

# Sustainability Action Plan

## Nederland Colorado

**NedCompost Grand Opening Party**  
 11 Forest Rd. Nederland, CO 80466  
 May 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> From 11AM-3PM  
 Music, Finger Food Potluck, Soil and Plant Sale, Facility Tours



**Garden Starter Sale:**

- Fresh Local Soil Amendment: made from your food scraps with love!
- Plant Starts: tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, medicinal flowers and more!
- Free Gardening Tip!

nedcompost.org

**NEDERLAND**



**Food Pantry**

**"Let's Pull Together"**



**Community Noxious Weed Pulls**  
 and re-seeding with native wildflowers  
 followed by potluck lunch  
 second Saturday of the summer months  
**9am-12pm**  
**June 14** - Community Center / Library  
**July 12** - Chipeta Park  
**August 9** - location TBD based on need

Help create a colorful Nederland and protect plant diversity  
 Volunteers needed ... Contact: lunamejor@gmail.com



**NedPeds Planning**

Your Voice. Your Community.




**FIREWISE COMMUNITIES**

**NedSustainable**  
 Nederland, Colorado is just a little bit cooler ... on multiple levels



Prepared by C2 Sustainability, LLC



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## Part 1. Introduction and Framework

### *Prologue*

To anyone who identifies with the Greater Nederland Area:

NedSustainable began as the culmination of several major planning documents. Starting in 2010, the Nederland Board of Trustees (BOT) decided to gather input from our citizens to create a vision for the future of our town. After one and a half years, on September 6, 2011, the BOT adopted [Envision 2020](#) as our guiding document. It was heavily skewed toward sustainability. A large poster of the nine vision statements hangs on the wall of our main meeting room as a reminder of that vision.

Over the next three years, in the same meeting room, several major planning documents were debated, created, and approved:

- Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan – adopted 2/19/2013
- 2013 Comprehensive Plan – adopted 11/5/2013
- Master Infrastructure Plan – adopted 5/6/2014
- Nederland became a [Solar Friendly Community](#) – May 2013
- Nederland became a [Firewise Community](#) – June 2013

When the Sustainability Advisory Board developed the Sustainability Action Plan, it quickly became a coalescence of all the sustainable items in the other master plans. Furthermore, in the past four years, while those plans were being written, several fires, floods, and droughts occurred around Nederland, as well as the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic and other significant climate change related events across the U.S., highlighting the urgency and importance of adopting a sustainability action plan.

The next idea was that NedSustainable needed to be a dynamic, living, action plan that would grow organically and adapt to our changing needs. For example, the 2013 Boulder Flood closed our major road to Nederland, and illustrated the need for a localized economy. Resiliency has shifted from a green ideal to work toward someday to an urgent need.

NedSustainable also needed to coordinate the efforts of many more people, companies, non-profits, and organizations. It could not be another master plan that sat on a shelf that only a few people read. We needed to leverage Nederland's greatest asset – our community of volunteers and organizations. In fact, a major theme, and a goal of NedSustainable, is to triple

the number of people involved in improving our community's sustainability. Ultimately, it's building a critical mass of community members that will continue the program, as champions, co-champions and/or as part of organizations that take on different action items.

Finally, In January 2014, [Nederland was selected with 20 other cities](#) in the U.S., to participate in the [Leadership STAR Community Program](#); the smallest city selected. The STAR Communities Program tracks our progress toward becoming a sustainable community. STAR criteria fits well with the NedSustainable Action Plan, and is completely integrated into our Action Items.

NedSustainable naturally became a living document as an interactive website and program, that provides resources, transfers information, tracks progress, and adapts to changing conditions.

We have a big goal: To Become the Most Sustainable Small Town in the U.S.. Quite frankly, because we are a small mountain town, separated geographically by just enough, to create our own unique sustainability culture, that gives us an advantage in achieving this "[John F Kennedy, We Choose to Go to the Moon](#)" type of goal.

So, I invite you to browse the pages of NedSustainable, and see what you find interesting. Share us on your favorite social media, learn about the progress we're making, and think about how you might be interested in participating.

Sustainably Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Gierlach".

Mayor Joe Gierlach,  
Nederland, Colorado

## *Introduction*

### *What is a Sustainability Action Plan and why does the Town of Nederland want one?*

A sustainability action plan is a tool that will help the Nederland community realize and refine what sustainability looks like for Nederland. The Sustainability Advisory Board defines sustainability as follows:

#### **What is Sustainability?**

- Sustainability is the conscious lens through which to view all issues. It is the answer to a society that is using up its finite resources by structuring conditions under which humans and nature exist in productive harmony. It incorporates a holistic approach to community planning and policy making that enables residents to meet their needs and maintain a high quality of life, without compromising the ability of future residents to do the same. Nederland's sustainability model is based on the understanding that the economy and social fabric are concentrically nested within the restraints of the larger environmental system, and are limited by the carrying capacity of the natural environment.

The "nested" model of sustainability incorporates economic, social and environmental sustainability into one formula.

