

# 2024 Strategic Goals Environmental Stewardship

Linda Matteson | October 22, 2024

# 2024 Strategic Leadership Plan

*Environmental stewardship is the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through active participation in conservation efforts and sustainable practices in coordination with community and organizational partners.*



# Strategic Goal: *Environmental Stewardship*

- Natural Resource Protection - *Take actions to protect the wildlife and wildland interface, safeguard water, and mitigate tree loss in the community.*
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction - *Establish targets for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and integrate sustainability and resiliency practices into County policies and operations.*
- Carbon-Neutral Energy Supply - *Carbon-Neutral Energy Supply Achieve carbon neutrality in electrical supply by 2040 through diversified carbon-free electric sourcing and phase out natural gas supply by 2070 through energy-efficient, all-electric buildings.*
- Water Conservation - *Reduce potable water use and increase non-potable water use and water harvesting for irrigation where suitable.*
- Waste Management - *Manage waste responsibly by diversion of solid waste from landfills through recycling, re-use, composting, and waste reduction programs and zero-waste education campaigns; and pursue efficient long-term solutions for disposal of solid waste.*

# Natural Resource Protection

Take actions to protect the wildlife and wildland interface, safeguard water, and mitigate tree loss in the community.

## *Status Update:*

- *Los Alamos was designated a Bee City USA Affiliate on Jan. 2024 through Resolution 24-02. This effort will protect native pollinators and plant species.*
- *Implementation of a robust and engaging wildlife education campaign*
- *Implementation of bear resistant trash roll carts to reduce human-bear interactions*



# Natural Resource Protection

- *Open Space and Trails Management Plan- Work is progressing on the plan and the community has participated in several community engagement sessions.*
- *Tree Inventory- Parks and OpenSpace, Arborist, is continuing to collect data in parks regarding tree species, health and identification of trees and tree canopies.*
- *Tree Preservation and Mitigation Procedure- Staff is following the parameters of this document and is preparing for a fall tree planting. Using this document additional trees have been planted during the golf course project.*
- *Reduce use of carbon fuels- Staff continues to test park maintenance equipment that is battery powered and is in the process of updating the golf cart fleet to battery powered.*



# Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Establish targets for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and integrate sustainability and resiliency practices into County policies and operations.

## ***Status Update:***

- *The Greenhouse Gas Inventory was completed in 2023 and the final climate action plan will be presented to Council in November 2024. At this time Council will have the data to make an informed decision to set targets for achieving net-zero ghg emissions and adopt the CAP implementation plan.*
- *Expanding EV charging network by installing 14 new level 2 chargers*
- *Developing a Fleet Conversion Plan and Community-Wide EV Charging Plan*

# Carbon-Neutral Energy Supply

Carbon-Neutral Energy Supply Achieve carbon neutrality in electrical supply by 2040 through diversified carbon-free electric sourcing and phase out natural gas supply by 2070 through energy-efficient, all-electric buildings.

## ***Status Update:***

- ***Renewable Energy Projects: 26 MW*** coming from the County's two hydroelectric facilities and contracted for ***170 MW of solar power*** and ***80 MW of battery storage at Foxtail Flats*** to grow the County's renewable energy portfolio.
  - *Phase I – which includes 50% of the system will come online March 2026.*

# Water Conservation

Reduce potable water use and increase non-potable water use and water harvesting for irrigation where suitable.

## ***Status Update:***

- *Partnered with PEEC in schools to educate on water conservation and watersheds, including a snowshoeing trip for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and the Water Festival for 4<sup>th</sup> graders.*
- *Partnered with Master Gardeners to present Sustainable Landscape Design series.*
- *Hosted Water Taste Test to promote the value of our water. Reached nearly 1000 people.*
- *Continued to implement the Long-Range Water Supply Plan, the Water and Energy Conservation Plan, and educational programs to promote sustainable water use.*



# Water Conservation

- *Improved the quality of treated effluent to a class 1A standard, the highest possible.*
  - ✓ *Installation of an upgraded filtration system on the Los Alamos Wastewater Treatment Plant.*
  - ✓ *Completion of the White Rock Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF), which replaces the former White Rock Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ribbon cutting is scheduled for Nov. 6, 2024 at 10am.*
- *Construction of a nearly 1-million-gallon reclaimed water storage tank (Bayo Booster Station Tank project).*
- *Exploring additional options to utilize reclaimed water through the winter months.*

# Waste Management

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*Greens, peppers, apples.  
It could have been a salad  
instead of garbage.*

Manage waste responsibly by diversion of solid waste from landfills through recycling, re-use, composting, and waste reduction programs and zero-waste education campaigns; and pursue efficient long-term solutions for disposal of solid waste.

## **Status Update:**

- *Seeking DOE approval to amend lease that would allow aerated static food composting at the Los Alamos County Eco Station*
- *Developed a Zero Waste Strategy as part of the Climate Action Plan*
- *Exploring regional solid waste disposal options including:*
  - *Conducting a regional landfill study*
  - *Exploring Waste to Energy options*



# Thank you! Questions?