



Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action

University Park Forum

April 28th, 2018

Accelerated Schools

Supported and Facilitated by
Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action
(ANCA)

**Accelerate
Neighborhood
Climate Action**

**Supporting place-based
climate action, block by block.**

 **ICA** The Institute of Cultural Affairs in the U.S.A.
www.ICA-USA.org

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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University Park Community Council
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Food & Beverages

Mad Greens
Chipotle Mexican Grill
Einstein's Bagels

Lunch Table Topics

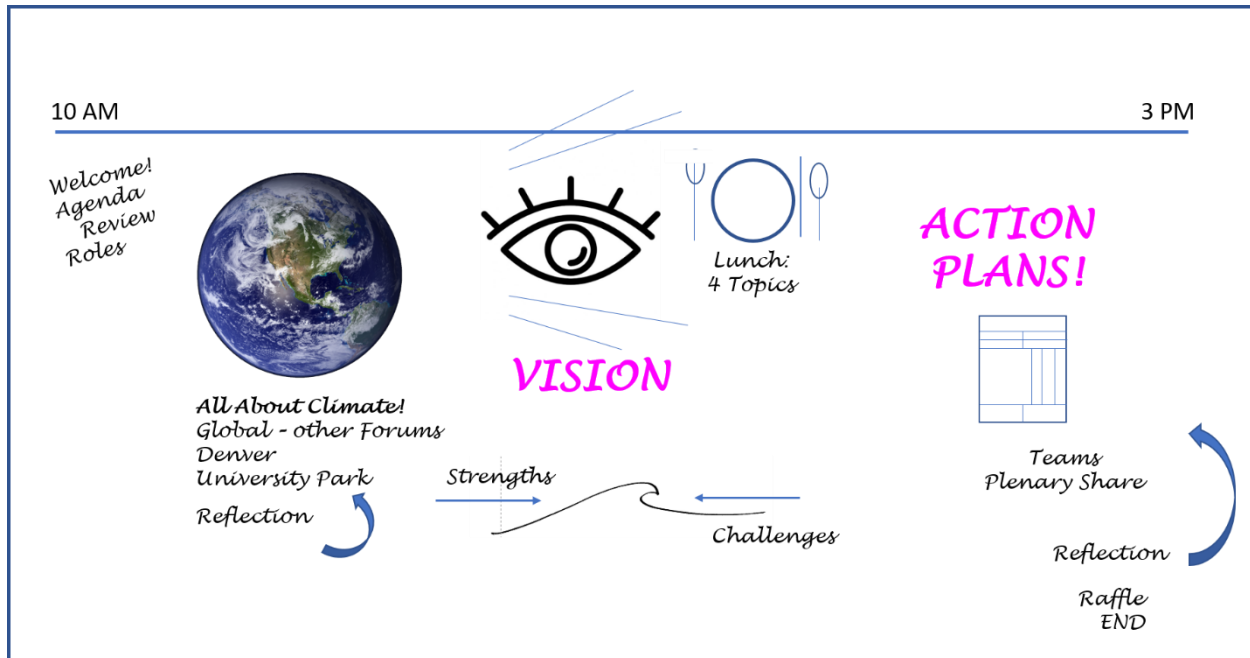
Garden Initiatives	Barbara Masoner, Grow Local Colorado
Soil and Carbon Capture	Deva DeAngelis, MSU Graduate
Tree Cover	Max Nardo, The Park People

University Park Forum Planning Committee:

Diana Helper
John Helper
Laura Lasater
Candace Kristensson
Phyllis Ward
Deborah Harrington, UPCC President

With Support for the ANCA Liaison Team

Agenda



The Day began with an introduction by Deborah Harrington, UPCC President, who turned it over to the Sunny Walker, the lead facilitator for the day. Sunny reviewed the difference in roles between facilitator (neutral / brings process) and UP neighbors and guests (engaged / bring content).