- With proper planning and forethought, sustainable practices actively support opportunities for a localized economy, an independent and self-reliant community, and small-town resiliency while demonstrating how people can voluntarily work together within the mountain community to obtain a more harmonious existence with our ecosystem.

#### **Why do we need sustainability?**

- If adhered to, sustainability achieves a net zero strain on our finite resources. Moreover, sustainability can be profitable and achievable. A collective sustainable consciousness will maintain our planet in order to offer future generations the very same opportunities for a healthy lifestyle and existence that we are currently struggling to preserve. In fact, "Sustain" implies maintaining status-quo. To achieve sustainability will provide the opportunity to not just maintain current standards of living but to actually thrive as a town and culture. This is our common goal.

## How do we facilitate sustainability?

- Sustainability is a civic philosophy whose time has come to move into civic policy. We can achieve sustainability by aligning our built environment and socio-economic activities with the constraints of natural systems that support life, now and in the future. Moving towards sustainability requires a shift in consciousness to one of regional and global awareness and may demand innovative methods of living beyond small behavior changes and product development. Sustainability requires deep and sometimes difficult reflection upon the lasting impacts of our current cultural norms and everyday decisions. The underlying message of sustainability embraces resource conservation, waste minimization, and putting resources back into the system at the same rate as using them. Therefore, achieving sustainability requires a coordinated approach for action-oriented planning and periodic review of quantifiable indicators that involves community participation. Success depends on widespread understanding of the critical relationship between people and the environment, and the decision to face our own lifestyle choices and ethics which compel change.

That definition forms a basis of understanding, but the practical realities of how that is expressed in Nederland will be determined by the actions that the community takes. As Little Richard said in 1956, “It ain’t what you eat, it’s the way how you chew it.”

This plan lays the framework to document which actions have been taken, are being taken and will be taken that are helping make Nederland a place that endures. As an iterative and living plan, revisions will include a list of all the actions taken to advance sustainability in the prior year as well as a prioritized list of the actions to be taken in the next year and beyond. The plan also includes actions that have not been adopted, whether due to a lack of champions/resources or a lack of desire. The annual goal setting and prioritization exercise will grow out of the goal setting exercises from the various boards in Town as well as an open and inclusive community process. The Sustainability Action Matrix (SAM) is the spreadsheet that tracks all of the actions, priorities, relations to other plans, etc. that will form the backend of this plan and document progress.

The actions in the SAM range from very specific (for example, replace fixed-speed Big Springs water pump motor with a Variable Frequency Drive) to the more outcome focused (for example, continue to support the Community Center as business incubator space for food products.) In each of the main sections of the plan, there is a brief description of the goal area and then the relevant portion of the SAM is included. As time passes, actions will be added, moved to higher priority, and occasionally disappear as they are completed. The record of accomplishments will be saved each year and appended to the annual report, which will include this plan. The critical component of the SAM is the Priority column, where each action is given a priority for the upcoming year. Each action in the SAM that is designated as High priority has a Lead

Organization listed that will act as the shepherd for that particular action. The blank spaces in the SAM and progress reports will be their responsibility as the year moves on to have completed. Some of the actions are more fully filled out, with remaining steps, timelines, support organizations, specific champions and co-champions, etc. Where the priority is Medium or Low, those actions will need extra support to be realized.

In order to figure out where the community as a whole wants to go, it is helpful to know where it is at. The efforts to baseline and manage data are critical to measuring progress, though the acts of baselining and measuring do not in themselves have an immediate impact. Metrics will be added as each Lead Organization decides on them, and reviewed as appropriate. Through the STAR program, and through this Sustainability Action Plan, the Town will make those efforts to gauge where things are at in as objective a manner as possible. Some weight will be given to the way that the community is rated by the STAR system, but of more importance will be how the community sees itself. This process will be documented as much as possible in a transparent and available manner, and there will be information available prior to the annual review for the community to see. If the information is valuable, community members can support it; if not, there is the option to advocate for preferred options.

The Town of Nederland wants a sustainability action plan so it can track and report progress towards sustainability goals, determine where to most effectively allocate resources, and position the town effectively for funding opportunities. As sustainability goals become more defined, whether via the annual update process and/or other Town actions, the system initiated by this plan will demonstrate what success looks like. The Town already has a Sustainability Resolution to look to, a Comprehensive Plan that calls out sustainability in various ways throughout, an Envision 2020 guidance document, and even models of sustainability from Boulder County in the form of their Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. The hard work is to find the actions that best support these various plans with the least conflicts and then provide concrete steps to pursue each. This plan takes a first step in that direction, but that goal setting effort needs a wider community embrace in order to be fully realized. One way to do it is to define discrete goals in each aspect of Sustainability, and in the sections below there is language that will be used for this iteration. Once those are solidified, they can be formally adopted over a long term and the annual actions can be in support of whatever the community decides.

## *Foundations*

In order for a Sustainability Action Plan such as this to come together, a number of factors must converge. One of the key drivers was a commitment at the county level to sustainability, and the subsequent funding Boulder County put into place to help municipalities in the County follow their leadership in creating an Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. By leveraging local resources and trying to find the common threads embraced by the county, the possibility exists to make both systems stronger and complementary. At the same time, the community of Nederland is moving forward on it's own initiatives and embracing sustainability more fully with what seems like every passing day. From the Town government, especially the new Comprehensive Plan, to local businesses and everywhere in between, there is and has been much afoot in the world of sustainability in Nederland.

