Goals, Target Areas, and Project Ideas

These are just suggestions - feel free to improvise.

Sustainable Neighborhoods Program
Goal:
Promote energy conservation and the use of renewable energy sources throughout the neighborhood.

Target Areas:
- Residential Energy Conservation
- Renewable Energy Sources
- Green Building

Initiative & Project Ideas

**Home Energy Audits**
Partner with local businesses and energy providers to get technical assistance and rebates for optimizing home energy efficiency.

**Neighborhood Energy Blitz**
Organize energy contractors to provide audits, energy-saving improvements and education for a neighborhood all in one day.

**Renewable Energy Fair**
Invite local renewable energy businesses to the neighborhood to teach about options for adopting renewable energy practices including purchasing off-site and on-site installation.

**Home Improvement Directory**
Create a list of home energy improvement products and where neighbors can find them.

**Energy Incentives Catalog**
Assemble a list of discounts, rebates, low-income programs, and other financial incentives for installing solar panels or energy-efficient improvements.

**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.

**Energy 101**
Host an educational seminar about how Colorado’s energy system works and how your neighborhood fits into the system.

**Weatherization Workshop**
Invite local hardware stores to present on products and projects to insulate homes against too-cold and too-hot temperatures.

**Green Building Design Workshop**
Hold a workshop with local experts to educate neighbors on green building design options including landscaping for energy and green roofs.

**Power Check**
Check out a “Power Check” meter from the City to learn about how much energy your appliances use.

**Efficient Front Porch Light Bulbs**
Go door-to-door replacing conventional light bulbs to save energy.
Goal:
Reduce emissions generated in the neighborhood and improve both outdoor and indoor air quality.

Target Areas:
- Outdoor Emissions
- 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 Educational Workshop**
Learn to improve 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 EV’s and educate the community on the benefits of going electric.

**Fireplace Replacement**
Reduce the number of wood-burning fireplaces in use in your neighborhood by educating neighbors about the impact they have on 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.

**Electric Lawn Equipment**
Promote the use of electric lawn equipment. Research and communicate different purchasing options with the community.

**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.

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

Initiative & Project Ideas

**Home Water Audits**
Partner with Denver Water to sign neighbors up for audits to identify home 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, discover rebates available from Denver Water, 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.

**Stream Bank Projects**
Protect vegetation and prevent erosion around neighborhood waterways.

**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.

**Adopt-a-Gulch**
Commit to regular cleanup days of local waterways.

**Fertilizer and Pesticide Reduction Campaign**
Learn about the impacts of chemicals on water quality and create a pledge 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 the Kendrick Lake Garden or request a speaker to educate residents on best practices.
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 (DUG) is a great resource.

**Wildlife Friendly Yards**
Get neighbors to commit to pollinator and wildlife friendly yards through elimination of harmful chemicals to treat landscape.

**Noxious Weed Removal and Native Plant Workshop**
Hold a workshop to educate neighbors on noxious weeds and what native plants work well for landscaping.

**Alternative Methods Workshop**
Put on an educational workshop to inform neighbors of alternative, safe methods to pest management.

**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, rooneyroadrecycling.org.

**Green Purchasing Guide**
Create a guide for purchasing environmentally friendly household cleaners and other products.

**Curbside Recycling Sign-up**
Encourage curbside recycling by residents as part of their trash service.

**Leaf Drop**
Organize a leaf drop to compost neighborhood yard waste.

**Compost Workshop**
Host a workshop on backyard composting.

**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.

**Hard to Recycle Event**
Hold an event for neighbors to drop off hard to recycle items.
Goal:
Enhance the social vitality of the neighborhood by encouraging community interaction, partnerships, and outreach programs.

Target Areas:
- Health & Wellness
- Community Outreach
- Youth Programs
- 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.

Walkability Analysis
Identify missing sidewalk links and other barriers.

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
Research neighborhood history and identify properties of historic significance.

Local Lunch Club
Create a group to meet regularly at local restaurants.

Neighborhood Historic Tour
Create a self-guided tour that includes stories and myths about the neighborhood.

After-school Activity Enrollment
Encourage participation in after-school programs for neighborhood children.

Recreation Programs
Set a goal for increasing recreation program participation.

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.

Local Business Partnerships
Work with area businesses to accomplish projects and support the neighborhood.

Community Gardening
Build a community garden and share produce from home gardens.