Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action
University Park Forum
April 28th, 2018
Accelerated Schools

Supported and Facilitated by
Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action
(ANCA)

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

Major Sponsors
University Park Community Council
University of Denver
University Park United Methodist Church

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
The Day began with an introduction by Deborah Harrington, UPCC President, who turned it over to 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mobility</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Inclusiveness</th>
<th>Awareness</th>
<th>Renewable Energy</th>
<th>Landfill</th>
<th>Green Space (implementation)</th>
<th>Engagement</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Better transport options</td>
<td>• Water capture</td>
<td>• Time Bank (barter / SIMBY)</td>
<td>• Education / Information</td>
<td>• More solar roofs</td>
<td>• Pay as you throw</td>
<td>• RNO engaged in measurable project(s)</td>
<td>• Keep existing houses</td>
<td>• Shared garden space</td>
<td>• Keep solar access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Last Mile solutions which are low or no cost</td>
<td>• Water-efficient showers &amp; toilets throughout condo complexes</td>
<td>• Buy-in by local churches, businesses, multi-family housing complexes</td>
<td>• Sustainable households – neighborhood “open houses”</td>
<td>• Solar / Wind</td>
<td>• Everyone recycles, including apartments</td>
<td>• Local food</td>
<td>• Local food</td>
<td>• Keep solar access</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Next gen mass transit</td>
<td>• More sidewalks</td>
<td>• Schools’ “Green Teams” impacting families</td>
<td>• Walking tours of U Park</td>
<td>• Everyone composes, including apartments</td>
<td>• Paying for trees</td>
<td>• Closed loop systems</td>
<td>• Multiple community gardens - sharing!</td>
<td>• Keep existing houses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More sidewalks</td>
<td>• Walkable sidewalk networks</td>
<td>• Safer bikeways (i.e. S. St. Paul dangerous)</td>
<td>• Facilitating walking + biking,</td>
<td>• Food waste composting throughout neighborhood</td>
<td>• Reducing landfill waste – keep existing homes</td>
<td>• Multiple community gardens</td>
<td>• Bye bye bluegrass</td>
<td>• Keep existing houses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 farmer 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: \textit{What are our strengths as a community to help us get to our goals?}

\textbf{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 \textit{challenges they would need to overcome to be successful.}

\textbf{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.

![Image of sticky notes and action plans]

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
### Action Plan Title: TRES

**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

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

### Resource Requirements:
- Time, phones, energy, health, volunteers

**Coordinator:** ___________________

**Team Members:**
- Diana, Debbie
**University Park Neighborhood - Climate Action Planning Form**

**Action Plan Title:** ENCOURAGE GREATER AWARENESS OF NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output (What will be delivered)</th>
<th>Outcome (Intended impact of this plan)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination of information</td>
<td>More preservation, more recycling and composting, more interaction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supporting Factors →**
- UPCC Newsletter/Email
- University Park Newsletters
- Kashman
- Food Trucks

**Resisting Factors ←**
- Apathy
- Engagement

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

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

## Action Plan Title: SUSTAINABLE FOOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output (What will be delivered)</th>
<th>Outcome (Intended impact of this plan)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>Lawns to organic gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formalize/expand selling points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redefine/expand role of block captains</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory current activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Supporting Factors →
- Saving money
- Children - spending time outdoors
- Health - fresh, no chemicals
- Resiliency

### Resisting Factors ←
- Redefining aesthetics
- Values
- Lack of knowledge
- Me mindset

## Implementing Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Finish Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALL STILL TBD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Resource Requirements:
- Buy-in from block captains
- Seed donations
- Energy
- Time
- Knowledge
- People

Coordinator: ___________________
Team Members: 
- Laura Lasater
- Janet Bardwell
**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

**Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action Support**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Forum Role</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OliveAnn Slotta</td>
<td>Forum Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oslotta@earthlink.com">oslotta@earthlink.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Slotta</td>
<td>Forum Co-coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jslotta@earthlink.com">jslotta@earthlink.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deva DeAngelis</td>
<td>Forum Co-coordinator &amp; Facilitation</td>
<td><a href="mailto:devaparajana@gmail.com">devaparajana@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Documentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Richard Wagner</td>
<td>Climate Scientist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wagnerri@msudenver.edu">wagnerri@msudenver.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Sherrell</td>
<td>Fall 2018 ANCA Intern</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sherrelljoe11@gmail.com">Sherrelljoe11@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(from CU Denver)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunny Walker</td>
<td>Lead Facilitator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sunny@virtualfacilitationcollaborative.com">sunny@virtualfacilitationcollaborative.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belinda Waldron</td>
<td>Co-facilitator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:belwaldron@gmail.com">belwaldron@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>