In order to create this plan, three primary sustainability documents were analyzed. The Boulder County Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, the Nederland Comprehensive Plan, and the Sustainable Action Plan prepared by citizen Dennis Duckett were all examined to see where they intersected and which elements were unique to each. Where there were commonalities, the structure of the merged plan began to take shape. Where there were conflicts or anomalies, they were attempted to be integrated as possible. The document that emerged seeks to cover all aspects of sustainability as opposed to just the environmental, be flexible(living) for future use, and demonstrate a specific vision of sustainability unique to Nederland. The STAR Rating System, which is addressed below, was a latecomer to the process and plays a somewhat unique corollary and support role.

The Town government is committed to engaging in this process; it was initiated by that body and despite limited resources there is a strong will to make government more sustainable and realize the all-around benefits. This will require staff support wherever it can be found and an integration into existing protocols and procedures wherever possible. Boulder County has indicated a willingness to support identified efforts and especially those that are directly complementary to their goals. There are state funds available to support sustainability as well as federal funds. Town officials are engaged in a variety of regional organizations with varying degrees of funding and influence; those discussions will help shape how Nederland evolves in the years to come.

The timing of the plan and its transformation into a system that is used will be from June to June. This aligns with the annual goal setting exercises of the Town Boards, election cycles, and the completion of this first plan. The process of the annual revisitation and update will be managed by Town staff with help from community members and consultants as needed and appropriate in order to ensure an inclusive and comprehensive process.

This plan calls for an integration of Town planning and actions into a comprehensive matrix. While the Sustainability Action Matrix doesn't capture all of the aspects of Town activity, it does strive to include the ones that affect the sustainability of the Town. The Town uses a number of

different sources to realize sustainability, including the sustainability scorecard developed by the SAB, piloting a new system called Envision for infrastructure projects, and resolutions and ordinances. Defining progress towards the goals the Town has ensconced in official documents and revisiting them annually in the context of the current desires of the community provides a democratic way of aligning aspirations with practical implementation.

Building off of the strengths and projects already begun in complementary efforts for the community of Nederland makes sense. It does so from the practical standpoint of being able to have greater accomplishments when heading towards similar goals with more resources available and from the thoughtful standpoint of helping these efforts grow along with the neighbors doing them. As one community nestled within wider communities, it makes sense to increase the positive effects where possible. As the positive efforts are noted and the community has a chance to digest the efforts underway, there will be a greater opportunity to evaluate the next steps from a place of informed knowledge. These can then be built upon in order to help decide what the next directions in Town could be and will need to be.

To that end, the following is a summary of current sustainability efforts in Nederland besides the **Nederland Comprehensive Plan**, **Boulder County Environmental Sustainability Action Plan**, and the **Sustainability Action Plan** already mentioned and how they will be addressed in this plan:

**Sustainability Resolution:** This grass roots resolution was passed in 2009 to provide direction and principles of sustainability for Town decisions. It's implementation was not addressed, and there has been no clear evidence of it being used directly in town governance. The fact that it was passed at all represents a community push for deep sustainability, and determining how to effectively use and/or update this resolution is an ongoing challenge.

The principles of the Resolution are reflected in the SAP, and it will be a part of the annual review process. If the SAP is found to be in conflict with the Resolution, the community will have the opportunity to identify ways to come into harmony and/or identify which aspects need to be updated to reflect current concerns. In this way the resolution will stay relevant, and will be utilized.

**Master Infrastructure Plan:** The MIP examined the natural and built infrastructure in Nederland, focusing on the water systems with some attention to roads and traffic. There are a number of actions and projects included in that plan to advance the sustainability of the Town's water systems from reducing inflow and infiltration into the wastewater treatment system to increasing the utilization of bioswales to help treat stormwater. In all, are over \$10 Million of high priority actions to take to address overdue maintenance and bring the systems into a condition that can be successfully maintained. Fortunately, the Plan also includes a list of funding sources that the Town can align itself with to be bale to tackle these projects as possible.

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan:** The PROST Plan lays out a strategic vision for increasing parks, open space, trails, and recreation opportunities in the Greater Nederland Area. There is significant use of the term sustainability throughout the plan and many of the action items are focused on increasing the health and wellness of residents along with preserving the environment in stewardship as well as defining healthy relationships with that land.

**SAB:** The Sustainability Advisory Board is a volunteer board created to focus on the sustainability aspects of projects in Town and provide advice on how to better incorporate sustainability. As such, for each project reviewed, it shall be part of the mission of this group to evaluate whether it meets the Sustainability Resolution, identify where it fits within the Sustainability Action Plan and which goals are affected. As the Sustainability scorecard continues to evolve, it will be used to provide basic feedback on projects and provide that information at the Board of Trustees level. As the stewards of sustainability at the Town level that interface directly with the community, SAB members are uniquely positioned to support the implementation of the SAP. While many actions are focused on Town operations, the SAB will be critical in deciding where to focus their efforts and provide a regular means of identifying current progress towards goals.

