



DRCOG Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

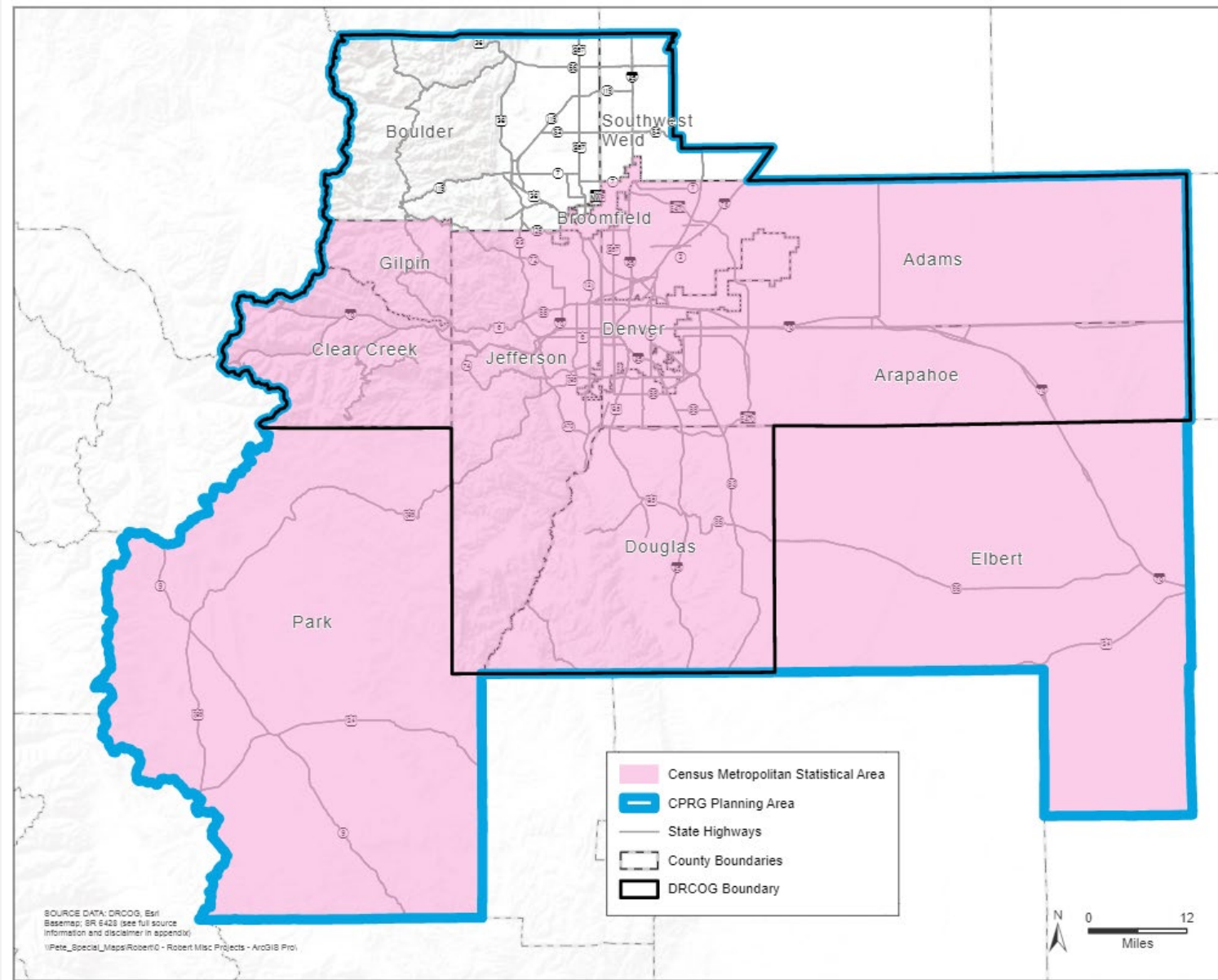
Regional Building Decarbonization Technical Committee - October 7, 2025



