Colorado Sustainability Dashboard

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RMLUI Conference

Advancing Sustainability Through Collaboration Among Nonprofits, Business, Government and Education
What is a Sustainability Dashboard?

- Quick reference point
- A set of indicators and how they may be interconnected
- A gauge of progress (or lack of progress)
- A decision-making tool
- An awareness building mechanism
  - Minimizes value based judgments
Why create a Sustainability Dashboard?

• Currently nothing like it exists
  • State of the Rockies
  • Colorado Springs Quality of Life Indicators
  • Sustainable Breck

• How can we get to where we’re going if we don’t know where we are?
How to create it?

- Graduate Intern from UC Denver School of Public Health
- Research & Methodology
- Stakeholder Input
- Advisory Committee
- Graduate Student Team
  - MBAs, Public Affairs, Environmental Policy
Research Phase

- Maryland Genuine Progress Indicators
- Central Texas Sustainability Project
- Colorado Springs Quality of Life Indicators
- ICLEI: STAR Community Index
- Sustainable Breck
- Sustainable Cincinnati
- Sustainable Minneapolis
- Sustainable Seattle
- Urban Sustainability Directors Network
Methodology for Inclusion

1. Relevant to Colorado
2. Not skewed by regional variation
3. Available from existing secondary data sources
4. Could be standardized to represent a percentage or ratio
Stakeholder Input

Brendle Group
Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Colorado Environmental Coalition
CDPHE
CORE
Embrace Northern Colorado
First Affirmative Financial Network
Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency
High Country Conservation Center
McKinstry Consulting
Mesa County Long Range Planning
Natural Capitalism Solutions
Orton Family Foundation
PlaceMatters
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
Rocky Mountain Institute
Southeast Colorado RC&D
Yampa Valley Data Partners
Yampa Valley Sustainability Council
Main Sections

- Agriculture & Food
- Buildings
- Community Wellbeing
- Demographics
- Economy & Finance
- Education
- Energy
- Health
- Land Use & Urban Planning
- Materials & Waste
- Transportation
- Water Quality & Quantity
Next Steps

- Measure (current and past)
- Seek endorsements
- Hold contest for info-graphic
- Release 2012 Dashboard
- Use in decision-making
- Re-evaluate
Long Term Plan

- Publish annually
- Create regional Dashboards
- Compare and contrast
- Track new indicators
Contact Information

Anna Zawisza
Programs Director
Alliance for Sustainable Colorado
303-572-1536

education@sustainablecolorado.org
www.sustainablecolorado.org
www.facebook.com/sustainablecolorado
https://twitter.com/allsustco