**NPP:** The Nederland Planning Process is a methodology that attempts to increase the level of participation in vetting projects below the board level. This process greatly increases the participation opportunities for projects in Town, increasing transparency and accountability. The flip side is that it can lead to meeting fatigue and forces people to get involved or get missed; don't get missed!

**Envision 2020:** This visioning process was meant to guide the community in an effort that placed a timeline on a desired quality of life for Nederland. By backcasting from that vision, it helps become clear which priorities have been deemed important. The Sustainability Action Plan builds and reviews each of it's focus areas against the Vision of Nederland in 2020 to see how it fits.

**STAR:** One additional component of this Plan is the utilization of the STAR rating system. This system is a national assessment and rating system designed for communities to measure and evaluate their efforts towards increasing sustainability as measured by the metrics deemed most critical by the STAR creators. There are at least two critical pieces to consider when thinking about this system. First, the system is specifically designed to focus on the whole community and not just Town government. Secondly, it awards points based on both where a community is at and the progress a community makes.

The Town of Nederland applied for and won a grant to not only participate in using this system to measure progress, but to take a leadership role and work with other communities nationally to

continue to evolve this new rating system and try and influence how sustainability is portrayed. In practice, this will likely result in becoming an advocate for metrics that make sense for small mountain towns; Nederland is by a significant margin the smallest community participating in the program. Participation in this program comes with support for the year in finding data, keeping on track, and continuing to advance the efforts of the Sustainability Action Plan. The STAR rating system has been evaluated and the most complimentary items of the system have been integrated into the Sustainability Action Plan. Also, those actions and goals that are Nederland specific are not only being tracked for Nederland but where applicable being presented to the national body for potential inclusion in future versions of the rating system. In this way, an act locally and influence nationally principle can be followed.

The integration of principles, resolutions, and planning efforts is a huge task in of itself. Each action in the plan is related back to the different lineages it might have and the primary sources are called out. It's not always possible to note all of the impacts and relationships of each action; in many cases the effects will be cross-functional and touch more areas than we can track; perhaps that's how we'll know it's being done right.

Offered below is the summary of the Envision 2020, the backcasting exercise used to help guide the next decade of change in Nederland:

**In 2020**, Nederland is a town recognized for its trails, natural areas and unwavering commitment to the environment. Open spaces are abundant and balanced with active recreation areas and opportunities. Nederland's surrounding wilderness area and other sensitive natural areas are restored, protected and preserved.

**In 2020**, Nederland continues to focus planning and economic development activities on efforts that address:

- alternative energy sources to fossil fuels for transportation
- alternatives for building and the use of sustainable materials
- non--motorized travel in town
- clean air, clean water and water conservation in and around Nederland
- connections to the outdoor environment providing active, healthy lifestyles for people of all ages
- minimal/reduced light and noise pollution
- focused community education programs and stewardship to reduce environmental impact fostering agricultural, economic and community sustainability

**In 2020**, Nederland's elected leaders are qualified, competent and representative of the entire community. They are committed to open and clear communication with town staff and all citizens. They actively encourage connections between residents, service providers, businesses and government. Critical information is easily accessible to all, and residents feel included and have a sense of responsibility and ownership in the governance process.

**In 2020**, Nederland provides arts and culture, education and community activities that include the entire community and provide opportunities for youth.

**In 2020**, every student in Nederland schools is afforded the opportunity to succeed regardless of ability. Nederland's education system is strong, has high levels of parental involvement and higher than average youth retention rates.

**In 2020**, Nederland has an accessible social service system for community members. The community ensures that its aging population remains healthy, fully--integrated and an active part of the community.

**In 2020**, Nederland's economy is local, community based, self--sufficient and is characterized by diverse and essential products, services and jobs that both support the local community and are mindful of potential impacts on the environment.

**In 2020**, Nederland's economy encourages and welcomes new, non--traditional economic models, the responsible management of tourism and the stewardship of the environment. The community consistently recognizes and responsibly encourages the thoughtful and meaningful relationship between recreation, culture and the economy.

**In 2020**, Nederland supports its local businesses and works to attract new businesses that enhance local services while supporting local values, qualities and the 2020 vision.

Integrating all of these plans will not be easy, and will take a good deal of work. But that can't prevent things from happening because the community is also passionate, innovative, and willing to put energy into viable(or at least potentially viable) causes. Sustainability is looking more and more like a necessity, not only to folks in Town that are tuned into the ecological consequences unfolding in the world, but to the people that cut checks to get things done. Demonstrating a real and measurable commitment to sustainability at this time makes sense, and the more integrated it is the more successful it can be.