DRCOG Awarded \$1 Million Planning Grant

- On April 19, 2023, the DRCOG Board voted unanimously to authorize DRCOG as the lead agency and grant recipient for the Planning Grant.
 - \$1 million planning grant awarded on August 1, 2023.
 - Maddy Nesbit hired as fulltime staff for four-year life of grant.
 - Lotus Sustainability hired as consultant for technical work and public engagement.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Planning Area



Planning Grant Deliverables

- The planning grant funds are designated for the completion of the following products:
 - Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), submitted in April 2024 after DRCOG Board approval.
 - **Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), due December 1, 2025.**
 - Status Report, due August 1, 2027.



Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Requirements

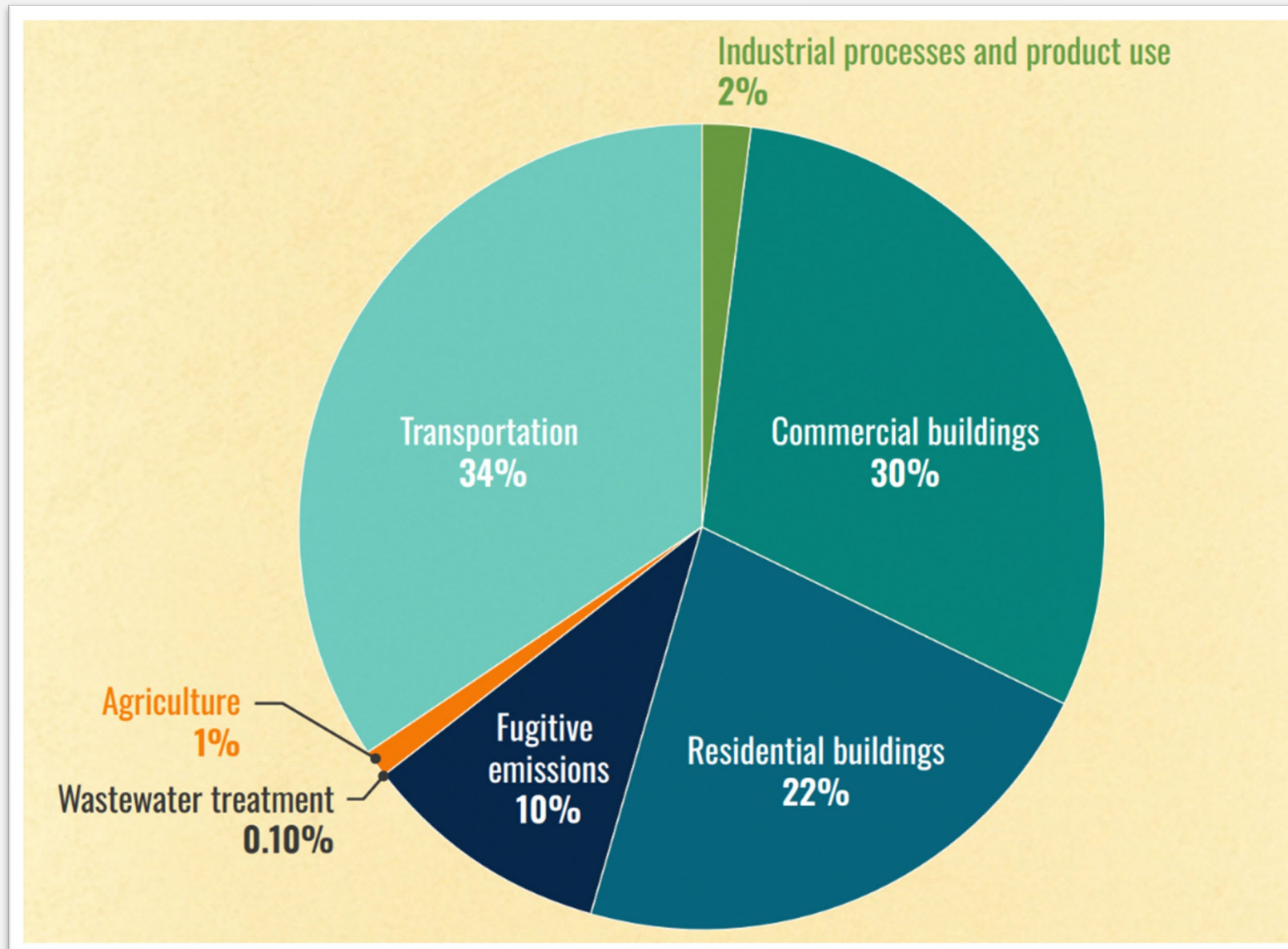
- Address **all major greenhouse gas sectors**: electricity, transportation, buildings, industry, agriculture/natural lands and waste.
- Include a region-specific **greenhouse gas emissions inventory**.
- Establish long-term and near-term **emissions reduction goals**.
- Analyze **strategies and measures** for applicable sectors.
- Incorporate robust **public and stakeholder engagement**.
- Evaluate **workforce**, labor, and economic impacts.
- **Identify funding** and resources to support implementation.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

