rain barrels in their yards.

### Chemical Footprint Reduction Pledge

Watch the videos at [www.i4es.org/videos](http://www.i4es.org/videos) and learn easy and economical ways to reduce water pollution and improve your family's health. Research fertilizer and pesticide impacts on water quality as well. Create a pledge with neighbors to reduce chemical use.

### Porous Surfaces

Educate neighbors on how to use porous pavements and other alternatives to concrete.

### Xeriscape Workshop and Regional Rain Garden Tours

Learn about landscaping using water wise plants. Tour a local xeriscape garden or request a speaker to educate residents on best practices.



SUSTAINABLE WHEAT RIDGE  
WATER







## Goal:

Encourage stewardship and conservation of ecosystems and resources.

## Target Areas

- Sustainable Landscapes
- Wildlife & Habitat Enhancement
- Chemical Pollution
- Recycling & Waste Reduction

## Initiative & Project Ideas

### **Community Garden Development**

Connect with gardening groups to transform yards and community spaces into gardens. Denver Urban Gardens and Happiness Gardens are great resources.

### **Wildlife Friendly Yards**

Get neighbors to commit to pollinator and wildlife friendly yards through elimination of harmful chemicals to treat landscape and education about safe alternatives.

### **Noxious Weed Removal and Native Plant Workshop**

Hold a workshop to educate neighbors on noxious weeds and what native plants work well for landscaping.

### **Scraps Compost Drop Off**

Organize a neighborhood sign up for Scraps compost drop off program at the Rec Center.

### **Neighborhood Biodiversity Tracker**

Inventory species in the neighborhood in order to track changes.

### **Habitat Tree Inventory**

Identify older neighborhood trees that provide important habitat.

### **Living with Wildlife**

Learn how to reduce conflicts with coyotes, skunks, foxes and other wildlife.

### **Household Hazardous Material Recycling**

Organize a special collection to take neighborhood hazardous materials to Rooney Road Recycling Center.

### **Green Purchasing Guide or Workshop**

Create a guide for purchasing environmentally friendly household cleaners and other products. Or, take it a step further and partner with IES to host a non-toxic living workshop to make your own contaminant-free products.

### **Leaf Drop**

Organize a leaf drop to compost neighborhood yard waste.

### **Park Cleanup**

Work with the City of Wheat Ridge to coordinate a cleanup project at a park in your neighborhood.

### **Neighborhood Repair Café**

Organize a new Repair Café in your neighborhood to repair your broken items, learn skills from experts, and provide your own repair expertise.



SUSTAINABLE WHEAT RIDGE  
SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING





## GOAL:

Enhance the social vitality of the neighborhood by encouraging community interaction, partnerships, and outreach programs.

## Target Areas:

- Health & Wellness
- Community Outreach
- Neighborhood Heritage
- Local Economy & Green Purchasing

## Initiative & Project Ideas

### Develop a Community Outreach Plan

A community outreach plan should include all possible outlets of communication to the neighborhood including social media, phone and email trees, mailing lists, webpages, etc. It would be very beneficial to identify which of these resources have the capability to be multilingual.

### Community Asset Inventory

Create an inventory of all organizations, schools and nonprofits in the neighborhood to explore potential partnerships.

### Community Clubs

Create a group that meets regularly to do activities such as exercise or cleanup trash in the neighborhood.

### Business Partner Program

Reach out to businesses in your neighborhood to educate them about sustainable practices at their business.

### Community Charity Events

Host food, coat, school supply, or other charitable drives.

### Helping Hands Network

Establish a network of volunteers to assist with home maintenance.

### Historic and Cultural Resources Inventory

Work with the Wheat Ridge Historical Society to research neighborhood history and identify properties of historic significance.

### After-school Activity Enrollment

Encourage participation in after-school programs for neighborhood children.

### Recreation Programs

Set a goal for increasing recreation program participation with the Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation department.

### Green Initiative Youth Team

Help form a volunteer team of neighborhood youth to lead sustainability projects.

### Elderly Driving Assistance Network

Identify volunteers willing to be contacted to assist elderly neighbors with getting around town and to appointments.

### Community Gardening

Build a community garden and share produce from home gardens. Collect and share seeds with neighbors during the year!



SUSTAINABLE WHEAT RIDGE  
COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