## *Nederland 2014*

The Town of Nederland as it exists in 2014 embodies as paradigm of both constancy and change. The population is not swelling or shrinking significantly, many if not most of the businesses and events that have existed for years remain, and the rural sensibilities of self-reliance and appreciation of the outdoors are very evident. At the same time, some new businesses are giving it a go, changes are afoot in the town with new infrastructure projects and an ever keener focus on sustainability. The growing awareness of climate effects and resource depletion are becoming more evident, and there is a sense of urgency simmering in the culture. The Mountain Ear continues to be a strong voice that ties the community together and brings up sustainability issues as they come up. As the community moves forward, there is an awareness of the need to take stock and re-evaluate. A new comprehensive plan was just released providing high level impetus for sustainability and identifying a number of steps for the Town to take in that direction. The Town is investing in GIS management to use data to help make land use decisions, and has employed an engineering firm to develop a Master Infrastructure Plan with an emphasis on green infrastructure strategies.

On that note, the Town is already doing a number of leading edge best practices when it comes to sustainability that may not be as evident from inside the community. The eco-passes for in-town residents has huge benefits from an equity and carbon reduction viewpoint, the wastewater treatment plant is one of the most efficient in the nation, and the number of cottage industries around sustainability continue to grow. Downtown itself is a remarkably complete community, allowing town residents as well as visitors to access all their daily needs without leaving Town and typically without driving. This Plan highlights more of what the Town is doing, but it's important to give credit where credit is due, and even though we can always go further, Nederland has gone pretty far out.

Nederland in 2014 has at least the following (and likely more) things to be proud of from a sustainability standpoint:

**NedCompost Thriving!** Not only is the operation shifting into the black financially, but in cooperation with the Town they are taking over a commercial sized indoor facility to try and scale the operation and have an ever greater impact on nutrient recycling.

**World-class wastewater treatment facility!** It took extra spending on the front end and the technology is still working through a few learning curves, but the new facility came on line in 2013 and looks to be on target to be one of the most energy efficient facilities in the nation as well as producing some of the cleanest outfall water. As a sidenote, there was much more water found going into the facility than expected, and Town Public Works staff have been doing a fantastic job of identifying leaks and even leaky toilets for people in Town and saving over a Million gallons of water monthly.

**Sustainability planning!** In addition to this Action Plan, a new Comprehensive Plan and a Master Infrastructure Plan are complete. This represents a proactive approach to planning that allows the Town to prioritize projects, identify what to do next, and shift from a mode of reacting to issues to addressing them before they magnify or before they happen.

**Recycling and Zero Waste Efforts are happening and increasing!** Recycling requirements are being written into leases at the Community Center, the Town is maintaining a contract with GreenGirl Recycling that gives them the ability to track progress over time, and the numbers are up. Zero waste is moving from idea to reality and the Town is committed to getting there. Keep Magnolia Clean reported 22 tons of food scraps and 33 tons of single-stream recycling diverted from the landfill in 2013, and is continuing to expand.

**Fuel use is being tracked!** This is an important first step towards reducing the fuel consumption, and the Town is already looking at ways to get this number on a declining trend.

**Electricity consumption is being investigated and reduced!** The Town is committed to identifying energy waste and will be looking at each facility in Town to reduce consumption. There have been a couple of notable opportunities identified and more are expected as the process continues.

**Moving away from noxious road treatments!** This is a gradual process, but the Town is very interested in finding the most environmentally friendly way possible to keep dust down and snow off Town roads. This includes simply plowing(no or minimal treatment) in the winter and finding alternative ways to minimize the dust from dirt roads in the summer.

**Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center continues to grow!** Aligned with their strategic plan, Wild Bear will continue to strengthen its constituency with the goal of developing a permanent Nature Center facility in the mountains of Boulder County, including thought provoking hands-on exhibits and programs for all ages. Science test scores are up in the schools, 34% more people took advantage of Wild Bear programs in 2013 than 2012, and the eco-arts lounge is getting more use and functionality every month.

**Protecting wetlands and creeks!** The Town has partnered with local and national partners to do mitigation efforts at Mud Lake as well as in Town at the Big Springs Meadow Park. This will help restore natural functionality and habitat and help some of the non human residents in Town. There is also an active effort to try and preserve any areas along the creeks that the Town may have rights to.

**Nederland will be a STAR Leader!** The Town has committed to moving forward in the STAR program to try and quantify more of the sustainability (and best practice) efforts that are being done as well as strategically choosing additional ones that make sense. They will have the support of qualified staff, cohorts across the nation, and regular webinars to help stay on track.

## Part 2. Nederland Sustainability Action Plan

*Note on Format:* Only the high priority actions are included in these sections, for the additional actions, please see the complete Sustainability Action Matrix (SAM) in the Appendix.

### SECTION 1 ECOSYSTEM RELATIONSHIPS

Definition: Ecosystem relationship refers to the interconnected experiences shared with the natural ecosystem in and around Nederland. It includes stewardship in the form of education, preservation, restoration, and remediation as well as more participatory aspects such as recreating, harvesting, and listening.



The relationships to the ecosystem are complex, evolving, personal, and communal. Determining what these look like will help the community thrive as well as understand what natural limits will need to be respected in order to do so over the long haul. Actions in this section focus on information gathering, education, and actions that directly impact our relationships to the natural ecosystems.

