

Managing Urban Landscapes for Climate Action

A Strategy Development Guide for Communities & Local Governments to Manage Urban Landscapes & Organic Resources to Achieve Climate Action & Community Resilience Objectives

Phase I

Step 1



Align with Existing
Plans

Step 2



Opportunity
Identification with
Stakeholders

Step 3



Conduct
Opportunity
Assessment

Phase II



Engagement,
Implementation,
Policy

How to Navigate this Strategy Development Guide

This strategy development guide is broken down into four sections - an **Introduction**, and **Steps 1-3 of Phase I**. In each of the steps, you will find **guidance**, **templates**, and **examples**.

Guides hyperlinked below:

[Introduction](#)

Phase I

[Step 1](#)

[Step 2](#)

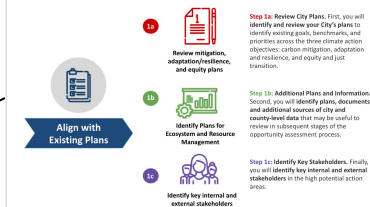
[Step 3](#)

Phase II

Forthcoming

You are here

Step 1: Align with Existing Plans



Guidance

Step 1a: Align with Existing Climate Action Plans

After reviewing your city's plans, you may use this format to synthesize key information including mitigation, resilience & adaptation, and equity plans

Climate Mitigation

Title of Plan Reviewed (hyperlink if available)
Agency/Department | Year

Key Objectives & Priorities
(Identify key objectives the city identifies in the plan, outline any stated planning priorities)

Goals & Targets

(Outline high-level numerical or quantitative targets specifically outlined in the plan)

Implications for Carbon Management

(Outline the areas of the plan that intersect with carbon management opportunities such as:

- Carbon mitigation and sequestration
- Ecosystem services management for human well-being and hazard mitigation
- Equity-related environmental priorities such as mitigation of urban heat island effect

If there are a couple of good direct quotes from the plan that specifically call attention to carbon management-related priorities, they may be included here to illustrate existing mandates for action)

A template for this summary slide can be found [here](#) and a full set of notes can be found [here](#).

A full set of notes from the review of this plan can be linked here using your organization's preferred shared document storage option.

EXAMPLE: Step 1a: City of Boulder

CITY OF BOULDER RESILIENCE STRATEGY
CITY OF BOULDER 2016

Key Objectives & Priorities

Resilience and Sustainability - Integrate and embed these "complementary values and ways of managing urban systems" into all city plans. Building on a legacy of innovation, Boulder will cultivate a creative spirit to adapt to and thrive in a changing climate, economy, and society. Address underlying stresses and overlooked needs.

** A summary from Adaptation Checkpoints can be found [here](#).

Goals & Targets

City Resilience Framework: 1. Leadership and Strategy (Integrated planning); 2. Health and Wellbeing; 3. Economy and Society; and 4. Infrastructure and Environment

Implications for Carbon Management

- Invest in the Future: Implement climate risk screening mechanisms in the Capital Improvement Program or internalizing the carbon cost of projects.
- Preserve the Resilience of the Local Food System
- Transition the Future of Energy: Commitment to transitioning to a no-carbon energy system
- Manage Growing Ecosystem/Green Infrastructure to plan for systemic stress and changes anticipated with climate change impacts: maximize value around existing and future green infrastructure planning initiatives
- Foster Climate Resilience
- Scenario Planning: Set programs, actions and investments against different plausible potential future conditions and prioritize actions that represent "no or low-regret" strategies

A full set of notes from the review of this plan can be found [here](#).

Templates

Examples

Download Templates Before Proceeding

This opportunity discovery process relies on the use of tools and tables that you may want to fill in or reference as you go along.

All templates referenced in this guide exist on a [Google Sheet](#) for you to access and save. There will also be links to the templates throughout this document.



To work in **Google Drive** (recommended):

Click File -> Make a Copy

To work in **Excel**:

Click File -> Download -> Microsoft Excel (.xlsx)

NOTE:

The [Introduction](#) to this guide presents a framework (right) for thinking about ecosystems-based climate action. If you have not reviewed the introduction, we suggest that you take a moment to familiarize yourself with the framework as it will make it easier to follow the pages and instructions that follow.





Step 1: Align with Existing Plans



Align with Existing Plans

DATA GATHERING In order to approach climate action from the lens of not just mitigation but also adaptation & resilience and equity, a city will benefit from identifying areas of current climate action priorities, specific goals, and planning objectives.