- Monthly Stakeholder Steering Committee comprised of local government staff.
 - 30-60 attendees each month.
- Formed an Equity Subcommittee comprised of leaders representing Community Based Organizations.
 - Incorporated into key decision-making throughout.
- Four virtual public meetings.
- Public Engagement Website.
- Coordination with the Colorado Energy Office.
- Dozens of meetings with individual stakeholders and non-profit groups.
- **Formed a Waste Working group to identify new measures.**

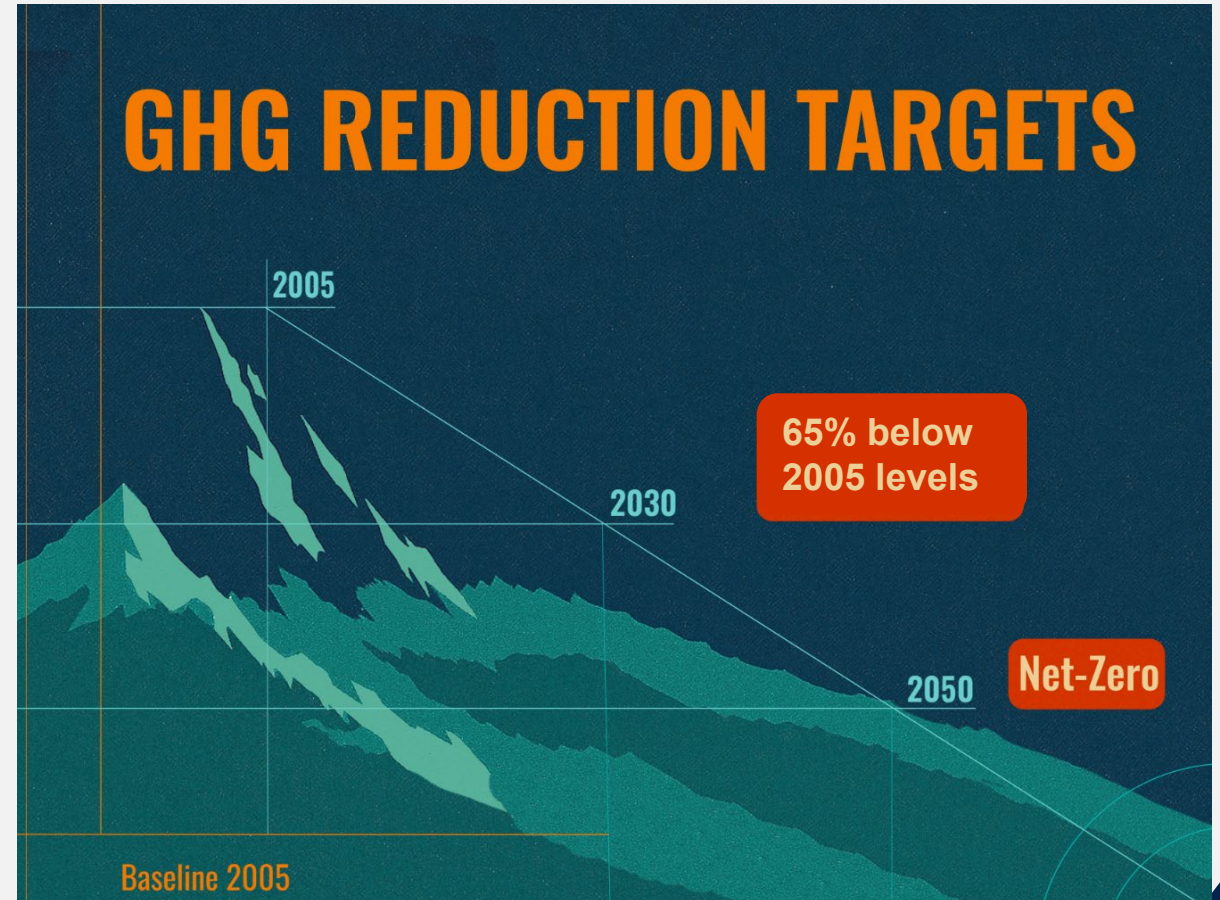
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