#### Relationship to Existing Plans/Initiatives

The educational aspects and actions that focus on redefining a more balanced relationship with nature are directly in line with multiple portions of Vision 2020, especially the parts relating to conservation, environmental stewardship, and a thoughtful relationship between recreation and the environment. Many actions are directly from the Comprehensive Plan, and the community education aspects build on initiatives emanating from the Sustainability Advisory Board.

#### Aspirational Goal(s)

- Identify and implement actions to allow Nederland's residents and visitors to live within the identified carrying capacity of the ecosystem and then move into a regenerative relationship.

#### 2014 (High Priority) Actions

- Standardize and manage GIS data to central database with consistent format, metadata, and data management techniques
- Assemble a GIS database of land use data, including parcels, and future land use
- Identify current actions and potential actions from the STAR rating system that would result in most achievable points for Nederland
- Pursue no and low cost items in STAR rating system to achieve highest practical STAR

community rating

- Establish noxious weed committee and develop a noxious weed control plan
- Hold community Noxious Weed action events such as weed pulls, replanting, etc.
- Support and help coordinate wildfire mitigation efforts by Saws and Slaws, the USDA Forest Service, Boulder County, and others
- Continue and strengthen Firewise Communities program
- Continue to create and implement management plans for all Town parks to enhance sustainable operations
- Negotiate with the City of Boulder to define a safe, environmentally and economically sustainable program for non-motorized boating on Barker that is acceptable to both parties
- Implement management plans for current open space that emphasize best practices for forest health, including forest floor/soil health, wildfire mitigation, and site-appropriate public access

## SECTION 2 COMMUNITY FABRIC



Definition: Community fabric consists of the diverse strands that make up the Nederland Community and refers to the ongoing maintenance and attention to each strand so that the whole remains durable, respectful, and effective.

The actions in this section include community assessments, wisdom and elders, governance, information dissemination, sharing efforts, and inclusivity. It also includes the physical connections overseen by the Parks Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board as they relate to physical connections and community interactions.

### **Relationship to Existing Plans/Initiatives**

This section relates to the bulk of items in Vision 2020 that include a rich community with a highly functioning governance model, diversity, support for community members, as well as the physical connections to the outdoor environment. The idea of an inclusive effort to determine the appropriate path forward is at the heart of this document as well as included within most of the plans that have been written for the Town.

### **Aspirational Goal(s)**

- Allow each member of the community to be able to get the information they need, share their opinions in a respectful forum, and have a say in the overall direction of the community. Have an annual community sustainability forum where members of the public and Town governance follow an inclusive process to evaluate the preceding year's efforts and establish the actions for the following year.
- Continually improve the quality of services provided to the community in terms of education, support and culture

## **2014 (High Priority) Actions**

- Establish a community food pantry to serve residents in need; track impact and identify ways to improve
- Develop and improve community internet forums for actions like ride-sharing, transit usage, and resource sharing
- Complete community housing needs assessment
- Restore and refurbish bikes and provide to community residents to provide for increased mobility and access
- Hold joint work sessions periodically between all of the Town's Advisory Boards to share ideas and collaborate
- Work with NedPeds project to create safe non-motorized pathways connecting important nodes in Town
- Evaluate existing PROST facilities for the feasibility of retrofitting for ADA compliance
- Complete management plans for all Town recreational assets
- Continue to improve electronic communication efforts, including PROST pages on the Town of Nederland website
- Select standard designs for trail signs, interpretive signage, kiosks, benches, picnic tables, etc.
- Complete Trails Master Plan Update
- Partner with groups such as the Mountain Youth Corps, Nederland Area Trails Organization (NATO), and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers to repair and maintain local trails.
- Collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service and Boulder County to identify desirable trail linkages

## SECTION 3 COMMUNITY WATER

**Definition:** Community Water is the sum of all water and wastewater systems that affect the community. This includes the natural systems that provide raw water, the treatment and collection systems, and the wastewater treatment systems.

Actions in this section generally address conservation, maintenance, efficiency, and safety for all beings that use water.

### Relationship to Existing Plans/Initiatives

This section is most strongly linked to the Master Infrastructure Plan, with specific recommendations that have been provided from that document. The idea of clean water used efficiently is also enconced in Vision 2020 and called out in the Comprehensive Plan.



### Aspirational Goal(s)

- Realize a scenario where the annual water consumed by the community is less than the amount of water that is naturally available.
- Provide a system for water transit with no major leaks and where any leaks can be identified and fixed quickly.
- Treat water using as low-energy and natural systems as possible.

### 2014 (High Priority) Goals

- On a yearly basis, inventory any known problems that have occurred with septic systems and meet with Boulder County to assess programs and funding that could be used to encourage homeowners to transition to Town sewer and to reach the goal of improved water quality.
- Draft the Master Infrastructure Plan to evaluate current water, wastewater, storm water and roads systems for conditions and needs.
- Complete Source Water Protection Plan
- Review Nederland's water system on a regular basis, especially in regards to raw water storage and diversion, and identifying and stopping leaks, as well as water lines prone to freezing
- Conduct a rate study for water and sewer services regularly, including among the rate goals for water conservation. Include analysis of Project Increment Financing

## SECTION 4 NUTRIENT CYCLES



**Definition:** Nutrient Cycles refer to how the community deals with materials once they are no longer serving their original purpose. This includes traditional nutrients such as food scraps as well as currently recyclable materials, future recyclable projects, and by-products of industrial process for things such as wastewater treatment.

