



ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The City of Longmont’s mission is to enhance the quality of life for those who live in, work in, or visit the community. The City faces ever-increasing demands and expectations from a diverse population for its services and resources. In a time of limited financial resources, residents increasingly expect their government to provide them with high-quality services in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

The lines between what services and facilities the public sector and private sector provide are not explicit. For example, both can provide recreation services or trash collection. When considering involvement in an issue or provision of a new service or program, the City should ensure that the level and nature of its participation are consistent with its mission, and use resources efficiently and effectively.

It is important for the City to have a customer-service orientation in how it does business and to have an open decision-making process. Both can demonstrate to residents that their municipal government is providing them with quality services.

The City of Longmont has the power of local self-government and home rule and all power possible for a City to have under the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado. City government will implement the *Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan* in partnership with the people of Longmont. The City’s partnership with the people who live in Longmont is the most important of all the City’s partnerships. In addition, local government can influence the private sector to help implement the plan through many different mechanisms, including regulations, incentives, information, education, advocacy, and budgeting expenditures.

The City’s relationship with Boulder and Weld Counties is especially noteworthy in the context of the *Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan*. Longmont and Boulder County have had intergovernmental agreements in place for a number of years that address cooperative planning efforts in the City’s planning areas. The City and Weld County have entered into an intergovernmental agreement for areas east of the City limits (including Union Reservoir) that addresses land use, transportation, annexation and service issues. Known as the Coordinated Planning Agreement, this intergovernmental agreement establishes the extent of Longmont’s urban growth area in Weld County. This urban growth area is known as the Coordinated Planning Area.

The City is part of the larger Denver Metropolitan Region. Longmont’s growth and development decisions can affect others in the region and their quality of life, and the actions of others can affect Longmont and its quality of life. Consequently, the City is a member of the Denver Regional Council of Governments, a voluntary organization of local governments. The City acknowledges that *Metro Vision 2035* is the comprehensive guide for development of the region and that it provides a regional framework for local decisions on growth and development within the Denver Metropolitan Region. *Metro Vision 2035* designates Longmont as one of four freestanding communities in the Denver Metropolitan Region. Finally, the City has adopted the *Mile High Compact*, an intergovernmental agreement between jurisdictions in the Denver Regional Council of Governments. The *Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan* supports many of the core elements of the *Mile High Compact*, including designating a specified area for urban development; creating a balanced multi-modal transportation



system; participating in a regional open space system; and incorporating public participation processes into all planning efforts (see Policy RG-2.4 below).



Role of Government Goals, Policies, and Strategies

GOAL RG-1: Enhance the quality of life for those who live in, work in, or visit Longmont.

POLICY RG-1.1: Develop, encourage, and support programs and activities that enhance Longmont’s quality of life.

Strategy RG-1.1(a): Consider before becoming involved in a new issue or program whether the level and nature of the City’s proposed participation are consistent with the City’s mission and use resources efficiently and effectively to serve its residents.

Strategy RG-1.1(b): Advocate the interests of Longmont to other agencies and organizations that provide services to Longmont’s residents and/or affect Longmont’s quality of life, and encourage modifications to their activities as appropriate.

Strategy RG-1.1(c): Promote and encourage volunteerism among Longmont’s residents and business community.

GOAL RG-2: Work cooperatively to achieve the goals and policies of the *Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan* through the efficient, equitable, and fair operation of municipal government and the private sector.

POLICY RG-2.1: Foster a business-friendly environment.

Strategy RG-2.1(a): Participate in business-related programs to make Longmont a better place to do business.

Strategy RG-2.1(b): Assist businesses that are either expanding or relocating in Longmont to make their expansion/relocation as simple and straightforward as possible.

POLICY RG-2.2: Minimize government regulations in achieving the goals of the *Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan*.

Strategy RG-2.2(a): Use incentives in regulations whenever appropriate.

Strategy RG-2.2(b): Review regulations to ensure they are appropriate and fair, and revise them accordingly.



