

NEIGHBORHOOD CLIMATE ACTION FORUM

Congress Park Neighbors – Green Team

October 6-7, 2017

Summary Document

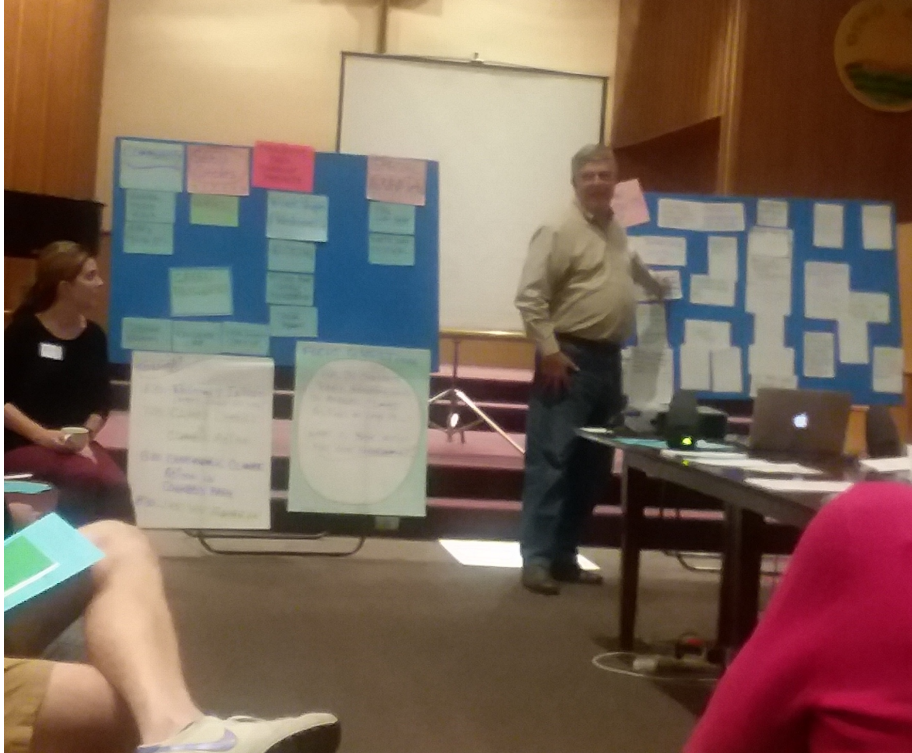


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Congress Park Neighborhood Climate Action Forum

I. Introduction

The Congress Park Neighbors Green Team (CPNGT) has been working in the Congress Park neighborhood since January 2016. CPNGT members organize numerous community events to promote sustainable living practices throughout the neighborhood. A CPNGT Steering Committee supports CPNGT efforts including communications and membership support. In June 2016, Congress Park joined Denver’s Sustainable Neighborhoods program (Taylor Moellers, Program Coordinator), and by June 2017 reached “Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood” status. To help kick-off Year 2 CPNGT efforts and identify sustainability projects of highest interest to neighbors, the CPNGT leadership invited another volunteer organization – Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action (ANCA) to co-host a Climate Action Forum in Congress Park. The intention of using the Climate Action Forum was to set a context for the CPNGT’s sustainability work and to focus CPNGT efforts on issues identified during the Forum. The Congress Park Neighborhood Climate Action Forum follows similar events organized in Capitol Heights United Neighborhoods (CHUN), South Park Neighborhood, and Cheesman Park high rise, and is one of 6-8 events held during the pilot phase of ANCA’s plan to promote Neighborhood Climate Action throughout metro Denver in the next two years.

About the Forum: Climate Action Forums are typically day-long events. The CPNGT chose to conduct their Forum in two parts to attract more neighborhood residents – Part 1 (Friday evening) for a presentation on Climate Reality and discussion, and Part 2 (Saturday afternoon) for identification and planning of climate action projects. A total of 29 residents participated - some for Friday only, some for Saturday only, and most attending both sessions.

The enthusiasm of the participants was contagious and the dialogue and ideas generated were practical and inspiring. A cake celebrating the CPNGT’s achievement of “Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood” status was enjoyed by all! All follow-up actions and events will be coordinated by the CPNGT.