Actions in this section includes looking at food cycles, recycling of all kinds, waste planning, and how to extract nutrients from waste streams.

### **Relationship to Existing Plans/Initiatives**

The actions in this section align with the Zero Waste Initiative that Nederland has signed on to in cooperation with Boulder County as well as the Comprehensive Plan and the existing efforts from Town

Hall on events such as Town Clean Up day.

### **Aspirational Goal(s)**

- Create a closed loop cycle in the community where each product is reused and reincorporated into nature eventually.
- Provide opportunities for nutrient harvesting of any product a community member may be looking to dispose of.
- Provide the upcycled products back to the community.
- Prevent the introduction of materials that do not biodegrade or are composed of harmful chemicals that could persist in the environment.
- Properly dispose of materials that enter the community that can be recycled.
- Reach Zero waste in Town facilities and as a community

### **2014 (High Priority) Actions**

- Determine the total waste volume of the Greater Nederland community
- Determine the total waste diversion rate of the Greater Nederland Community
- Move NedCompost into Indoor larger biofuels building
- Identify opportunities for recycling materials for any town operations that include demolition or extra materials
- Contribute to the ongoing operation and utilization of the CHARM
- Require that any town tenants have a waste management plan that includes recycling and compost; include fees in lease agreements to ensure service
- Hold and expand Town Cleanup and provide resource recycling, composting, etc.

## SECTION 5 ECONOMY AND JOBS

Definition: The flow of capital and employment into the community. This refers to the way that businesses interact, the balance of tourism and localism, and what opportunities may exist for people to find fulfilling employment.

Actions in this section include ways to support local businesses, determining what makes a complete community from an economic perspective, and ways to increase alternative means of commerce such as the sharing economy.



### Relationship to Existing Plans/Initiatives

The economy is addressed significantly in Vision 2020, with a focus on local businesses and a complete community. These efforts also align with the efforts of the Mayor's Economic Development Task Force and the focus of the Nederland Downtown Development Authority as well as aligning with the Comprehensive Plan.

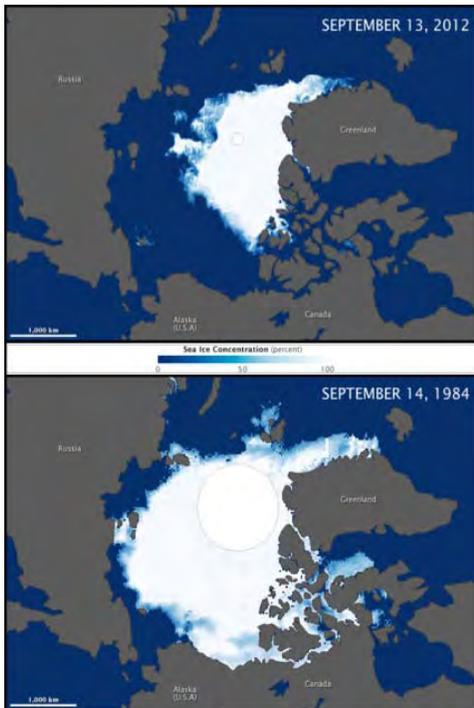
### Aspirational Goal(s)

- Move to an economic paradigm that supports collaboration, local labor, and the ability to reach economic satisfaction within the community.

### 2014 (High Priority) Actions

- Work with Planning Commission, Town Staff and BOT to study revisions to the municipal code, specifically the mixed use zoning requirements that may present a barrier to redevelopment or infill in the Downtown Core
- Form NedCompost as a 501(c)3, Sell all or most of the finished compost, Double NedCompost customers

## SECTION 6 CLIMATE AND ENERGY



Definition: As a related pair, the energy consumed in Town directly relates to the emissions that affect the climate. This includes transportation impacts, energy supply questions, and energy delivery. As a comprehensive issue, many climate issues are addressed directly in the Built Environment section as well as other sections to some degree or another.

The Climate and Energy section include actions aimed at resiliency and climate change preparedness, modifying emission intensive behaviors, and seeking to become as energy efficient as possible.

### Relationship to Existing Plans/Initiatives

The actions in this section relate to Vision 2020 goals of fuel-switching and non-motorized travel, and are supported by the Comprehensive Plan as well as a number of initiatives

from various boards and the Nederland Downtown Development Authority.

### Aspirational Goal(s)

- Move Nederland to a no-carbon electricity supply model.
- Provide practical opportunities for all community members to choose low or no carbon transportation options emanating from Town.
- Move Nederland to a low or no net carbon heating supply model.
- Provide real-time information on community wide carbon emissions and actions for community members to take in order to lower them.
- Achieve carbon neutrality for all Nederland operations

### 2014 (High Priority) Actions

- Pursue grant opportunities to install electric vehicle charging stations with potential future conversion to solar
- Establish Energy Baseline for Town operations, including transportation and process loads (water treatment, etc.)
- Purchase eco-passes for Town residents



## SECTION 8 HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Definition: Human Health and Wellness includes the active component of our lifestyle and focuses on health, safety, and mitigating negative trends such as obesity and over-sitting.

