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Adams County Community Planning Workshop 1

June 5, 2025

AGENDA

Time	Item
3:00-3:15pm	Welcome and Introductions
3:15-3:30pm	Decarbonize DRCOG
3:30-4:10pm	Community Baseline and Regional Efforts
4:10-4:50pm	Vision, Focus Areas, and Goals
4:50-5:00pm	Next Steps

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Develop an understanding of the Partners in Energy process and outcomes

Gain a common understanding of Adams County community characteristics and relevant regional energy initiatives

Identify key priorities

Brainstorm a community energy vision and goals

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

PARTNERS IN ENERGY CONTACTS

Xcel Energy	Community Facilitators			Adams County	
					
Sofia Troutman *Partners in Energy Program Manager*	Jillian Goulet *Partners in Energy Facilitator*	Mayra Gonzáles *Partners in Energy Facilitator*	Andrew Andraski *Partners in Energy Data Lead*	Arielle Gerstein *Sustainability Program Administrator*	Amanda Perkins *Climate Policy and Implementation Specialist*

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INTRODUCTIONS

Clear light bulb placed on chalkboard, Mar. 5, 2017. (Pexels/ Pixabay)

Please share…

- Name
- Organization & Role
- What interests you most in collaborating with Adams County?
- What goals does your community have related to energy?

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FORCE FIELD ANALYSIS

- What are the forces ***for*** energy action in your community?
- What are the forces ***against*** energy action in your community?

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TIMELINE

Task	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Baseline								
Workshop #1								
Workshop #2								
Workshop #3								
Plan Development								

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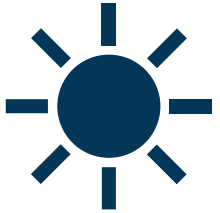
WHERE ARE WE NOW?

A DATA-DRIVEN PLANNING EFFORT

Electricity use

Natural gas use



Renewable energy program data

Energy efficiency program data

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HOW DATA GET USED

- Show where energy is used in your community
- Show past program participation
- Support focus area, goal, and target decision-making
- Support scenario modeling during the planning phase
- Track and report progress in implementation

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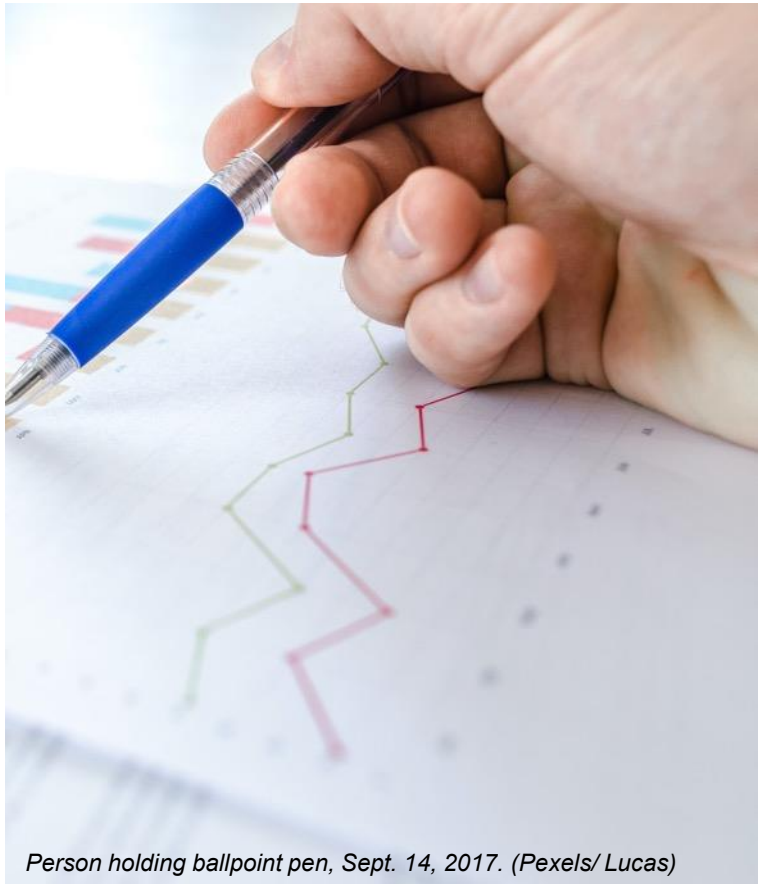
ENERGY DATA 101