2022 Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 43.7 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalency per year



Proposed GHG reduction targets

- DRCOG staff proposes to match the State of Colorado's legislatively directed GHG reduction targets.
 - 65% reduction by 2035.
 - Net-zero by 2050.



DRCOG's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

- **Voluntary, interconnected strategies** to cut climate pollution.
- Reduce **co-pollutants** like ozone precursors.
- Prioritize **equity** and benefits for vulnerable communities.
- Tailor approaches to **local needs and priorities**.
- Focus on sectors that **DRCOG can impact** and measures that **DRCOG can implement**.

A scenic view of a city skyline, likely Denver, seen from a high vantage point on a mountain. The foreground is filled with the green needles and dark branches of pine trees. In the background, the city's skyline is visible against a hazy, sunset-colored sky. The text "Climate Pollution Reduction Measures" is overlaid in a white box at the bottom center.

Climate Pollution Reduction Measures



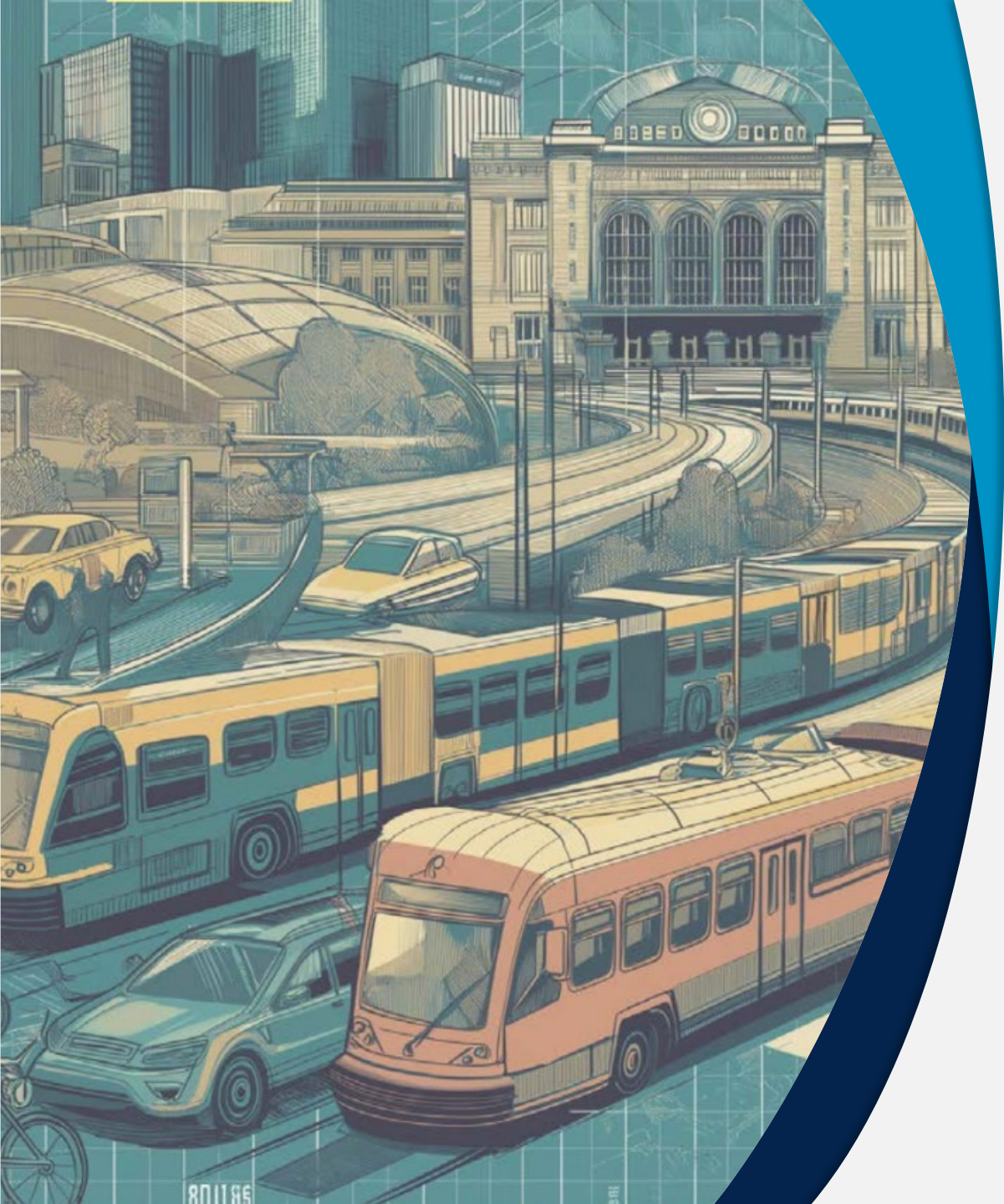
Buildings

- No new measures added.
- Created the foundation for the Decarbonize DRCOG grant and ongoing implementation.

Buildings implementation measures

1. Low Income Decarbonization
2. Energy Advising
3. Rebates and Incentives
4. Building Policy Collaborative





Transportation

- Two measures included in PCAP.
 - Regional bus rapid transit expansion.
 - Funding active transportation network expansion.
- Two new measures added.