This requires gathering data from existing plans, programs, and policies. Capturing the work already happening in a city will set up Step 2 in which stakeholders may use insights from Step 1 to identify potential opportunities for managing urban landscapes for climate action.

IDENTIFY ALIGNMENTS This data gathering will allow for departments to identify potential partnerships, areas of alignment, and shared goals. Depending on the capacity of the person(s) completing Step 1, internal city stakeholders may be able to help compile information relating to their department.

The pages that follow provide guidance on how you may organize and review your city's plans as well as space to consider both internal and external stakeholders that might be involved in later stages of the process.

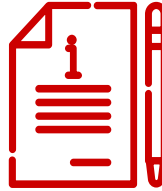


Step 1: Align with Existing Plans



Align with Existing Plans

1a



Review Mitigation, Adaptation & Resilience, and Equity Plans

Step 1a: REVIEW CITY PLANS First, you will **identify and review your city's plans** to codify existing goals, benchmarks, and priorities across the three climate action objectives: carbon mitigation, adaptation & resilience, and equity.

1b



Identify Plans for Ecosystem and Resource Management

Step 1b: ADDITIONAL PLANS AND INFORMATION Second, you will **identify plans, documents, and additional sources of city and county-level data** that may be useful to review in subsequent stages of the opportunity assessment process.

1c



Identify Key Internal and External Stakeholders

Step 1c: IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS Finally, you will **identify key internal and external stakeholders** in the high potential action areas.

Step 1a: Identify Climate Action Objectives Within Existing Plans



Identify your city's most recent plan(s) in the areas of **mitigation, adaptation & resilience, and equity**. Review these plans considering the **city's key objectives and priorities** in these areas, **specific goals**, and **implications for urban landscape-based climate action opportunities**.

Templates to identify these plans and for more extensive note-taking can be found [here](#).

CLIMATE ACTION OBJECTIVES	PLANS
Mitigation	E.g., Climate Action Plan
Adaptation & Resilience	E.g., Resilience Plan, Hazard Plan
Equity	E.g., Equity Plan

Step 1a: Align with Existing Climate Action Plans



After reviewing your city's plans, you may use this format to **synthesize key information** included in your mitigation, resilience & adaptation, and equity plans. You may choose to create **ONE SUMMARY PER PLAN** for each climate action area.

Climate Mitigation

Adaptation & Resilience

Equity

Title of Plan Reviewed (hyperlink if available)

Agency/Department | Year

Key Objectives & Priorities

[Identify key objectives in the city's plan and outline any stated planning priorities]

Goals & Targets

[Include high-level numerical or quantitative targets specifically outlined in the plan]

Implications for Urban Landscape & Organic Resources Management

[Outline the areas of the plan that intersect with urban landscape management opportunities such as:

- *Carbon mitigation and sequestration*
- *Ecosystem services management for human well-being and hazard mitigation*
- *Equity-related environmental priorities such as mitigation of urban heat island effect*

If there are representative quotes from the plan that specifically call attention to urban landscape management-related priorities, they may be included here to illustrate existing mandates for action]

Include a screenshot of plan cover page

Templates and additional resources can be found [here](#).



EXAMPLE: Step 1a

City of Boulder Resilience Strategy Summary Notes

CITY OF BOULDER RESILIENCE STRATEGY

CITY OF BOULDER | 2016

Key Objectives & Priorities

Resilience and Sustainability = integrate and embed these “complementary values and ways of managing urban systems” into all city plans

Building on a legacy of innovation, Boulder will cultivate a creative spirit to adapt to and thrive in a changing climate, economy, and society

Address underlying stresses and interlinked hazards

*** A summary from Adaptation Clearinghouse can be found [here](#).*

Goals & Targets

City Resilience Framework: 1. Leadership and Strategy (integrated planning), 2. Health and Wellbeing, 3. Economy and Society, and 4. Infrastructure and Environment

Implications for Urban Landscape & Organic Resources Management

- *Invest in the Future: Implement climate risk screening mechanisms in the Capital Improvement Program or internalizing the carbon cost of projects*
- *Ensure the Resilience of the Local Food System*
- *Envision the Future of Energy: Committed to transitioning to a no-carbon energy system*
- *Manage Thriving Ecosystems/Green Infrastructure to plan for systemic stress and changes anticipated with climate change impacts: maximize value around existing and future green infrastructure planning initiatives*
- *Foster Climate Readiness*
- *Scenario Planning: Test programs, actions and investments against different plausible potential future conditions and prioritize actions that represent ‘no or low regrets’ strategies*



A full set of notes from the review of this plan can be found [here](#).