- 15 x15 Data Privacy Rule
- Caveats of data processing
- Includes Xcel Energy data 2021-2023
- Data are unofficial for planning purposes, and results may change slightly over time



Person holding ballpoint pen, Sept. 14, 2017. (Pexels/ Lucas)

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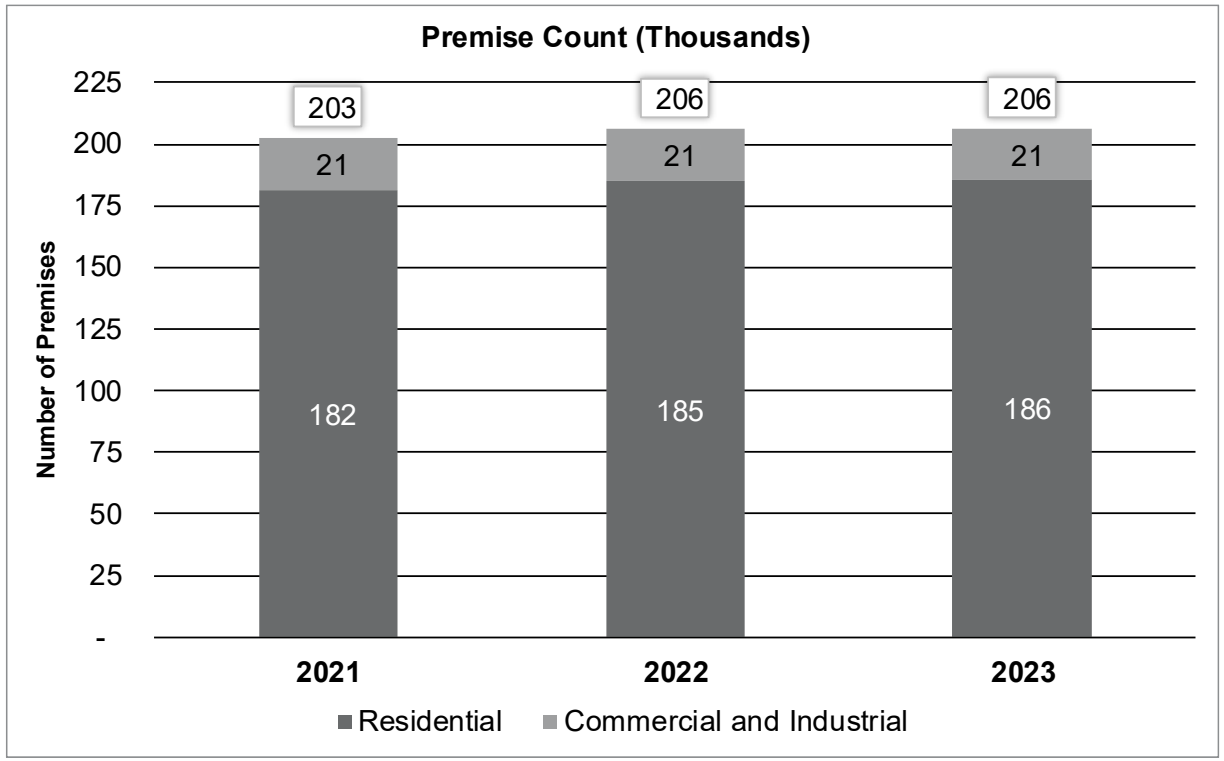
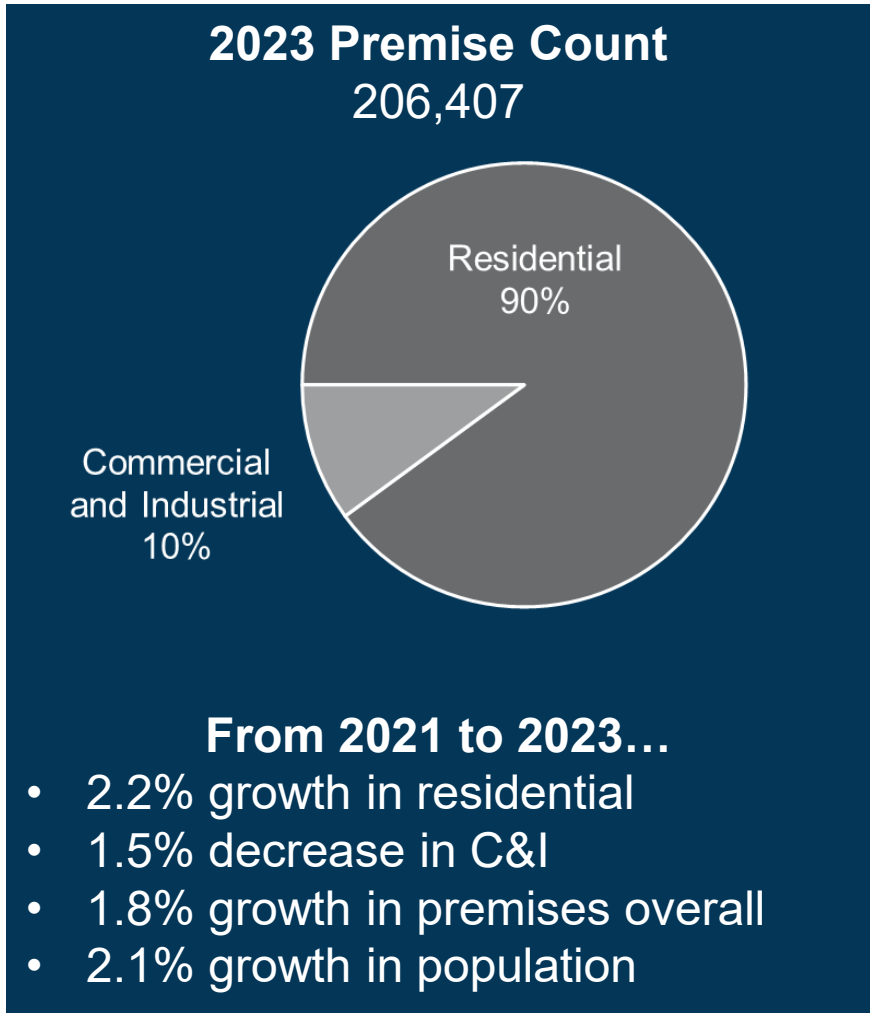
REVIEWING COMMUNITY GROWTH THROUGH UTILITY PREMISES



Sources: *Energy data Partners in Energy dataset; Population change US Census Bureau*



