



## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND RESOURCES CONSERVATION

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Environmental quality and the wise use of natural resources are increasingly important to Longmont residents and businesses. The condition of the environment is directly related to the quality of life. The presence of clean air, water, and soil is important to maintain people's health as well as to promote a healthy business environment. The conservation of Longmont's natural resources will help to ensure that future residents and businesses have resources necessary for the community's continued vitality. Preserving Longmont's natural features and areas will help to maintain Longmont's identity and desirability as a place to work and live.



## Environmental Quality and Resources Conservation Goals, Policies, and Strategies

**GOAL E-1: Maintain and improve Longmont’s environmental quality.**

**POLICY E-1.1: Implement cost-effective measures aimed at attaining a pollution-free environment.**

**Strategy E-1.1(a):** Expand and develop programs that target both Longmont businesses and residents to reduce pollution.

**Strategy E-1.1(b):** Attain and then maintain governmental environmental standards by cooperating with environmental agencies and by increasing compliance with all applicable pollution control standards.

**Strategy E-1.1(c):** Pursue “Building Green” programs to be recommended by the Board of Environmental Affairs.

**POLICY E-1.2: Monitor the current research and data on the effects of electromagnetic fields on health.**

**Strategy E-1.2(a):** Incorporate current research and data on electromagnetic fields into the review of development applications for property adjacent to existing and future electric transmission lines and to substations, and require modifications when warranted.

**Strategy E-1.2(b):** Incorporate current research and data on electromagnetic fields into the planning and siting of electric transmission lines and substations, and require design modifications when warranted.

**Strategy E-1.2(c):** Provide current research information on electromagnetic fields to the public.

**POLICY E-1.3: Minimize exposure to excessive and disturbing noise.**

**Strategy E-1.3(a):** Periodically review noise standards and revise, as appropriate, to minimize disturbances from noise.

**POLICY E-1.4: Minimize exposure to unpleasant odors.**

**Strategy E-1.4(a):** Periodically reevaluate existing odor control regulations and revise, as appropriate, to limit odor emissions.



**GOAL E-2: Preserve environmental resources and unique natural areas.**

**POLICY E-2.1:** Encourage a growth pattern for the City that preserves unique and sensitive natural resources and areas.

**Strategy E-2.1(a):** Inventory wildlife habitat within the Municipal Service Area and the Longmont Planning Area, and incorporate techniques to mitigate development impacts on wildlife and their habitat.

**Strategy E-2.1(b):** Cooperate with other jurisdictions to develop programs for preserving areas of environmental significance, such as stream corridors, scenic views and highways, wildlife habitat, and wetlands.

**Strategy E-2.1(c):** Continue to evaluate the feasibility and desirability of establishing and maintaining minimum stream flows.

**POLICY E-2.2:** Promote site designs and techniques that minimize development’s impacts on the natural environment.

**Strategy E-2.2(a):** Periodically review development regulations that evaluate the impact proposed development has on the natural environment to ensure that they are effective and represent state-of-the-art approaches.

**POLICY E-2.3:** Encourage the use of floodplains and major drainage facilities for recreational use, open space, and other appropriate uses that preserve the natural environment and minimize the potential for property damage.

**Strategy E-2.3(a):** Review floodplain regulations and revise, as appropriate, to encourage recreational and open space uses within floodplains.

**POLICY E-2.4:** Encourage wetlands preservation.

**Strategy E-2.4(a):** Coordinate with the Army Corp of Engineers to verify that all development within the City secures necessary permits.

**Strategy E-2.4(b):** Map wetlands within the Municipal Service Area and Longmont Planning Area.

**Strategy E-2.4(c):** Minimize development’s impact on wetlands by requiring appropriate mitigation measures.

**Strategy E-2.4(d):** Evaluate the implications and impacts of constructing new wetlands and restoring natural habitat.



**POLICY E-2.5:** Facilitate the extraction of scarce subsurface resources in accordance with state law, require mitigation of undesirable impacts to the natural environment and to the community, and discourage development in advance of extraction.

**Strategy E-2.5(a):** Develop subsurface aggregate resource extraction regulations that mitigate impacts to the natural environment and surrounding neighborhoods, and that provide for the review of reclamation plans.

**Strategy E-2.5(b):** Cooperate with other jurisdictions to develop a program that addresses concerns regarding mineral extraction activity, proposed gravel mines, and reclamation plans within the Longmont Planning Area.

**Strategy E-2.5(c):** Encourage the economically feasible extraction of oil and gas and aggregate mineral deposits prior to annexation and urban development.