Step 1b: Identify Plans for Ecosystem and Resource Management

This table helps organize a comprehensive list of other relevant county, city, and department plans and documents. Identifying these plans will enable you to **make connections** between existing city and department-level priorities to **STRENGTHEN THE CASE FOR ACTION**. Tying actions that **connect urban landscape management for climate action** to the ongoing work and priorities of your peers across departments will make it easier to identify colleagues who have aligned interests and could become **advocates or champions for proposed actions**. A template can be found [here](#).

URBAN LANDSCAPE / RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	PLANS
Urban Forests	E.g., Forestry Plan, Sustainability Plan
Organics Management	E.g., Waste Plan, Composting Plan
Parks & Grassland (Turf)	E.g., Parks and Recreation Plan, Turfgrass Management Plan
Agricultural Systems	E.g., Agricultural Resources Management Plan
Greenways & Riparian Areas	E.g., Greenways Plan, Transportation Plan, Wastewater Plan, Flood and Stormwater Plan
Aquatic Systems “Blue Carbon”	E.g., Flood and Stormwater Plan, Coastal Land Management Plan
Additional Plans	E.g., County-level Comprehensive Plan



Step 1b: Identify Programs and Policies in Place

This table helps organize a broader list of the programs and policies currently in place that are aligned with **achieving climate goals**. They may also be **useful to review in subsequent stages** of the opportunity assessment process.

Depending on capacity, gathering this information can also happen during Step 2 as an **opportunity to engage stakeholders** by having them identify these programs and policies. This also provides a way to **capture where cities are currently implementing urban landscape management for climate action**. A template can be found [here](#).

URBAN LANDSCAPE / RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	PROGRAMS AND POLICIES
Urban Forests	
Organics Management	
Parks & Grassland (Turf)	
Agricultural Systems	
Greenways & Riparian Areas	
Aquatic Systems “Blue Carbon”	
Additional Programs and Policies	



EXAMPLE: Step 1b

City of Boulder Plans for Urban Landscape & Resource Management

URBAN LANDSCAPE / RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	PLANS
Urban Forests	City of Boulder Urban Forest Strategic Plan , Boulder County Environmental Sustainability Plan , Boulder Climate Commitment
Organics Management	Boulder County Zero Waste Action Plan , City of Boulder Universal Zero Waste Ordinance , EPA Compost management , Univ. of Michigan compost information
Parks & Grassland (Turf)	Parks and Recreation Master Plan , OSMP Grasslands Ecosystem Management Plan
Agricultural Systems	City of Boulder Agricultural Resources Management Plan
Greenways & Riparian Areas	Greenways Master Plan , Boulder Transportation Master Plan , Boulder Water Quality Strategic Plan
Additional Plans	Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan , Flood and Stormwater Utility Master Plan

**Note: The City of Boulder does not have Aquatic Systems “Blue Carbon” category due to its geographic location*



EXAMPLE: Step 1b

City of Boulder Programs and Policies in Place

URBAN LANDSCAPE / RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	PROGRAMS AND POLICIES
Urban Forests	Street Tree Planting Program , Approved List for Tree Planting
Organics Management	Yard Waste and Food Scrap Drop Off
Parks & Grassland (Turf)	Water-Wise Garden Kits , Free Irrigation Consultants , Turf Removal , Water-Wise Landscape Seminars
Agricultural Systems	Agriculture Outreach Project
Greenways & Riparian Areas	City of Boulder Greenways Program , City of Boulder Flood Management Program ,
Additional Plans	

**Note: The City of Boulder does not have Aquatic Systems “Blue Carbon” category due to its geographic location.*



Step 1c: Identify Internal Stakeholders

Internal stakeholders are those **departments and agencies within the city** that are **already involved in urban landscape management** as well as those that ***could* be involved in the future**. Below are examples of potential internal stakeholders. A template can be found [here](#).