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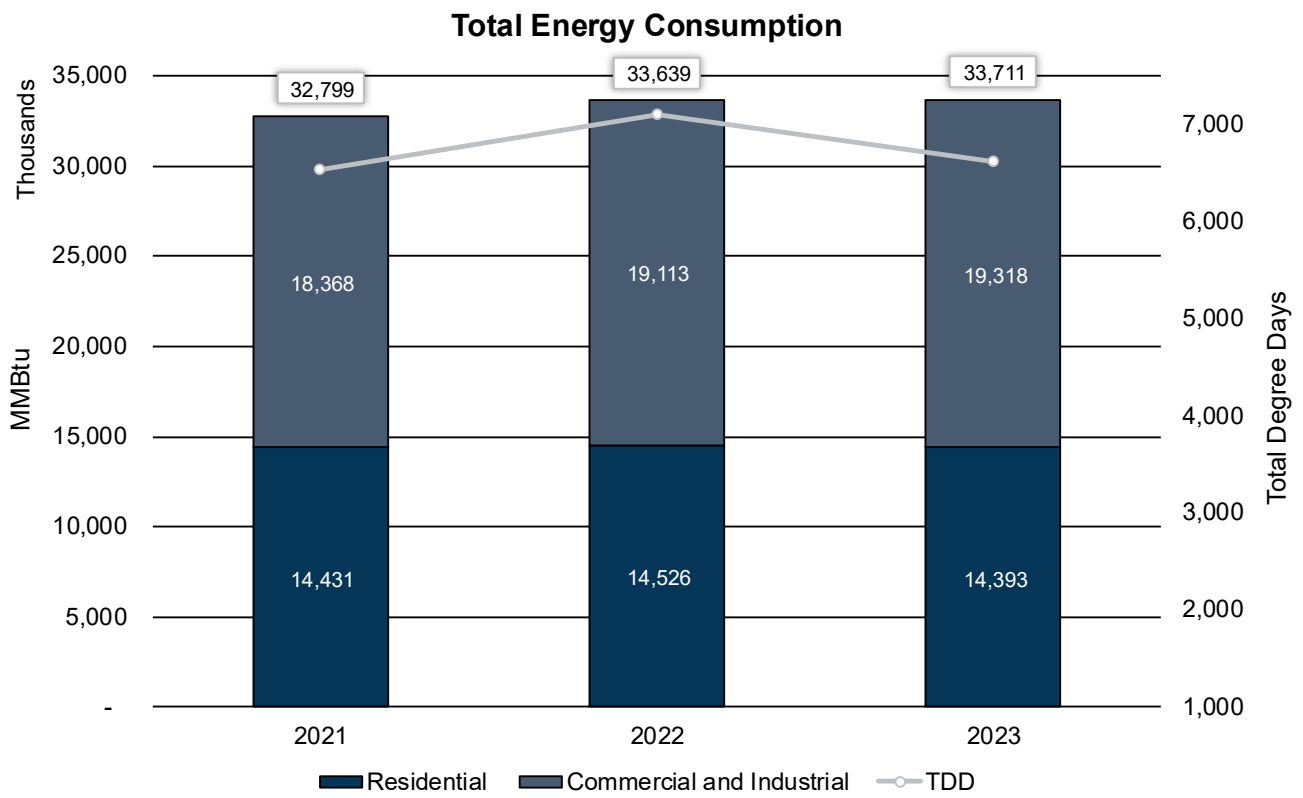
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL ENERGY USE IN ADAMS COUNTY