Advance Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

Transportation- Measure 3

- Increase support for strategies that make travel more efficient and sustainable by reducing drive-alone trips.
- **DRCOG's Role:**
 - Expand the Way to Go program with local partners.
 - Implement the TDM Strategic Plan.
 - Require TDM elements in select Transportation Improvement Program projects.



Program of **DRCOG**



Support Clean Transportation Infrastructure

Transportation- Measure 4



- DRCOG convenes stakeholders to align efforts across 59 jurisdictions.
- **DRCOG's Role:**
 - Assess regional EV charging needs.
 - Provide technical support for zoning and siting updates.
 - Coordinate with utilities on grid capacity.
 - Organize bulk purchasing of charging equipment.

Waste and Water Treatment

- 1% of regional GHG emissions.
- Majority from landfilled waste.
- Colorado waste diversion rate is 16%, well below the national average of 32%.



Regional Waste Planning Collaborative

Waste- Measure 1

- **Create a collaborative** of DRCOG's 59 jurisdictions to align policies, data, and infrastructure.
- **Actions:**
 - Convene governments, nonprofits, haulers, businesses.
 - Develop Regional Wasteshed & Circularity Plans.
 - Standardize data/reporting and assess organics processing capacity.

Regional Policy Recommendations

Waste- Measure 2

- Provide municipalities with **model ordinances and policies** to reduce waste.
- **Examples:**
 - Incentives for reuse/recycling of construction & demolition materials.
 - Expanded access to hazardous & hard-to-recycle waste drop-off.