URBAN LANDSCAPE / RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	KEY STAKEHOLDERS		
	Mitigation	Adaptation & Resilience	Equity
Urban Forests	E.g., Forestry Department	E.g., City Utilities	E.g., Parks and Recreation Department
Organics Management	E.g., Climate Initiatives Department	E.g., Waste Department	E.g., Planning Department
Parks & Grassland (Turf)	E.g., Parks and Recreation Department	E.g., Tourism Departments	E.g., Parks and Recreation Department
Agricultural Systems	E.g., Agriculture Department	E.g., Agriculture Department	E.g., Leasehold Managers
Greenways & Riparian Areas	E.g., Transportation Department	E.g., City Utilities (stormwater management unit)	E.g., Transportation Department, Parks and Recreation Department
Aquatic Systems “Blue Carbon”	E.g., City Utilities	E.g., Zoning/Planning and Development Department	E.g., Zoning/Planning and Development Department
Additional Internal Stakeholders			



Step 1c: Refine Internal Stakeholders

Once you identify key stakeholders, fill in departments, names, and job titles of potential champions. This will be helpful in your outreach for engagement sessions. Importantly, **compiling a list of specific individuals** will allow you to consider whether or not participants have **the expertise and experience** to engage in the areas of **mitigation, adaptation & resilience, and equity**. Note that a single individual may be well-versed and experienced in all three, or just one. Curate your participant list accordingly to ensure a richer experience for all involved. A template can be found [here](#).

URBAN LANDSCAPE / RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Does this person(s) satisfy this climate action objective (Yes/No)		
		MITIGATION	ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE	EQUITY
Urban Forests	Department Name - Job Title	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No
Organics Management	Department Name - Job Title	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No
Parks & Grassland (Turf)	Department Name - Job Title	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No
Agricultural Systems	Department Name - Job Title	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No
Greenways & Riparian Areas	Department Name - Job Title	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No
Aquatic Systems “Blue Carbon”	Department Name - Job Title	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No
Additional Internal Stakeholders	Department Name - Job Title	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No



Step 1c: Identify External Stakeholders

External stakeholders are those organizations and **individuals within and outside the jurisdiction** that are **already involved in urban landscape management** as well as those that **could be involved in the future**. Below are examples of external stakeholders that may be included. It is likely that **external players may not be engaged at the outset (not until Phase II)** but it will be valuable to begin identifying them and thinking about what role they may play in the future. Examples include regional/county level departments and organizations, non-profit organizations, community organizations, regional departments and organizations, legal and/or lobbying organizations, etc. A template can be found [here](#).

URBAN LANDSCAPE / RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS		
	Mitigation	Adaptation & Resilience	Equity
Urban Forests	E.g., International Society of Arborists, County Forestry Dept.	E.g., Tree Trust, US Forest Service	E.g., American Forests, County Forestry Dept.
Organics Management		E.g., County/Regional Waste Offices	
Parks & Grassland (Turf)	E.g., County Parks and Open Space	E.g., Tourism Organizations	E.g., Parks Nonprofits
Agricultural Systems	E.g., Young Farmers Coalitions	E.g., Farmer Groups, US Department of Agriculture	E.g., Urban Agriculture Nonprofits
Greenways & Riparian Areas			
Aquatic Systems “Blue Carbon”			
Additional External Stakeholders			

EXAMPLE: Step 1c



City of Boulder Internal Stakeholders

URBAN LANDSCAPE/ RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	KEY STAKEHOLDERS		
	Mitigation	Adaptation & Resilience	Equity
Urban Forests	Boulder Forestry Department	Boulder Public Works	Parks and Recreation Department
Organics Management	Climate Initiatives - Zero Waste Team	Climate Initiatives - Zero Waste Team	Planning & Development Services Department
Parks & Grassland (Turf)	Boulder Parks and Recreation Department	Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks	Planning & Development Services Department
Agricultural Systems	Agricultural and Irrigation Water Leasing	OSMP Agriculture Program, Boulder Ecosystem Management Department	OSMP Leasehold managers
Greenways & Riparian Areas	Citizen Greenways Advisory Committee	Boulder Public Works, Boulder Transportation & Mobility Department	Citizen Greenways Advisory Committee

**Note: The City of Boulder does not have Aquatic Systems “Blue Carbon” category due to its geographic location*



EXAMPLE: Step 1c

City of Boulder External Stakeholders

URBAN LANDSCAPE / RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS		
	Mitigation	Adaptation & Resilience	Equity
Urban Forests	International Society of Arborists	Tree Trust, Boulder County Parks and Open Space	PLAY Foundation, American Forests
Organics Management	Western Disposal Services, A1 Organics, EcoCycle	Boulder County Zero Waste	EcoCycle
Parks & Grassland (Turf)	Landscape Contractors Assoc, ReSource	Boulder County Parks and Open Space	Latino Chamber, Integrating for Equity Project
Agricultural Systems	Young Farmers Coalition	Dryland Ecology Center	Boulder County Agricultural Lands on Open Space
Greenways & Riparian Areas	Boulder County Rocky Mountain Greenway Extension	Boulder County Public Works Department	Boulder County Transportation Department

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