Use by Sector

Consistently split across all years

- 57% Commercial
- 43% Residential

Use Trends

Minor fluctuations across years

- +5% total commercial energy use
- -0.3% total residential energy use

Total Degree Days

- Less than 10% fluctuation year over year

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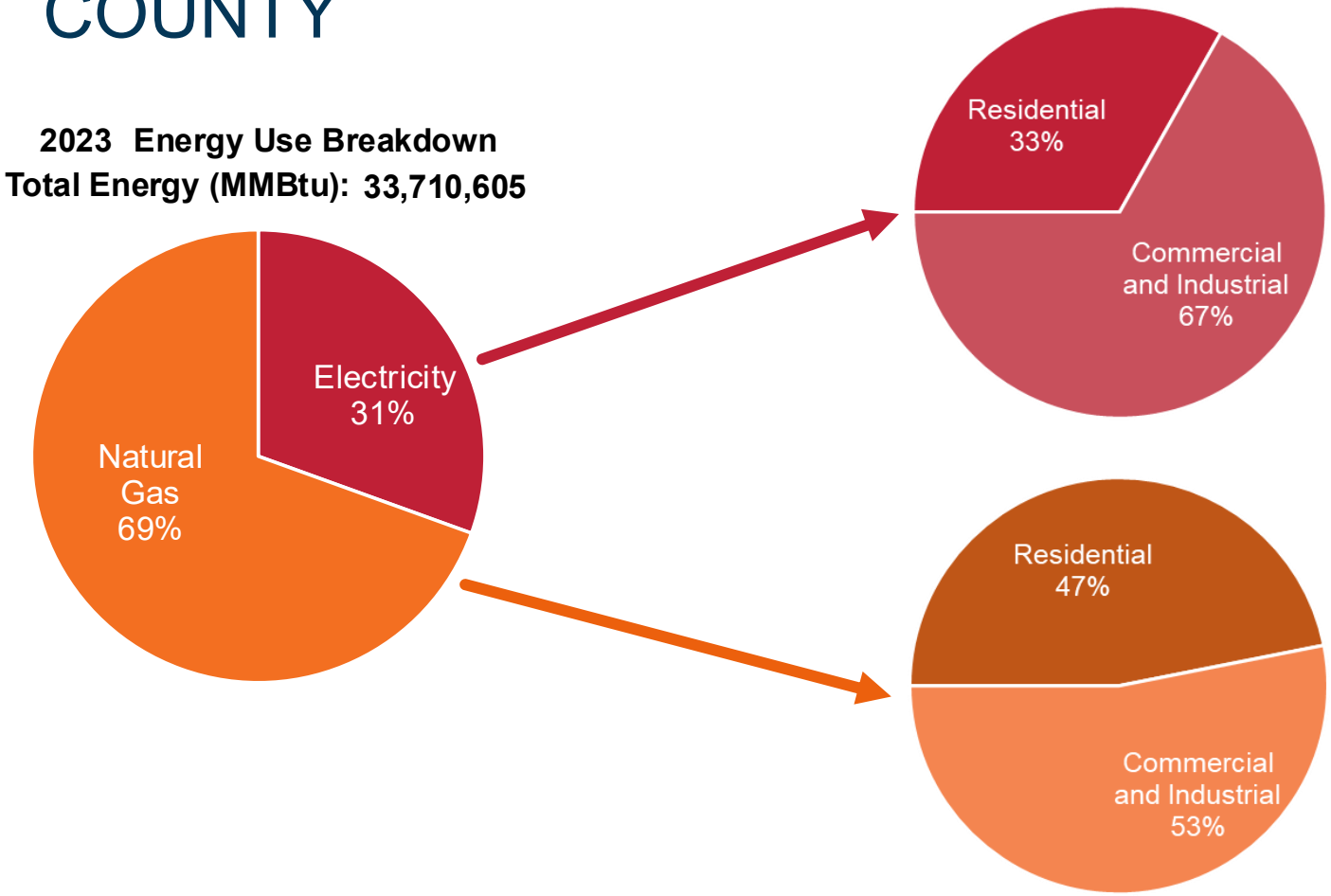
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL ENERGY USE IN ADAMS COUNTY

