



MEDIA RELEASE

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CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION FORMS COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE FOCUSED ON RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. May 17, 2023 – The City of Grand Junction has opened applications to establish a steering committee tasked with providing direction for the creation of a resiliency and sustainability plan. Applications are open for city residents until June 2, 2023, and after a review process, staff will prepare a recommended list of steering committee members for consideration by City Council. Applications are available online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and can also be picked up at City Hall, Community Development 250 N. 5th Street.

“Members of the community who want to help guide resiliency and sustainability efforts undertaken by the City of Grand Junction are invited to apply for the new steering committee,” stated Tamra Allen, Community Development director. “Community members who have specific experience or expertise in related fields are encouraged to apply as well as those who have a general interest in helping to create the city’s community-based plan.”

In the 2020 Comprehensive Plan, city residents indicated the importance of creating a community-wide sustainability plan. In addition, the community established a goal to “Promote a safe and more resilient community” to ensure the health, safety, and economic resiliency of the community through increasingly frequent natural disasters and social disturbances.

In April of 2023, the city selected Design Workshop and Spirit Environmental to help facilitate this community-driven plan. The planning process will begin in late May of 2023, and last approximately 12 months. The council-appointed steering committee will be convened throughout the process to help provide direction for the plan. This committee will include interested community members representative of the city’s diversity. Numerous public events and opportunities for community engagement will be available throughout the year to determine the plan’s general scope and specific strategies. Committee members will manage the direction of the plan, review project goals and deadlines, research ideas, and promote community input and involvement in the plan.

As the city began consideration of developing a sustainability plan in 2022, Lotus Engineering and Sustainability was engaged to conduct Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission inventories to serve as the baseline for the city’s resiliency and sustainability plan. Results from the emission inventories, among other available data, will lay the groundwork for a data-driven approach to developing the community-based plan. Those inventories found that buildings account for 60.9 percent of all citywide emission and transportation accounts for 37.3 percent. Inventories conducted for 2018 and 2021 saw a 4 percent decrease in emissions across the city. This decrease is mostly due to Xcel Energy adding more renewable energy to the grid, which reduced the carbon footprint of electricity used by residents and commercial businesses. The inventories also indicated that the largest sources of GHG emissions in the city in 2021 were gasoline vehicles, commercial electricity, commercial natural gas, and residential electricity, in that order. Action items from the final report include

policies and programs that address these sources of emissions, including encouraging vehicle electrification, increasing investments in multimodal transportation, and implementing higher building efficiency standards and electrification.

More information is available [online](#) or by contacting sustainability@gjcity.org

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