



SUSTAINABLE WHEAT RIDGE



Sustainable Neighborhoods Program 2023 Frequently Asked Questions Guide for Applicants

What constitutes a “neighborhood” for this program?

- We do not have firm requirements for boundaries of a sustainable neighborhood. If you have an existing Homeowner’s Association or Neighborhood Association, that would be a great place to start and might help you build a network of support. If you do not have an established neighborhood association, that is ok – just do your best to determine an area that you think would work and if you are accepted into the program, we will work with you to refine neighborhood boundaries.

Is there a size requirement for a neighborhood to apply and be a Sustainable Neighborhood?

- No, there is no minimum neighborhood size. Typically, neighborhoods are 200 – 500 homes, but we can have a variety of sizes involved in the program.

What are your selection criteria?

- **Community support** and investment in becoming a Sustainable Neighborhood (demonstrated through your neighborhood signature sheets).
- **Initial project ideas** and why those projects would be successful and useful specifically for your neighborhood’s needs.
- We are looking for places where the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program will serve as a **catalyst for community involvement** – either leveraging and expanding an active neighborhood or assisting neighborhoods that are just getting started at building strong communities.

What is the level of time commitment involved in being a Sustainable Neighborhood?

- The neighbors in existing Sustainable Neighborhoods commit varying levels of time to the program depending on their availability, skills, and interest. Some current neighborhood volunteers and leaders work full-time jobs, some are retired, and some are stay-at-home parents.
- **Team Meetings:** usually once per month or once per quarter
- **Events:** usually one event per month or every other month
- **Planning time for the team leaders:** usually a few hours of administrative work each month (emailing, planning, coordinating, etc.)

What do we get for being in the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program?

- **Recognition from the City of Wheat Ridge**
 - Neighborhoods earn credits for each activity, event and initiative they plan and implement. When your neighborhood reaches Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood certification, you will receive signs posted in your neighborhood and you will be recognized at a City Council meeting.

An example of an existing Sustainable Neighborhood in Lakewood (Belmar) is provided here:



- **Knowing You're Making a Difference**
 - You can make a difference in your neighborhood and in the Wheat Ridge community (helping neighbors get to know each other, helping build a sense of belonging and community, etc.)
 - You can make a difference for the Earth (informing neighbors about and building a culture of sustainable practices and lifestyles).
 - Participants in the program report that it has made a large difference to them personally (meeting and getting to know new friends and neighbors, building leadership skills, learning new information, etc.).

Is there funding available for projects?

- The City provides funding for mailings and office supplies and can loan certain equipment, like zero waste event materials. We have limited funding available for programmatic needs and can help you find other sources of funding and donations.

I am a renter in a multi-family unit, can I submit an application?

- Yes, we are happy to have renters and homeowners involved in the program.