2023 Energy Use Breakdown
Total Energy (MMBtu): 33,710,605



- Residential Total = 1.00 Billion kWh
- Commercial Total = 2.01 Billion kWh

- Residential Total = 110M Therms
- Commercial Total = 124M Therms

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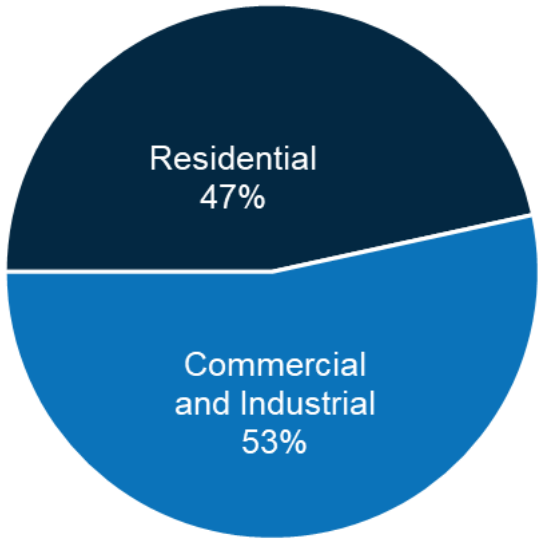
ADDING CONTEXT TO ADAMS COUNTY'S 2023 ENERGY USE

2023 Energy Costs ($)
$517,618,271



Residential Energy		Commercial Energy	
$1,260	Annual spend on energy for a typical home	**$13,300**	Annual spend on energy for a typical business
5,400 kWh	Annual electricity use for a typical home	**97,000 kWh**	Annual electricity use for a typical business
600 therms	Annual natural gas use for a typical home	**6,000 therms**	Annual natural gas use for a typical business

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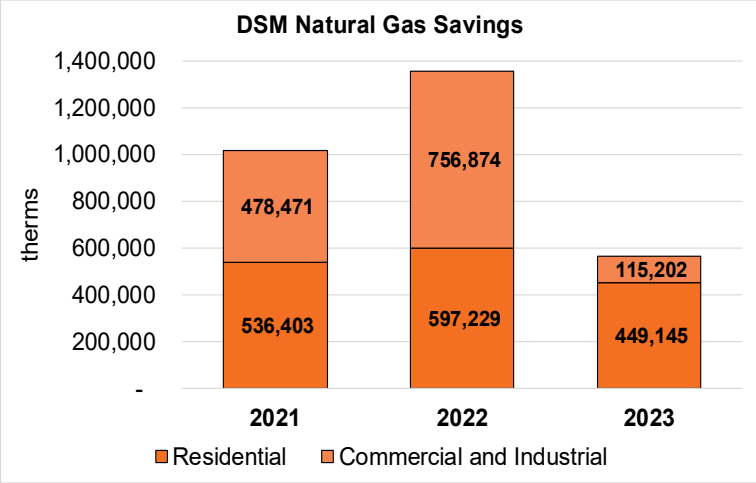
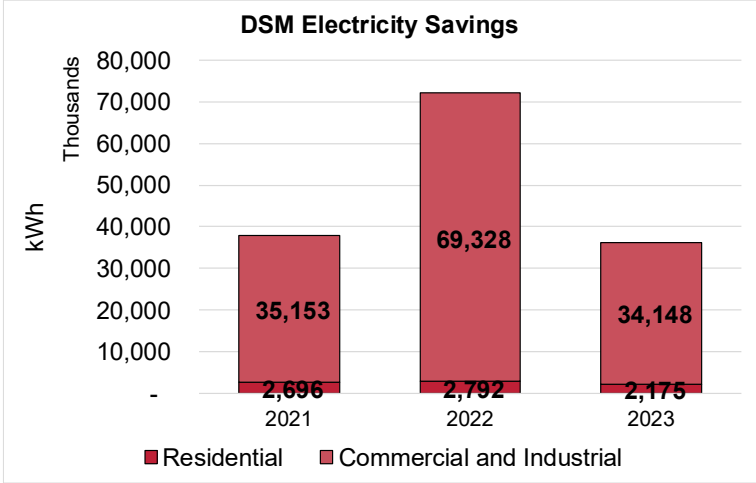
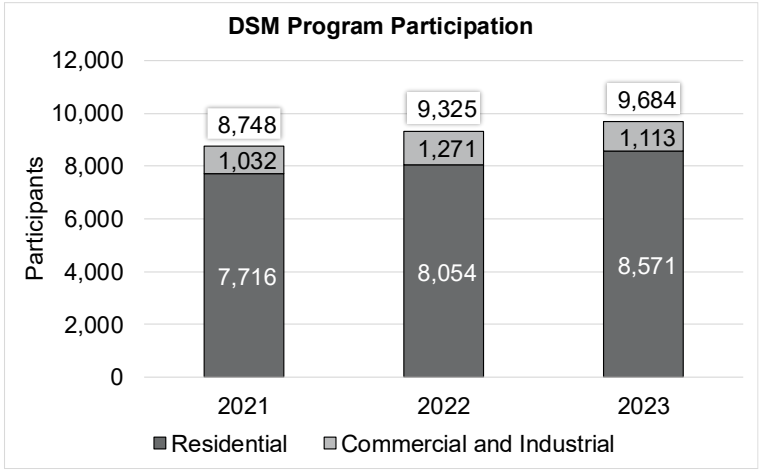
ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Sector	Average Natural Gas Savings	Average Electricity Savings	Average Program Participation
Residential	527,600 therms	2,554,000 kWh	8,114 participants
Commercial	450,200 therms	46,210,000 kWh	1,139 participants
Total	**977,800 therms annually**	**48,764,000 kWh annually**	**9,252 participants annually**