This Document contains the ideas and points of agreement reached by consensus during the Forum. It is a reference document mainly for the CPNGT to use in guiding the implementation of Climate Action initiatives. The main result of the Forum is a set of four Action Plans written by newly formed Action Teams and included in Appendix A:

1. **Reduce Home Carbon Use**
2. **Waste Diversion and Reduction**
3. **Water Conservation**
4. **Increasing use of Alternative Transportation**

Call to Action: Action Plans resulting from the Forum work are high level working documents and require continued work to flesh out ideas for the following year or two. Participants present at the Forum agreed to meet in Action Teams, recruit additional members from the CPNGT registry, and continue to work on their specific Action Plans. To coordinate neighborhood efforts, Action Teams agreed to present their plans and progress at

quarterly CPNGT meetings (the next CPNGT meeting was targeted for December 2017). The CPNGT leadership would also ensure coordination of projects as well as support project logistics.

II. Forum Part I: Climate Reality Presentation & Discussion

a. Welcome and Introductions

CPNGT Co-Leaders (Liz Goehring & Becky Coughlin) opened the Forum with a presentation welcoming participants, introducing the organizations and individuals involved in hosting the Forum, establishing the aim of the Forum, providing a background on the CPNGT (history, efforts to date) and, to facilitate dialogue during the Forum, inviting participants to introduce themselves.

Hosting Organizations/Individuals

- CPNGT Climate Forum Organizing Team - Liz Goehring, Mary Sullivan, Becky Coughlin
- Additional CPNGT Steering Committee Support - Yvonne Salfinger, Katie Kaplan, Julie Lang-Yawger, Emily Hunter, Maggie Price
- Denver's Sustainable Neighborhoods Program - Taylor Moellers
- Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action - Catherine Welch, coordinator; Presenters: Dr. Richard Wagner, professor of Climate Science at MSU; Karmen Burchette, MSU Student volunteer; Sherwood Shankland, ANCA Facilitator, Jim Slotta, CHUN Board liaison.

Local Supporting Businesses

- Wildflowers - Water-wise plants for table raffle

b. Review of Congress Park Green Team Current Initiatives

- A. Seed Circles (study and research) and follow-up events
 - ✓ Water – “The Great Divide...”
 - Denver Water workshop
 - ✓ Plastic Purge – (book study)
 - Plastic Free July Challenge

- B. Workshops and Webinars
 - ✓ Denver Recycling Workshop
 - ✓ Denver Energy Challenge & Historic Home Conservation Workshop
 - ✓ Solar Company Interviews Webinars
 - ✓ Certifiably Green Denver Workshop

- C. Green Business – Sustainability – continue to engage with local business
 - ✓ Green Door Fitness
 - ✓ New World Cheese
 - ✓ The Wag Shop
 - ✓ Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church
 - ✓ Chocolate Lab

- D. Special Community Events
 - ✓ Fall Leaf Drop (2nd year)
 - ✓ Earth Day Festival
 - ✓ Annual Peace Walk
 - ✓ Alley Clean-ups
 - ✓ Sewell Sensory Garden (\$75K grant)

c. Climate Reality Presentation

ANCA uses an adaptation of the Al Gore Climate Reality Project Presentation in its Climate Action Forums. The presentation follows three themes: 1) climate issues today, 2) solutions already available and working today, and 3) actions local citizens are taking to reduce their carbon footprint. The presentation was modified to include details of what the city of Denver is doing (targets and progress to date). Dr. Richard Wagner presented the first part on the reality of today’s climate issues; Taylor Moellers presented the second part on solutions, from global to local including Denver’s actions; and Karmen Burchette presented the final part on what citizens are doing in places around the country.

d. Climate Action Ideas Brainstorm

The following list of ideas was generated by the participants following the presentation on Friday evening, October 6, 2017.

The participants were asked to list their personal answers to the **Focus Question:**

For the Congress Park neighborhood to address Climate Action in 2018-19, what is your wish for our environment?

1. Community Engagement

- Increase Green Team membership by 25%
- Increase membership to Green Team by 10 people
- Employee kids to rake leave, trim hedges manually, etc. versus using gas powered tools (mowers, hedge trimmers, etc.)
- Live with admiration, appreciation and respect for our environment and its needs
- Community outreach that effectively changes behavior
- Earth's temperature (atmospheric) stops increasing through local climate action movement
- Continue to engage with local businesses

2. Home Energy Efficiency

- Improve energy efficiency of houses, i.e., improve insulation, sealing gaps, add solar
- Increase use of solar panels in Congress Park