Presentations:

Dr. Richard Wagner, Metro State University Dept. of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences presented an overview of current climate science and how our climate is changing along with how we participate in the changes. Brief notes on Dr. Wagner's presentation:

- Climate reality introduction
- We all share one earth
- Atmosphere is thin relative to the earth
- 110 million tons of CO₂ in atmosphere
- Solar radiation- most of it absorbed by earth and warms it
- Some radiated back into space
- Some infrared is trapped by atmosphere
- Overview of greenhouse gas (GHG) sources
- Fossil fuels types
- 17 of the last 18 years are on record as hottest ever
- Ave 2-degree C rise in 30 years
- As temp rises so does water use
- Wildfire threats are greater, covering more area, wildfire season considerably longer
- Relative Impacts on personal choices:

- How we travel
- Materials in our home
- Foods consumption and disposal
- Goods we buy
- Etc.
- Previous Neighborhood Climate Action Forums' Action Plans

Paul Kashmann, District 6 City Council member, who ran on 2 major points: getting dirty money out of campaigns and climate change, spoke of what is happening in Denver related to climate change:

- Discussion of budget related to sustainability
- Jerry Tinianow, Chief Sustainability Officer, Denver Office of Sustainability
- For years no budget for sustainability; had to raise all funds
- Recently absorbed into department of health and environment; now they are responsible for sustainability
- Budget is maxed out
- Jerry Tinianow likes to fly under the radar, going through city making sustainability a core value
- Also works to create sustainable energy in building and many other initiatives
- Pushing Mayor for 100% sustainability by 2030
- Xcel agrees they can achieve 65%-75% renewable by 2030
- Green roofs initiative in Denver calls for green roofs on commercial buildings when new roofs are necessary, green planting and solar, plus on all new commercial construction.
- Paul is working to massage the initiative, stimulating it making it more possible for folks without making it oppressive
- Get out of car and be on foot and bike
- Functional foot and bike paths
- Currently deficient in sidewalks and wheelchair accessibility
- In June, getting sidewalk program to help repair sidewalks to help assess sidewalk issues and site homeowners. The program will fix and bill if necessary
- Revolving loan program to help owners pay for repairs

Candace Kristensson - neighborhood resident and Vice President of the UPCC, did an excellent job of covering past climate-related achievements of the neighborhood in a presentation titled *University Park Community Council and Sustainability*. These included:

- Long history of being green
- 1st year of being a neighborhood (1886), 1000 planted trees

Green Space Advocacy:

- McWilliams Park UPCC and University Park Elementary and Slavens Elementary Schools tree planting and dedication in 1967
- Buchtel Boulevard Trail at Prairie Park
- Advocacy began 1976
- Buchtel Centennial Park established 1986 enlarged 2011

Beautification:

- Xeriscaping
- Grants
- Lilac bushes
- Education and engagement with city arborist
- 2004 UPCC Tree Preservation Initiative:
- Walking surveys etc.

Observatory Park Community Garden:

- University Park Elementary PTA Garden Committee
- Garden to Cafeteria approved

University park Elem. School Green Team:

- Making reusable “party kits” to reduce waste etc.

Mobility and Transit

- 1968 FIRST Denver bike routes, maps, and safety committee
- 2005 grant added sidewalks for safe routes to school
- 2016 Walkscope sidewalks
- 2017 WalkDenver and UPCC for sidewalk improvements
- etc. much more on slides
- 2016 Mobility Issues Committee—website
- Much being done along Buchtel- making light rail better accessible for pedestrians, not just motor vehicle

Historic Preservation

- Protecting Existing structures
- Zoning and Long-term planning
- 2008 U.P. Neighborhood Plan
- UPCC zoning codes updates- communicating wants, needs
- Solar access retention – ensure zoning codes protect solar access

Individuals shared what impressed them about three introduction talks:

- Diana Helper - had a hand in Buchtel Trail and a plethora of other sustainable initiatives
- Paul Kashmann - Active community- hope for future
- Laura Lasater - 17 out of 18 years warmest, and being over 350 ppm
- Jim Slotta - showing up with gratitude; grateful to Sunny and methodology, potential of block captains, grateful to have ear of Mayor- we should talk out and up to him.
- Candace Kristensson - impact with mayor, being aware of sustainability not being 100%- wants the sprint over half-step forward.
- Phillis Ward - Being reminded about education about environment by Wagner.
- Rosemary Stoffel - appreciative of council member being present, so much change takes political will. Tree retention; oversight of any tree-removal, etc.
- Janet Bardwell - lives in childhood home- Power of facts; everything done in neighborhood by individuals or groups, some in this room