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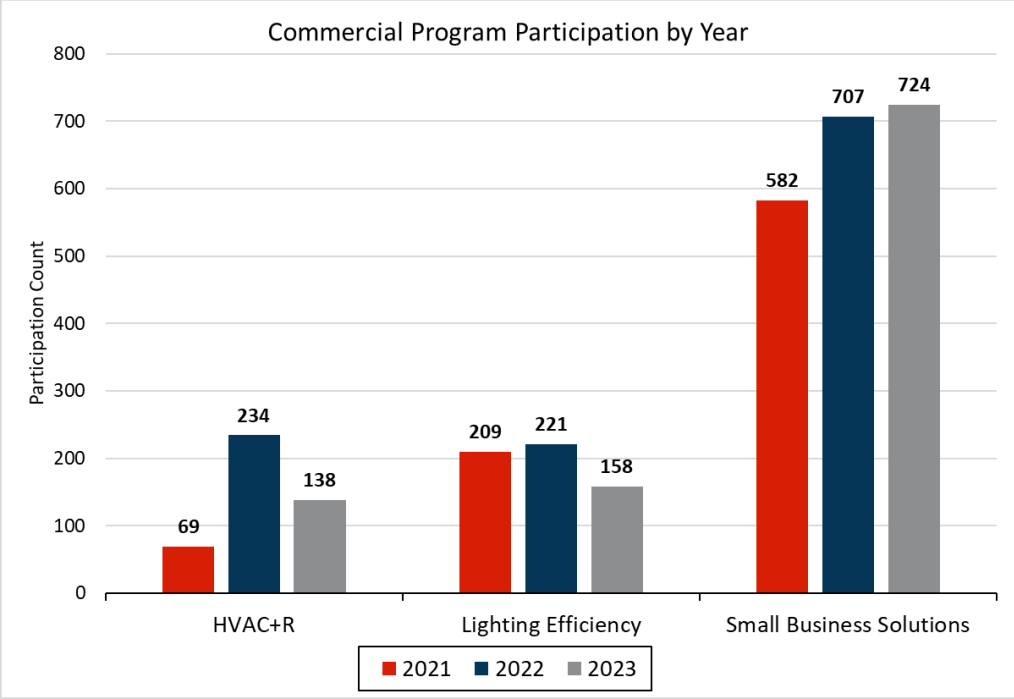
TOP PROGRAM PARTICIPATION – COMMERCIAL



Program	2023 Participation	2023 Avg. Savings Per Participant	2023 Total Energy Savings
Small Business Solutions	724	5,800 kWh < 1 Th	4.2M kWh 100 Th **14,400 MMBtu**
Lighting Efficiency	158	96,000 kWh	15.1M kWh 0 Th **51,600 MMBtu**
HVAC + R	138	47,000 kWh 167 Th	6.5M kWh 23,000 Th **24,400 MMBtu**

