

Program Overview



Sustainable Neighborhood Network

Sustainable Neighborhoods Program

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THE PROGRAM

The Sustainable Neighborhoods Program gives residents the opportunity to become active partners in making a vibrant and sustainable community. Neighborhoods participating in this unique certification program use guidance from city/county staff to organize workshops, projects, and events that enhance the livability of their neighborhood and reduce resident's ecological footprint. Participating neighborhoods earn program credits for their efforts and, depending on the number of credits earned in a given year, may receive designation as a **"Participating Sustainable Neighborhood"** or an **"Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood"** from the city/county.

BENEFITS

The specific benefits to residents and neighborhoods vary with the types of initiatives and projects that a neighborhood chooses. But whether its increasing energy efficiency in residents' homes, converting lawns and common areas to waterwise landscaping, or organizing neighborhood food drives, participation will enhance the social, ecological, and economic strength of the neighborhood. *(And it could result in reduced utility bills too!)*



RECOGNITION

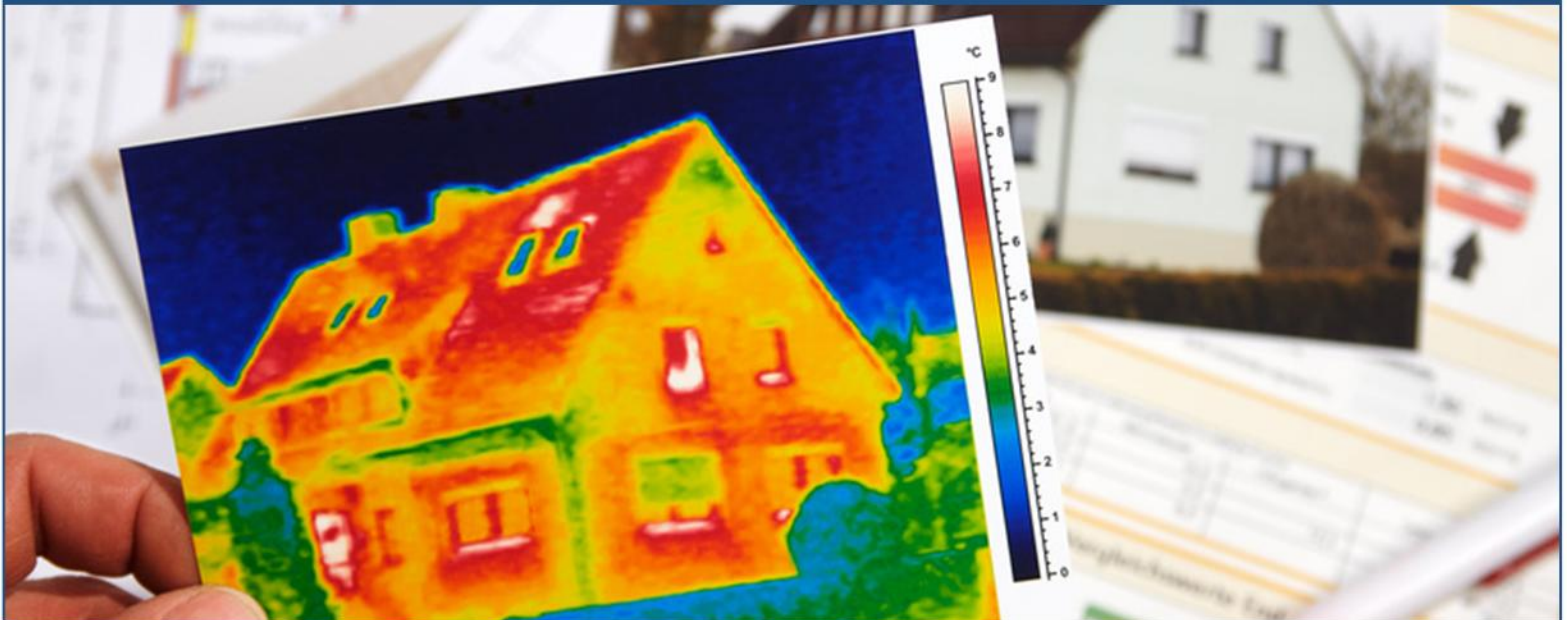
Neighborhoods participating in the program earn credits from the city/county based on participation and project accomplishments. The credits work like a point system and depending on the number of credits earned in a given year, neighborhoods may receive designation as a **"Participating Sustainable Neighborhood"** or an **"Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood"** from the city/county. Neighborhoods earning "outstanding" designation will receive recognition from elected officials and will receive **custom neighborhood signage**.

GOAL & TARGET AREAS

The Sustainable Neighborhoods Program focuses on five broad goal categories and associated target areas. Participating neighborhoods use these goal areas to guide their selection of workshop topics and

Sustainable Neighborhoods Goal Areas





CERTIFICATION

In order to receive certification as a **"Participating Sustainable Neighborhood,"** a neighborhood must earn a minimum of 60 credits. To receive certification as an **"Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood,"** a neighborhood must earn a minimum of 100 credits in a year. Credits are awarded for attendance at neighborhood workshops and for participation in projects and initiatives that build upon workshop topics.

For details regarding certification and maintenance requirements, see the "Neighborhood Certification" brochure.

Activities Eligible for Certification Credit

NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOPS: Educational events that provide information and resources that help residents turn awareness into action. (In addition to workshops organized by the neighborhood, workshops and events organized by the city/county may also be eligible for credit).

SPECIAL EVENTS: Neighborhood or community wide activities that enhance sustainability through resident action (e.g., food drives, recycling days, neighborhood cleanups).

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES: Neighborhood resources that provide information and guidance residents can use to make sustainable decisions (e.g., alternative transportation map, database of neighbor assistance volunteers, local business or product directory).

NEIGHBORHOOD INVENTORIES: Neighborhood data collection of sustainability indicators that can be used to establish and track goals over time (e.g., neighborhood energy footprint, ridership on public transportation, yearly neighborhood bird count).

GOAL SETTING & IMPLEMENTATION: Direct actions taken by individuals or households that support neighborhood sustainability goals (e.g., installing energy-efficient light bulbs to achieve neighborhood wide conservation targets).



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The Sustainable Neighborhoods Program and Sustainable Neighborhood Network were developed by the City of Lakewood, Colorado as a neighborhood level implementation program for community sustainability.

For additional information, please visit
www.SustainableNeighborhoodNetwork.org

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