3. Water Use Reduction

- Reduce water consumption per household
 - low flow showerheads
 - Need baseline data
 - Increase Xeriscaping and reduce water on lawns 3
 - Botanic Gardens – Free services to neighborhoods?
 - A class on water conservation inside house
 - Change lawn care behaviors to be more ecological
 - Reduce lawn irrigation and over-watering
- Neighborhood water barrel acquisition
 - Encourage use of rain barrels and offer a class on constructing them
- Maintain the beauty of our green areas while implementing a smart water use program/plan

4. Reduce Carbon Emissions

- More households using alternative transportation (walking, biking, carpooling, mass transit)
- Decrease Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOVs) and increase mobility options
- Increase percent of neighbors that use alternative transportation

- Reduce single occupancy car trips
- Gathering info on how to reduce carbon footprint
- Make that information available
- Creating measures so we can track results

5. Recycling

- Congress Park becomes city leader in recycling & composting through quadrant competition.
- Ban plastic straws

6. Connectivity to Resources

- Use Congress Park as a model/platform for elsewhere to push equity (we have bus routes, stores, etc.) – where needed?
- Coordinate Climate Action with Congress Park Neighborhood Plan.
- Connect neighborhood initiatives with city and nation initiative/plans
- Connect Climate Action Plan to Neighborhood Plan – Liaison

7. Buildings:

- Protect existing structures, urban fabric from demolition which helps protect erosion of affordable housing and neighborhood

III. Part 2: Action Project Identification (facilitated discussion)
a. Selection of Priority Action Areas and Action Teams

On Saturday, the current initiatives of the CP Green Team were reviewed and compared to the Friday evening brainstorm of ideas by the participants. Five Action Areas were identified and prioritized using colored dots. Each participant selected 3 of the 5 Action Areas resulting in the following ranking:

Multi -vote results for the 5 Action Areas:

- Water – 12 (Hey, it’s Colorado!)
- Recycle – 11 (increase apartments and business)
- Transport – 9
- Home energy – 7
- Green Business – 6

Action Teams were then formed by self-selection for the top 4 areas. Green Business is an ongoing initiative and the CPNGT will continue to liaise with CP Businesses regarding sustainable practices.

b. Assessment of Assets and Challenges to Climate Action initiatives

To prepare for writing Action Plans, the participants listed both Assets and Challenges which need to be taken into consideration:

Assets and Strengths to build on:

- ✓ Sustainable neighborhood residents’ network and support
- ✓ Core Green Team Leadership
- ✓ RNO newsletter etc.
- ✓ Church meeting space
- ✓ Our knowledge plus experience to share
- ✓ Local businesses – access in-kind
- ✓ Walkability / mobility
- ✓ Active community residents

Challenges to be addressed:

- Diverse housing types (engaging renters)
- Effective outreach
- Low attendance
- “Church” as meeting place, comfort level
- Time competing priorities
- Motivation to do more (people satisfied with small steps)
- Lack of data

c. Our Four Initial Action Plans:

To launch the next 18 months of Green Team activities, the participants self-selected into four Action Teams. These newly-formed teams include current GT members and new members from the community. Each team will also be inviting additional residents to join their team as implementation begins. The initial action plans follow on pages 7-10 □

Congress Park Neighborhood Climate Action Forum		October 6-7, 2017	
Action Plan: 1. Reduce Home Carbon Use (revised Oct 17, 2017)			
Out Put: <i>Survey- Education Resource data</i>	Out Come: <i>Reduce home energy usage <u>x%</u> Increase clean energy <u>y%</u></i>		
Support: <i>Financial benefits, Rebates_Denver.gov, Xcel, CPN newsletter, website, tables in front of local businesses to publicize easy/low-cost fixes to improve home energy efficiency</i>	Challenges: <i>effective outreach, time and money constraints</i>		
Implementation Steps	Who	Start	Finish
1. Get benchmark data/ city permit data	Mary	Nov	Jan
2. Gather financial benefit and rebate info	David	Nov	Jan
3. “Nextdoor” - online survey on home energy improvement	Sandy/ Karmen/ Team	Nov	Nov
4. Open Solar House- TBD	David		P. Nov
Resources:	Coordinator: Mary Team: David, Mary, Sandy		

Action Plan: 2. Waste Diversion and Reduction

(revised Oct 17, 2017)