- John Helper - Beautification committee historically helped in community, when Mayor Pena was presiding, lots of grants, seeds—ecological psychology—individuals grow by their natural environment
- David Carlson - Wash Park East neighborhood- convenes monthly discussion group on ethics and ecology. Colorado Narrative Projects-impressed by 100% renewable efforts here
- Richard Wagner - Part of Sunnyside neighborhood - happy to hear more sidewalks
- Dorothy Musil - Green Roofs Initiatives was new to perspective

Additional things people are already doing:

- Composting
- Recycling
- Riding bike
- Walk to school every day
- Use stairs in apartment
- Solar panels
- Water conservation
- Replace portion of bluegrass
- Keep my trees healthy
- Thermostat very low at night and when no one is home

The Vision

Participants were asked the following question:

***What does it look like for us to have a lower carbon footprint in University Park?
(Envision family, individual, neighborhood)***



Everyone made individual lists and then people paired up to share. Each group chose 7-8 favorite ideas, 1 idea per sheet, 3-7 words on each sheet, writing big. Following is an organized chart of the Vision:

University Park Vision for a Lower Carbon Footprint

Mobility ●●●●	Water ●●	Inclusive-ness ●●●	Awareness ●●●●●	Renewable Energy	Landfill	Green Space ●●●●●●	Engagement (implementation)	Food ●●●●●	Housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better transportation options • Last Mile solutions which are low or no cost • Next gen mass transit • More sidewalks • Walkable sidewalk networks • Safer bikeways (i.e. S. St. Paul dangerous) • Facilitating walking + biking, • Fewer cars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water capture • Water-efficient showers & toilets throughout condo complexes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Bank (barter / SIMBY) • Buy-in by local churches, businesses, multi-multi family housing complexes • Schools' "Green Teams" impacting families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education / Information • Sustainable households – neighborhood "open houses" • Walking tours of U Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More solar roofs • Solar / Wind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay as you throw • Everyone recycles, including apartments • Everyone composts, including apartments • Food waste composting throughout neighborhood • Reduce landfill waste – keep existing homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More open space • More trees • Preserving & replacing trees • U Park "zones" for climate activities, ex: trees • More open space + required for large dwellings, houses + apartments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RNO engaged in measurable project(s) ●●● • There is political will to support this • Re-initiate the Arbor Day celebration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared garden space • Local food • Closed loop systems • Multiple community gardens - sharing! • Bye bye bluegrass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep existing houses • Keep solar access

NOTE: Dots (●) above indicate the participants' voting on where to begin work.

Diana Helper had written a song about the woes of climate change on famer McDummel (tune: Old McDonald) which, while a sad description of how things happen, was nonetheless humorous and fun to sing as a group.

On reconvening after lunch, the group was asked to review the Vision and answer: ***What are our strengths as a community to help us get to our goals?***

Strengths

- Ongoing efforts /infrastructure
- Leadership
- Climate Change Action Group
- Networkers
- 132 years of sustainable history
- Affluence
- Children –next generation propels parents, sprouting action education
- 5 parks and 2 trails
- Mobility issues committee
- Preservation Committee
- City sidewalks initiative:1st sidewalk statement, enforced
- 1st bicycle system/ bicycle interest
- Currently active in city wide plans that effect neighborhood citizens
- 2 universities that care about climate
- A strong city council advocate
- Butchel mobility access study- successful getting funding
- Experience!
- DU and Methodist support
- 4 acknowledged landmarks that will not be demolished

The group then brainstormed ***challenges they would need to overcome to be successful.***