Public Education & Engagement

Waste- Measure 3

- Expand **regional waste education campaigns** to improve recycling/composting participation.
- **Actions:**
 - Standardized waste signage & online database.
 - Master Composter program.
 - Partnerships with schools, nonprofits, businesses.
 - Social-based and peer-to-peer outreach.

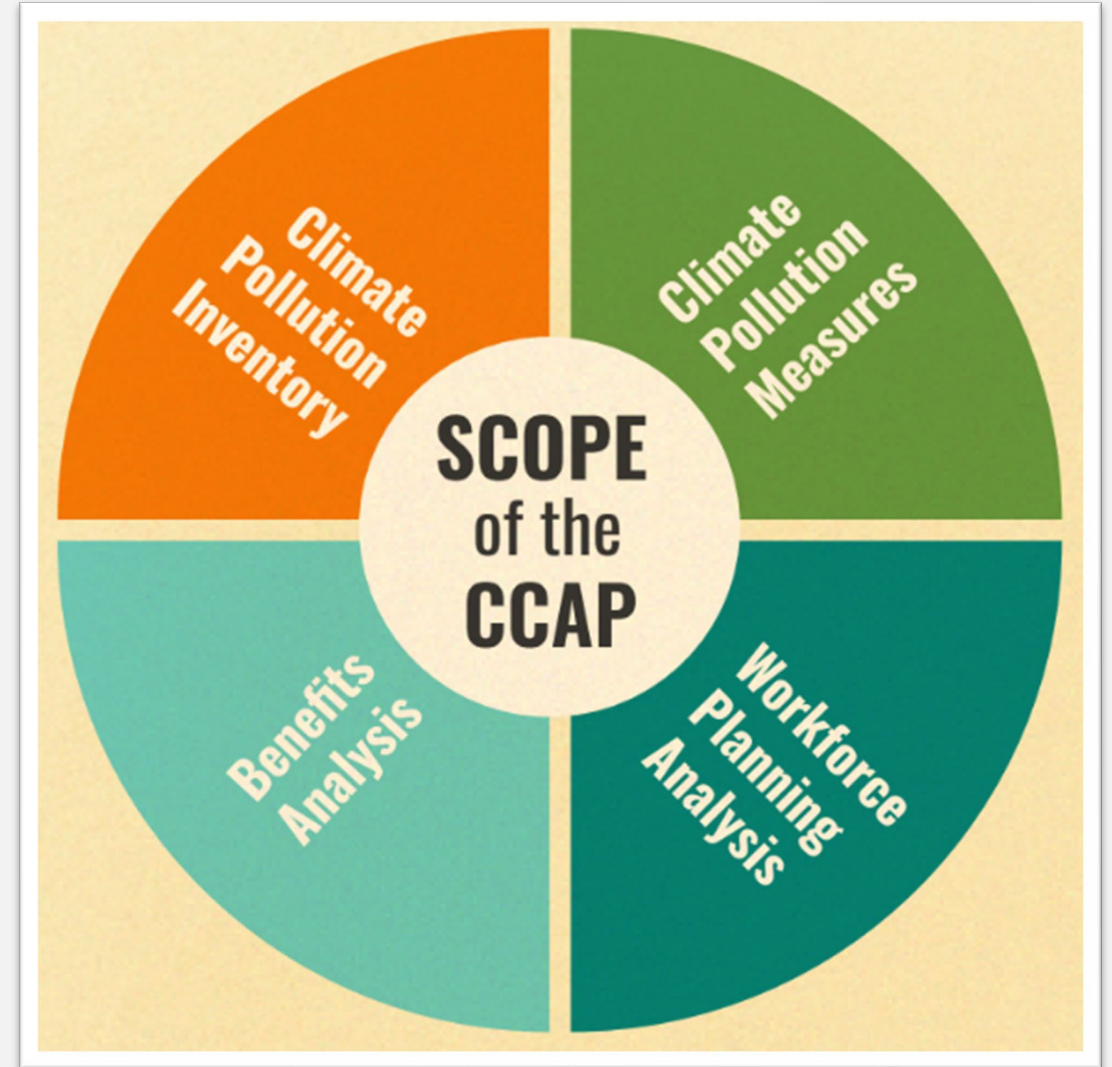
Public-Private Partnerships for Circularity

Waste- Measure 4

- Position DRCOG as a **resource hub** for waste-related incentives & partnerships.
- **Actions:**
 - Facilitate business-government collaborations.
 - Share funding/grant opportunities.
 - Support wash hubs & reuse hubs for materials.
 - Promote circular business models & job creation in LIDAC communities.