<b>GOALS E-3:</b> Maintain a high-quality domestic water supply.
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**POLICY E-3.1:** Designate domestic use of the City's water rights as superior to any other use.

**Strategy E-3.1(a):** Encourage multiple uses of untreated water where such uses will not compromise the quality or supply of water available for treatment for domestic use.

<b>GOAL E-4:</b> Reduce energy and water consumption.
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**POLICY E-4.1:** Promote the conservation and efficient use of energy.

**Strategy E-4.1(a):** Review and revise building codes, as appropriate, to require that new buildings incorporate up-to-date energy conservation measures.

**Strategy E-4.1(b):** Monitor new energy efficiency and conservation methods and provide up-to-date information to the public.

**POLICY E-4.2:** Promote the use of renewable energy resources.

**Strategy E-4.2(a):** Promote the use of solar energy and consider adopting a solar access ordinance.

**Strategy E-4.2(b):** Provide renewable energy resources as an option for electric customers.

**POLICY E-4.3:** Promote the most efficient use of treated and untreated water resources and wastewater effluent.

**Strategy E-4.3(a):** Expand programs that actively promote water conservation in both the public and private sectors.



**Strategy E-4.3(b):** Promote creative use of landscape design and materials that conserve water.

**Strategy E-4.3(c):** Expand programs to encourage the conversion of residential flat rate customers to metered water service.

**Strategy E-4.3(d):** Periodically review, and modify as appropriate, a water rate structure that provides incentives for the efficient use of water and reflects the costs of service.

**Strategy E-4.3(e):** Promote the replacement of high-use water fixtures.

**Strategy E-4.3(f):** Consider use of untreated water for irrigation when it proves to be an efficient and environmentally acceptable alternative to treated water.

<b>GOAL E-5:</b>	<b>Reduce solid waste.</b>
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**POLICY E-5.1:** Reduce solid waste by emphasizing recycling and reuse, and promote proper disposal.

**Strategy E-5.1 (a):** Encourage landfill techniques that more effectively use landfill volume.

**Strategy E-5.1 (b):** Encourage a shift from land filling solid waste to alternatives that more effectively conserve energy and natural resources.

**Strategy E-5.1 (c):** Expand efforts to provide various precycling and source separation recycling programs, such as increased curbside recycling, for households and businesses.

**Strategy E-5.1 (d):** Encourage the innovative reuse of "green waste," (leaves, grass clippings, and wood chips), and promote composting and mulching.

**Strategy E-5.1 (e):** Expand programs that encourage the beneficial reuse of composted wastewater sludge (biosolids).

**Strategy E-5.1 (f):** Coordinate with other organizations to reduce solid waste and to emphasize precycling, recycling, and reuse.



**GOAL E-6:** Minimize people’s exposure to hazardous waste, and prevent hazardous waste contamination.

**POLICY E-6.1:** Facilitate the proper use and disposal of hazardous materials.

**Strategy E-6.1 (a):** Advance a comprehensive hazardous materials program in compliance with environmental regulations.

**Strategy E-6.1 (b):** Expand programs that promote the proper handling and disposal of hazardous waste.

**Environmental Quality and Resource Conservation Indicators**

**Policy Rationale:** Clean air, water, and soil are becoming increasingly important to Longmont’s residents. The conservation of Longmont’s natural resources will help to ensure their availability for the community’s continued vitality. Objectionable impacts from noise, vibrations, odors, glare or heat, hazardous waste, and operations should be kept to a minimum.

**Benchmark Standard:** Water Supply: Maintain sufficient water supplies to meet the projected demand as specified in the City’s Quality of Life Benchmarks, based on the drought yield of the current supply  
Water: Meet all Safe Drinking Water requirements at the Water Plant.  
Wastewater: Meet all Colorado Discharge Permit System permit requirements  
Air Quality: Meet all federal standards for carbon monoxide; particulates; and ozone  
Noise: Meet daytime and night-time noise level standards for residential areas, as further defined in Section 15.05.160 of the *Land Development Code*

**Indicators:**  
A. Total City water supply relative to projected water demand as specified in the City’s Quality of Life Benchmarks  
B. Air quality measurements, based on local monitoring stations operated by the State of Colorado  
C. Number of violations to Section 15.05.160 of the *Land Development Code*, regarding noise, vibrations, odors, glare and heat, hazardous waste, and operational compatibility

**Methods, Sources:**  
A. City of Longmont Water and Wastewater Department  
B. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the City of Longmont Building Inspection Division  
C. City of Longmont Building Inspection Division