POLICY RG-2.3: Promote a service-delivery philosophy among City employees that encourages them to seek creative and flexible solutions to problems, to provide responsive, sensitive service to residents, to be efficient and result-oriented, and to establish partnerships with the community in making Longmont a better place to live, work, and visit.

Strategy RG-2.3(a): Continue to integrate the principles and techniques of quality customer service into employees' hiring, orientation, training, and evaluation, and assist employees in providing quality service to the public.

POLICY RG-2.4: Make City government open and accessible to residents.

Strategy RG-2.4(a): Comply with the provisions of the Colorado Open Meetings Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Strategy RG-2.4(b): Develop programs to improve the City's capability to communicate with residents who speak languages other than English.

Strategy RG-2.4(c): Review the City's customer-oriented functions to make them easier for the consumer.

Strategy RG-2.4(d): Get information to the public about issues the City is facing, and explore opportunities to supplement public information methods the City is currently using.

Strategy RG-2.4(e): Offer seminars on City processes and programs that affect various segments of the community to improve the daily contact between the City and residents, and modify these processes and programs to make them more effective.

Strategy RG-2.4(f): Write regulations and information about the City that are easy to read and easy to understand.

POLICY RG-2.5: Encourage community leadership and participation in City government.

Strategy RG-2.5(a): Encourage residents to serve on boards and commissions that advise City Council on matters important to the City, and periodically review the purposes and roles of these boards and commissions to ensure that they continue to benefit the City and effectively use residents' time and energies.

Strategy RG-2.5(b): Develop and administer programs that actively involve neighborhood groups, business organizations, civic organizations, and residents in the City decision-making process.

Strategy RG-2.5(c): Develop cooperative programs with educational providers to teach people of all age levels about City functions and operations and the City decision-making process.



Strategy RG-2.5(d): Give residents the opportunity during the initial stages of the update to identify the issues they believe the City should consider in its review of the *Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan*.

POLICY RG-2.6: Create partnerships with other entities, as appropriate, to serve Longmont’s residents.

Strategy RG-2.6(a): Explore opportunities to serve Longmont’s residents better by creating partnerships, and structure these partnerships as formal or informal, continuous or time-specific, comprehensive or project-specific as appropriate.

GOAL RG-3: Implement *Envision 2020: a Strategic Plan for the Community of Longmont*.

POLICY RG-3.1: Follow through on the recommendations of the *Envision 2020* consensus action plan for which the City is the identified lead organization.

Strategy RG-3.1(a): Evaluate City plans, policies, and operations in light of the *Envision 2020* consensus action plan, and integrate its elements where appropriate.

Strategy RG-3.1(b): Monitor the City’s progress in implementing the *Envision 2020* consensus action plan, and report to City Council annually.

Strategy RG-3.1(c): Continue to provide staff support to the *Envision 2020* Task Force.

GOAL RG-4: Participate in intergovernmental and regional organizations to accommodate and encourage planned growth and development, to orderly extend urban services, to enhance the quality of life, to protect the environment, and to promote the economic vitality of communities within the Denver Metropolitan Region.

POLICY RG-4.1: Coordinate the *Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan* with the comprehensive plans of other jurisdictions, and acknowledge that *Metro Vision 2035* shall serve as the comprehensive guide for the orderly growth and development of the Denver Metropolitan Region.

Strategy RG-4.1(a): Use the *Metro Vision 2035* tracking system to monitor the City’s development so that it is consistent with the urban area the City has agreed upon as part of *Metro Vision 2035*.

Strategy RG-4.1(b): Consider the Longmont Planning Area and the Coordinated Planning Area as the City’s urban growth area for purposes of the *Metro Vision 2035* tracking system.



Strategy RG-4.1(c): Review factors related to the City’s Metro Vision 2035 urban area and the City’s continued use of it at least once every five years.

Strategy RG-4.1(d): Rely on certain fundamental principles specified in the *Mile High Compact* in guiding the update of the *Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan*.

Strategy RG-4.1(e): Continue to evaluate the *Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan* on an ongoing basis to ensure that it continues to address the elements of a comprehensive plan listed in the Mile High Compact.

Role of Government Indicators

None at this time