Also included in the plan

- Overview of remaining sectors.
- Benefits analysis.
- Workforce analysis.
- Marginalized communities benefit analysis.



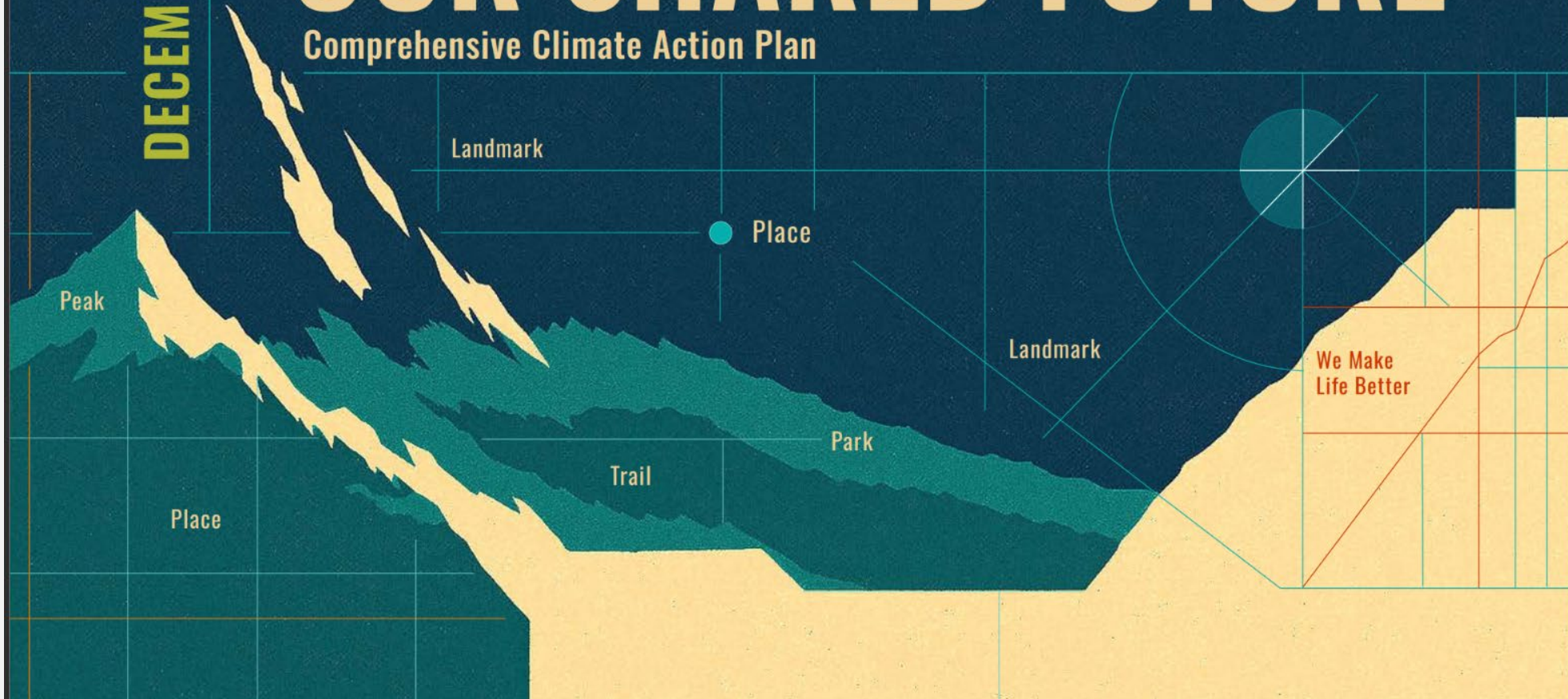


Graphic Design

DECEMBER 2025

NAVIGATING OUR OUR SHARED FUTURE

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan



Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

December 2025

Prepared For:

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program
State and Local Climate and Energy Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Prepared By:

Denver Regional Council of Governments
1001 17th Street Suite #700, Denver, CO 80202
Tel: (303) 455-1000

With contribution and review by U.S. EPA



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Introduction

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Table 2: Denver regional 2022 climate pollution inventory total emissions, removals and net emissions by county. Emission totals may differ from a county's publicly reported climate pollution emissions due to the regional methodology of this inventory.

County	Total emissions (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent)	Removals (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent)	Net emissions (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent)
Adams County	6,974,204	4,409	6,969,795
Arapahoe County	6,409,870	13,010	6,396,860
Boulder County	3,404,118	157,429	3,246,689
City and County of Broomfield	972,128	777	971,351
Clear Creek County	471,598	98,413	373,185
City and County of Denver	10,402,538	7,874	10,394,664
Douglas County	4,404,652	102,851	4,301,801
Elbert County	361,233	N/A	361,233
Gilpin County	131,778	56,893	74,885
Jefferson County	5,482,362	180,349	5,302,013
Park County	287,631	231,561	56,070
Southwest Weld County	44,443,010	470	5,140,428
Total	44,443,010	854,036	43,588,974



Goal Summary:

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GHG Impact:

1,518,654 MTCO₂e

Cumulative GHG emissions
reduced in 2025-2050*



Investment:



Co-Benefits:



M1: Regional Bus Rapid Transit Implementation

Stakeholders and DRCOG staff will coordinate with regional transportation agencies including, but not limited to, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation District, and member government staff to continue to implement the regional bus rapid transit network defined in the DRCOG's metropolitan planning organization 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that better serves low-income and disadvantaged communities while supporting regional transit connectivity. This strategy will use framework established by the cooperating agencies, and will prioritize the development and implementation of the following corridors by 2030:

- East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit: Colfax Avenue from Union Station to Interstate 225. (currently under construction)
- East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit Extension: Colfax Avenue from Interstate 225 to E-470. (DRCOG is leading an Alternatives Analysis study)
- Colorado State Highway 119 Bus Rapid Transit: Downtown Boulder to Longmont. (currently under construction)
- Federal Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit: Federal Boulevard from Dartmouth Avenue to 120th Avenue. (CDOT is leading a National Environmental Policy Act study)
- Colorado Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit: Colorado Boulevard from Interstate 25 to Interstate 70. (CDOT is leading a National Environmental Policy Act study)

As DRCOG is currently updating its 2050 RTP, implementation timelines for these and other BRT corridors may change over time.



5.3 Introduction

An array of buildings, single-family and multi-family housing, commercial and industrial structures, community centers and schools make our region vibrant and livable. This robust built environment comes at a cost, however, generating 52% of our region's greenhouse gas emissions. Basic energy conservation measures like efficient windows, insulation, lighting, and heating/cooling cut back on emissions from energy usage; however, a more holistic whole-building approach that evaluates broader building systems, facilities, and how they interact with the grid can lead to deeper savings.

While construction of new buildings can take advantage of more efficient design and construction standards, modifying existing buildings has the greatest potential for energy savings. Retrofitting aging buildings enables businesses, institutions, and residents to reduce energy use, shrink their carbon footprint, and cut costs while

What's next?

- Full plan will be complete by mid-October. Seeking DRCOG Board adoption at the November 5, 2025 special meeting.
- CPRG Planning Grant continues funding a full-time position for two more years.
- Reconvene after plan adoption to evaluate best use of resources.
- Seize opportunities to expand DRCOG's sustainability work through the Decarbonize DRCOG program.



Thank you!

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