Challenges

- Volunteer help
- Mayor/City administration
- Denial and apathy across population- lack of awareness
- Rapid Growth- large complexes build strain the community and add turnover
- Renters take less interest
- Accessible land value encourages infill
- Burnout
- Lack of resources- Money!
- Conflicts of interests
- Misdirected resources
- Information overload
- Sm core group engaged, need more buy-in
- Emphasis on individual vs community, culturally responsible
- Reaction mindset, vs productive misses best time for involvement (making the plans)

Each person received 3 orange dots as votes for which topics are most important or immediate to plan around and address. There was some discussion between neighborhood players during dot placing, for example:

- Community compost is political issue. Trash we should be charged, but not for compost and recycling
- Mobility- efforts should be focused on specifics because there is already a lot being done



Sticky notes were passed out for individual's names to be placed at one of the categories to denote willingness to help build action plan. The three voted most important to address now: Trees, Awareness, and Food.

TITLE: Encourage Greater Awareness of Neighborhood Withg	
OUTPUT Dissemination of Information	OUTCOME ↑ Preservation ↑ Book/Compost ↑ Interaction
SUPPORTING FACTORS → • UPRC Newsletter/Burbs / • UPRC newsletters • Keshmann	← RESISTING FACTORS • Monthly • Engagement? • Food TRUCKS
IMPLEMENTING STEPS 1) Newsletter Burbs on Historic Preservation 2) UPRC a UPRC Burbs on personal Action steps 3) Educate by example - Food truck nights - Resale, compost, walk 4) Thanksgiving Opportunities 5) Rerouting Awareness to Solar Action Now! 6) Progressive Porch Crawls	Who Start Date Finish Date 1) Research 2) Outreach 3) UPRC Board 4) All Neighborhood Groups 5) Pat, Rosemary 6) Preparation All COORDINATOR: TEAM MEMBERS:
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS	

TITLE: TREES	
OUTPUT Education of neighbors Event (w/incentives) tree planting	OUTCOME Increased health of mature trees (people) 100 trees (!) planted in 12 mos.
SUPPORTING FACTORS → UP support of trees/green space Aesthetics of UP Supportive Councilperson DIL Arbitration (city enforcement??)	← RESISTING FACTORS Allocation of resource (#) - by individuals Development pressures
IMPLEMENTING STEPS 1. Contact community resources: D+D, DRG, City Forester, Park Dept 2. Outline education plan for UP: words, emails, Newsletter 3. Consider "zones" (looking for outreach) 4. Investigate resources + incentives (URC, churches, identify as warranted) 5. Partner w/ UPRC ES "Green Team" (also MRP, Accredited...) 6. Hold "road-side" planting event - in fall 2018 7. Long term political solution to tree displacement	Who Start Date Finish Date D+D 5/1 - 5/15 Deb 5/7 - 5/25 TBD... AS WARRANTED 5/1 - 7/15 5/8/2018 ALL! 8 or 9/18 COORDINATOR: TEAM MEMBERS: Diana, Debbie
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS Time Money Energy Motiv. Volunteers	

TITLE: Sustainable Food	
OUTPUT Formalize/expand selling Points • re-define/expand role of block captain • inventory current activity	OUTCOME VISION Converting lawns to organic food gardens
SUPPORTIVE FACTORS → Saving Money Children health resilience love vs. fear	← RESISTING FACTORS me mindset liability aesthetics values lack of knowledge
IMPLEMENTING STEPS • research quantified benefits • seed packet (hairloom) with in fo. - (donation, blurbs) distribution • pilot blocks • tracking of progress • sheet mulch projects in fall	Who Start Date Finish Date TBD COORDINATOR: TEAM MEMBERS: Laura Lescher Janet Bardiue II
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS • buy-in from block captains • seed donations • energy • time • people • knowledge	

The three teams presented their detailed action plans to the group (typed below). It was concluded that all plans presented are a part of one another; it's all connected.

