

SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

YEAR 2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

BUILDING CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



Sustainable
Neighborhood
Network



Low Water Landscape Improvements

NETWORK MISSION AND APPROACH

Mission

We are a network of cities harnessing the passion of neighbors for climate action and community resilience.

Why It Matters

As environmental crises—from extreme weather to worsening air quality—become ever more evident in daily life, so too does the need for strong, connected communities. Yet, building those connections has become increasingly difficult in today's fast-paced, fragmented world. The Sustainable Neighborhood Network addresses this challenge by working at the neighborhood level to build connections, strengthen community pride, and provide ways for residents to engage productively in city government while advancing cities' community engagement and climate action goals.

How We Do It

The Sustainable Neighborhood Network model empowers residents to lead meaningful change in their communities. Through resources like training, leadership development, and a shared platform for tracking progress, neighbors gain the confidence and skills to work together toward their goals. The program gives residents a clear path from ideas to action, while offering cities a ready-made framework to support and partner with engaged, motivated neighborhoods.

Leadership

Our organization is guided by a dedicated, all-volunteer Board of Directors who bring local knowledge, sustainability expertise, and a shared commitment to building resilient neighborhoods.

[Learn more on our website!](#)



2024 BY THE NUMBERS

4 Member Cities

Denver, CO¹
Lakewood, CO

Sedona, AZ
Wheat Ridge, CO

15 Participating Neighborhoods

8,389 Neighbors Engaged

155 Activities Accomplished

A special thank you to Swire Coca-Cola for supporting the Sustainable Neighborhood Network mission in 2024

¹ Denver was reorganizing programming in 2024, so did not contribute to participation metrics in 2024.

A Word from Our Member Cities

“The Sustainable Neighborhoods program is based on the simple principle of having residents directing how they want to accomplish sustainability. This approach is the very definition of grassroots organizing and the highest form of civic engagement.”

Wendi Strom, City of Lakewood Mayor

“Sustainable Neighborhoods lets neighbors take the lead on sustainability in their communities—working in partnership with the city to solve the climate crisis.”

**Taylor Moellers, Engagement Manager
Denver Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency**





LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming year, we are focused on building Network benefits for our member cities and strengthening our financial foundation.

The following pages outline the impact that our member cities saw in 2024.

SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

YEAR 2024

WHEAT RIDGE, CO



New Neighborhood Pollinator Garden

WHEAT RIDGE, CO

Partnering with local leaders since 2020



SUSTAINABLE WHEAT RIDGE



Our Neighborhoods

Applewood Villages (2020), Paramount Heights (2020), Fruitdale (2021), Panorama Park (2021)

2024 Impact by the Numbers

891 Neighbors Engaged

16 Community Events

5 Special Projects

1 Club

2 Workshops

Activity Highlights

- Demonstration gardens
- E-waste recycling and compost events
- Neighborhood yard and garage sales
- Donation drives (backpacks, winter clothes, baby supplies)
- Sustainable Easter egg hunt
- Community bike ride
- E-bike demonstration
- Expansion of Sustainable Neighborhood Boundaries

Story Spotlight



Panorama Park and Paramount Heights both designed and planted new demonstration gardens in their neighborhood parks! They worked with the city's Parks Department to prepare garden spaces, design the garden, source plants from local nurseries, and plant the gardens. The neighborhoods have both created volunteer groups for ongoing maintenance. Each neighborhood also hosted a ribbon cutting celebration with the mayor and neighborhood residents.

A Word from Our City Staff

“The Sustainable Neighborhood Program has been such a valuable tool for empowering residents to take action against climate change while building stronger connections with each other and the city.”

- Mary Hester, Sustainability Coordinator for Wheat Ridge

LAKEWOOD, CO



LAKEWOOD, CO

Partnering with local leaders since 2012



Lakewood

Community Sustainability,
Climate & Zero Waste



Our Neighborhoods

Eiber (2012), Belmar (2012), Southern Gables (2013), Lake Lochwood Village (2013), South of 6th (2014), Applewood (2016), Green Mountain (2016), Morse Park (2016), O'Kane Park (2020), Weir Gulch Gardens (2020)

2024 Impact by the Numbers*

7,385

Neighbors Engaged

9

Special Projects

28

Workshops

78

Community Events

5

Clubs

Activity Highlights

- Gardening
- Protecting pollinators
- Waste reduction (composting workshops, hard-to-recycle material collection, etc.)
- Low-water landscaping education and retrofits
- Connecting with youth (school supply drives, bike/walk to school day, science nights at schools, literacy support, etc.)
- Biking events

Story Spotlight

The Petting Farm that Sustainable Morse Park sponsors in partnership with Slater Elementary School's Fall Festival is a great way to help educate children about farm animals, promote family interaction, and provide some loving animal interaction. One leader said, "I was deeply moved by how many families enjoyed the animals and were interested in Morse Park's Sustainable Neighborhood program."

A Word from Our Neighborhood Leaders

"It has been fun to get to know some wonderful, caring neighbors and creates neighborhood pride."

"Being a part of our Sustainable Neighborhood group has made me feel like an active, productive part of our community. I've made some great friends and it's been fun to meet lots of good folks who want to contribute and improve our neighborhood."

"It has let me meet Lakewood city employees and made me feel much more a part of the City of Lakewood."

"In challenging times, I have found that building community is the best antidote to despair. Our community is also dynamic, so Sustainable Neighborhood is a way to invite in all of our neighbors, old and new."

SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

YEAR 2024

SEDONA, AZ



Community Concert

SEDONA, AZ

Partnering with local leaders since 2024



Our Neighborhood

Les Springs (2024)

2024 Impact by the Numbers

113 Neighbors Engaged

3 Community Events*

7 Special Projects

1 Workshop

*All community events were Zero Waste!

Activity Highlights

- Educational workshops
- Neighborhood meals
- Food drive
- Tool roundup and donation
- Automated water meter installation
- Composting program
- Rooftop solar installation

Story Spotlight

The Automated water meter project was very impressive. Les Springs applied for and won a grant to help them install over 112 modern water meters throughout their neighborhood. The water meters provide the neighborhood with live data monitoring which allows them to detect leaks right away rather than at the end of the month. In their first month, they have already conserved over 200,000 gallons of fresh water due to leak detection.



Xeric Landscaping Tour



Neighborhood School Movie Night



Sustainable Garden Tour

Sustainable Neighborhood Network

Learn more:

SustainableNeighborhoodNetwork.org