Actions in this section are focused on ways to encourage healthier lifestyles through better nutrition, activity, and interactions.

### **Relationship to Existing Plans/Initiatives**

Health and wellness are more of foundational principles than specific focus areas for most plans. However, there is mention in Vision 2020 of active, healthy lifestyles and actions that support that concepts are embraced widely, and in particular by the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Board.

### **Aspirational Goal(s)**

- Provide access to healthy living services for all residents in need.
- In-town transport will be predominantly person-powered
- Continue to develop the community center as a focal point for wellness
- Eliminate exposure to environmental toxicity
- Provide ample opportunities for responsible recreation

### **2014 (High Priority) Actions**

- Support the efforts of Racquets and Ice for Nederland Kids (R.I.N.K.) to identify and pursue funding for the construction of a shade structure that can accommodate both tennis and ice usage or other means including separate facilities for tennis and ice

## APPENDIX 1. SUSTAINABILITY ACTION MATRIX (SAM)

# Sustainability Action Matrix Instructions and Link

The Nederland Sustainability Action Matrix is managed by the Town or their designated agents. As a live editable document, the master copy is restricted to Town Personnel and other designated parties.

The link to access the current (or relatively current) version of the document is [here](#). This Public version is intended to introduce people to the functionality and actions in the matrix. It is sortable, alterable, and open to the community. If there is any improper usage, please correct it or let Alexander Armani-Munn know at [Alexa@nederlandco.org](mailto:Alexa@nederlandco.org) and he will either correct or make a copy of the current master version.

In order to sort the columns, click on the downward triangle in the column header and choose how you'd like to sort (alphabetically, for particular items only, etc.) The most important column to manipulate is the priority column. This is what makes the difference between actions that are being done now and those that will be done later or not at all. *Usually*, these actions have a lead and support organization and at best will have a designated champion and co-champion. The high priority items are the ones that will be more fully developed over the course of the Sustainability Action System's(changing from a plan to a system by utilization) first iteration.

Please direct any questions to Alexander, and good luck!

## **APPENDIX 2. TENTATIVE 2020 GOALS BY SECTION**

### **SECTION 1 ECOSYSTEM RELATIONSHIPS**

#### **2020 Goals/Outcomes**

- Complete an Ecosystem based carrying capacity assessment that is constantly updated and share that information with residents. Understanding the idea of living within the means of one planet can help shape a relationship with the ecosystem that allows for long term survival.
- Protect and preserve identified high priority areas, especially riparian corridors. Once areas are identified preserve a set % each year with a goal of 100% preserved.
- Concentrate development in already existing built areas through land use regulations and building codes

### **SECTION 2 COMMUNITY FABRIC**

#### **2020 Goals/Outcomes**

- Align the annual budgeting exercise with the Sustainability Action Planning process to ensure that funds are adequately and appropriately budgeted for prioritized items.
- The community of Nederland (and the greater Netroopolitan area) will have a community portal that shares progress towards sustainability goals and others in a transparent and accessible way. This portal will also serve as a means for community members to express thoughts and opinions in a way that will be heard.

### **SECTION 3 COMMUNITY WATER**

#### **2020 Goals/Outcomes**

- Have data feeds from the plants and any monitoring sites centrally located and available for reference in terms of trends, year over year data, and consumption.
- Have identified and converted any adjacent failing or potentially failing septic systems to city wastewater.
- Have a leakage rate below standards for both drinking water and wastewater.

### **SECTION 4 NUTRIENT CYCLES**

#### **2020 Goals/Outcomes**

- Reach Zero waste in Town facilities
- Demonstrate a commercially viable composting model that allows for incorporation of a wide variety of waste products, serves the majority of the community, and provides nutrient rich compost for local applications.

## **SECTION 5 ECONOMY AND JOBS**

### **2020 Goals/Outcomes**

- Have a plan to advance local cottage industries completed and in implementation
- Establish a means for businesses to share resources, best practices, and information that is easily accessible and useful.

## **SECTION 6 CLIMATE AND ENERGY**

### **2020 Goals/Outcomes**

- Have a plan in place and preliminary steps being completed to renegotiate the Town lease with Xcel upon its expiration for a scenario with greater integration of renewables.
- Enhance transportation options in town to reduce gas powered trips
- Develop viable no or low carbon fuel options for transport with charging/fueling stations in Town

## **SECTION 7 BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

### **2020 Goals/Outcomes**

- Be on target for net-zero new buildings by 2030
- Increase the use of recycled and renewable materials in the built environment to the maximum extent possible
- Ban certain harmful chemicals in new construction and remodels

## **SECTION 8 HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

### **2020 Goals/Outcomes**

- Develop a trail network that includes safe access to the High School and Elementary School from various directions
- Complete a healthy living plan for the Nederland community