At the end of the day, participants shared highlights or something they will continue to remember:

- The community educators
- Coffee
- Everyone who is/was present- an indication of neighborhood and this small but significant number of dedicated individuals.
- Impressed with how knowledgeable lunch presenters were
- Core group of people already having done a lot of work
- A lot about neighborhood and about the people who continue to push

- Synergy of group- things unfolding from communications that could not arrive from just an individual
- Caliber of people who helped plan and implement the day, the pace, the accomplishments of the day. Great team!
- Impressed with the energy and group planning.
- How much we have in common here and coming together on wanting to survive.
- Realizing we are not in this alone, council member coming and sharing with us

University Park Neighborhood - Climate Action Planning Form



Action Plan Title: **TREES**

Output (What will be delivered) Education of neighbors about tree health Event with incentives (tree planting)	Outcome (Intended impact of this plan) Increased health of mature trees 100 trees planted in 12 months
Supporting Factors → UP support of Trees/ Greenspace Aesthetics of UP Supportive Council person DU arboretum City Enforcement??	← Resisting Factors Allocation of resources (\$) by individuals Development pressures

Implementing Steps	Who	Start Date	Finish Date
1. Contact Community resources DU, DBG, City Forester, Park People	D & D	5/1	5/15
2. Outline Education plan for UPWords, emails, NEXTDOOR	Deb	5/7	5/25
3. Consider “zones” (existing) for outreach	TBD
4. Investigate resources and incentives (UPCC, churches, greater density)	As warranted	5/1	7/15
5. Partner with University Park ES Green Team (also MPB, Accelerated...)	?	May-Aug 2018	
6. Hold “hood-wide” planting event in fall 2018	ALL!!		8 or 9/2018
7. Long-term political solution to tree displacement?			

Resource Requirements: Time, phones, energy, health, volunteers	Coordinator: _____ Team Members: Diana, Debbie
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University Park Neighborhood - Climate Action Planning Form



Action Plan Title: ENCOURAGE GREATER AWARENESS OF NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

Output (What will be delivered) Dissemination of information	Outcome (Intended impact of this plan) More preservation, more recycling and composting, more interaction
Supporting Factors → UPCC Newsletter/Email University Park Newsletters Kashman Food Trucks	← Resisting Factors Apathy Engagement

Implementing Steps	Who	Start Date	Finish Date
1. Newsletter blurbs on Historic Preservation	Rosemary		
2. UPCC and UPark blurbs on personal Action Steps	Candace		
3. Educate by example- Food Truck nights, recycle, compost, walk	UPCC Board		
4. Thanksgiving opportunities	All neighborhood groups		
5. Rezoning awareness for solar retention	Pat, Rosemary		
6. Progressive porch crawls	Preservation/All		
7. Also- During Denver Days encourage more block parties, as you need no permit, so more people can meet and connect with one another			

Resource Requirements:	Coordinator: _____ Team Members: Candace, Rosemary, Pat
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University Park Neighborhood - Climate Action Planning Form



Action Plan Title: **SUSTAINABLE FOOD**

<p>Output (What will be delivered)</p> <p>Survey Formalize/expand selling points Redefine/expand role of block captains Inventory current activity</p>	<p>Outcome (Intended impact of this plan)</p> <p>Lawns to organic gardens</p>
<p>Supporting Factors →</p> <p>Saving money Children- spending time outdoors Health- fresh, no chemicals Resiliency</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">← Resisting Factors</p> <p>Redefining aesthetics Values Lack of knowledge Me mindset</p>

Implementing Steps	Who	Start Date	Finish Date
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put much thought in initially and work slowly to produce masterfully. 2. Pilot project- sheet mulch project 3. Research qualified benefits 4. Seed packet (heirloom) with info (blurbs about heirloom and pesticide etc.), (donations) 5. Documentation 6. Tracking Progress 7. Sheet Mulch in the fall 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>ALL STILL TBD</p> </div>		

<p>Resource Requirements:</p> <p>Buy-in from block captains Seed donations Energy Time Knowledge People</p>	<p>Coordinator: _____</p> <p>Team Members:</p> <p>Laura Lasater Janet Bardwell</p>
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Neighborhood Participants:

Dorothy Musil
Phyllis Ward
Rosemary Stoffel
Dr. David Carlson
Jon Slotta
Janet Bardwell
Diana Helper

John Helper
Candace Kristensson
Deborah Harrington
Paul Kashmann
Marilyn Bredar
Max Nardo
Barbara Masoner
Laura Lasatar

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