<p>Out Put: <u>Increase recycling and composting throughout Congress Park through engaging businesses, multi-family and single family property owners and renters by x%, by 2019.</u></p>	<p>Out Come: <u>To encourage the reduction of single use consumption divert waste from the landfill.</u></p>		
<p>Support: <u>Use existing providers to gain recycling and composting usage data; Piggyback on existing events to promote (Plastic Free July and Earth Day Event; City is expanding composting program to include all of CP by January 2018.</u></p>	<p>Challenges: <u>Businesses and multifamily units may be difficult to engage because more cost is involved.</u></p>		
<p>Implementation Steps</p>	<p>Who</p>	<p>Start</p>	<p>Finish</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certifiably Green Denver Pilot piggyback 2. ID properties not recycling/ composting and target. Outreach and coordination w/ HOA's and Businesses. 3. Creating the Story: Data packet. How do we get multifamily and businesses to 'invest' in recycling and composting? 4. Events: Earth Day 5. Events: Plastic Free July 6. Battery Recycling Campaign. Phase 1- ID businesses. Find and installing boxes 7. Block Star- coordinate w/ Becky & RNO 8. Coordinate w/ City on timing and outreach for new Composting Program to complete CP. 9. Leaf Drop (in coordination with City) 	<p>Yvonne Nicole Yvonne Mario Yvonne Mario Mario/Jim Nicole Emily Hunter</p>	<p>In progress Now Now Now Now Now Now Now Now</p>	<p>Jan '18 Jan '18 July '18 April '18 August '18 April '18 Summer '18 Jan '18 Dec 8, 2017</p>
<p>Resource Requirements: Fliers and email contacts. Maps from city (electronic info).</p>	<p>Coordinator: Nicole Team: Yvonne, Mario, Jim, Taylor</p>		

Congress Park Neighborhood Climate Action Forum		October 6-7, 2017	
Action Plan: 3. Water Conservation!		(revised Oct 17, 2017)	
Out Put: <i>Reduce household water use by <u>x%</u> in <u>y%</u> of CP</i>		Out Come: <i>Water is critical/scarce</i>	
Support: <i>Denver Water, Green Team</i>		Challenges: <i>Engagement, No Incentives (some?)</i>	
Implementation Steps	Who	Start	Finish
1. Recruit more team members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Get names from mailchimp ● Make calls 	GT/Liz Team	Oct 12 Nov 1	Oct 23 Nov 15
2. Information Gathering (Research) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Denver Water (Rec/slot) ● Prior Workshop(s) ● Financial Case Study 	Team	Oct 17	Dec 17
3. Draft Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>(2 water bursts)- spring</i> 	Team	Dec 1	Feb 18
4. Test Ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey (coordinate w/other teams) ● Focus Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Homes ○ Apartments 	Team	Jan	
5. Delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Workshops ● Tools 		Summer '18	
Resources : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Denver Water Congress Park Data ● Green Team infor ● RNO Survey 		Coordinator: Carmen Team: Carmen, Susan, Liz, Joe	

Action Plan: 4. Increasing use of Alternative Transportation (revised Oct 17, 2017)

<p>Out Put: Increase use of Alt Transportation by <u>x%</u></p>	<p>Out Come: Decrease Carbon Footprint</p>		
<p>Support: City Data/ programs, businesses, block stars, bicycle lanes, Car 2 Go, Bicycle Shops</p>	<p>Challenges: Time, Habits, Lack of Info, Attitudes, Accessing bus stops, Inclement Weather</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Implementation Steps</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Who</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Start</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Finish</p>
<p>1. Research transportation data trends for Congress Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o RTD o Transportation Solutions o B Cycle o Walk 2 Connect o Way to Go <p>2. Analyze Data and create specific goals for change in Congress Park</p> <p>3. Develop Action Plan</p> <p>4. Engage Community</p> <p>5. Begin Initial Activity (ideas below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Walk ● Increase Bike to Work or Bike Month ● Engage Community on Go - Tober ● Use RTD Event (Broncos/Nuggets Game) 	<p>Becky Katie Barb Michelle Michelle</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>	<p>10/15/17</p> <p>11/13/17</p> <p>11/13/17</p> <p>3/1/2018</p>	<p>11/13/17</p> <p>11/13/17</p> <p>12/10/17</p> <p>1/31/18</p> <p>10/2018</p>
<p>Resource Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incentive Prizes, ● Data 	<p>Coordinator: Katie Team: Barb, Becky, Katie, Michelle</p>		

Congress Park Climate Action Forum – Oct 6-7, 2017

Appendices

a. Follow-up Notes for the Green Team

1. Data collection – for all action teams
2. Consider Common surveys
3. Outreach after getting ready
4. Survey monkey – (need clear questions)
5. Creating the common story – for total impact
6. Communication among the 4 teams / cohesion
7. Bi-monthly meetings and reports of progress
8. Mailing list to recruit team members
9. Block-Stars program

b. Green Team Links to websites and “contact us” information:

CPNGT Green Team webpages: <https://www.congressparkneighbors.org/green-team-2/>

CPNGT email contact:
sustainability@congressparkneighbors.org

CPN, Inc Board contact:
cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org

c. List of Participants:

First Name	Last Name		Forum - Friday	Forum - Saturday
Yvonne	Salfinger		x	x
Mary	Sullivan		x	x
Barbara	Rivera		x	x
Mario	Rivera		x	x
Lorraine	Alfini		x	
Sandy	Andrews		x	x
Grant	Stevens		x	
Bobbi	Walter		x	
Michelle	Sturm		x	x
Jim	Slotta		x	x
Katie	Kaplan		x	x
Jeffery	Kaplan		x	
Mary	Eckford		x	
Carmen	Bernedo		x	x
Taylor	Moellers		x	
Susan	Bardwell		x	x
Nicole	Malo		X	X
Joe	Wood		x	x
Liz	Goehring		x	x
Becky	Coughlin		x	x
David	Farmer			x
Maggie	Price			x

d. Forum AGENDA

Program Purpose: A gathering of Congress Park residents to focus their engagement on sustainable living initiatives in their neighborhoods over the next two years. This Forum will support current initiatives such as recycling and composting, and explore new projects to be managed by groups of residents to address the impact of climate change.

Objectives:

1. To examine the impact of climate change and solutions in our community.
2. To identify priority Action Areas for 2018 and 2019 in Congress Park
3. To energize residents to join Action Teams for current and new initiatives.

Friday, October 6 – Part I: The Reality and Response to Climate Change	
6:00 – 6:30	Arrivals – “Dot” your home on the Congress Park Map
6:30 – 6:35	Welcome – Liz / Becky
6:35 – 7:00	Introductions and a review of Congress Park initiatives – <i>What is already going on?</i>
7:00 - 7:55	Presentation and Discussion on Climate Action: a. Overview Dr. Richard Wagner, MSU 20 min b. Denver Resources – Taylor Moellers 20 min c. National initiatives – Karmen Burchett 15 min
7:55 – 8:25	Envisioning Climate Action in Congress Park, 2018 – 2019
8:25 – 8:30	Announcements and Closing
Saturday, October 7, 2017 – Part II: Priorities for Neighborhood Climate Action	
12:50 – 1:10	Arrivals – “Dot” your home and meet new people – four sectors of Congress Park
1:10 – 1:15	Welcome Back (any new participants?) and Today’s Agenda
1:15 – 1:45	Review of Friday evening Vision for Climate Action in Congress Park
1:45 - 2:15	Assessment of Strengths and Challenges to our initiatives
2:15 - 2:45	Selection of Priority Action Areas for Congress Park (This may include current projects and new initiatives)
2:45 - 4:30	Formation of Congress Park Climate Action Teams and Action Plans
4:30 – 5:00	Plenary: Action Team Reports
5:00 - 5:15	Reflections on the Forum and Next steps
5:15 – 5:30	Adjourn and clean-up

Personal Worksheet on back side →

Participant Worksheet

6:35 pm	Introductions: Your name and one thing you are now doing to work on Climate Action...	
7:00 - 7:55	Presentation and Discussion on Climate Action: - YOUR Questions or Comments: a. Overview Dr. Richard Wagner, MSU b. Denver Resources – Taylor Moellers c. National initiatives – Karmen Burchett	
7:55 – 8:25	Envisioning Climate Action in Congress Park, 2018 – 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	
Saturday, October 7, 2017 – Part II: Priorities for Neighborhood Climate Action		
1:30 - 2:15	Strengths and Assets →	← Challenges to our initiatives
2:15 - 2:45	Selection of Priority Action Areas for Congress Park (current projects and new initiatives)	
2:45 - 4:00	Formation of Congress Park Climate Action Teams and Action Plans	
4:00 - 4:45	Plenary: Action Team Reports and Implementation Calendar	

e. Blank Action Planning Form:

Congress Park Neighborhood - Climate Action Planning Form Action Plan # Title:			
Output (What will be delivered)		Outcome (Intended impact of this plan)	
Supporting Factors ☐		☐ Resisting Factors	
Implementing Steps	Who	Start Date	Finish Date
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
Resource Requirements:		Coordinator: _____ Team Members:	