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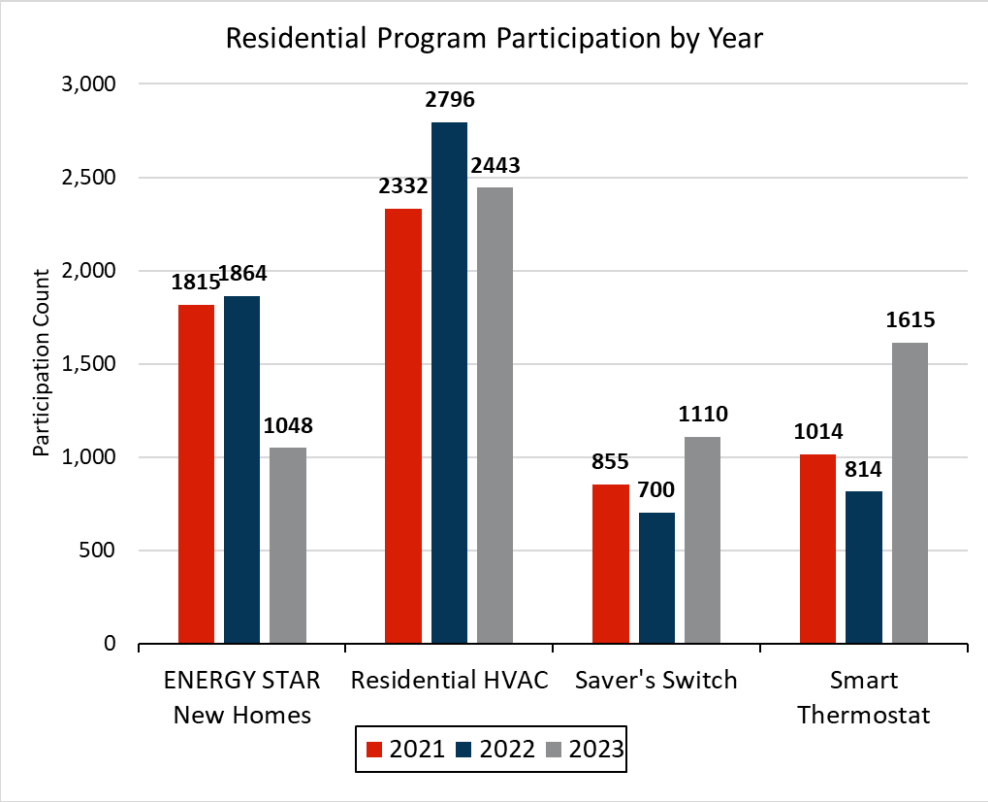
TOP PROGRAM PARTICIPATION – RESIDENTIAL



Program	2023 Participation	2023 Avg. Savings Per Participant	2023 Total Energy Savings
Residential HVAC	2,443	220 kWh 70 Th	532,100 kWh 169,700 Th **18,800 MMBtu**
Smart Thermostat	1,615	4 kWh	6,460 kWh 0 Th **22 MMBtu**
Saver's Switch	1,110	6 kWh	6,403 kWh 0 Th **22 MMBtu**
ENERGY STAR New Homes	1,048	550 kWh 170 Th	572,500 kWh 177,800 Th **19,700 MMBtu**

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ADAMS COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

POPULATION
519,572

MEDIAN AGE
35.1

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH
29%

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
$97,706

POVERTY RATE
9.6%

MEDIAN HOUSING VALUE
$494,500

% of Households below 80% AMI
38.3%

HOUSING UNITS
200,085

HOUSING BUILT BEFORE 2000
61.3%

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES
71.5%

RENTER-OCCUPIED UNITS
31.7%

SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2023 1-year estimates

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

COMMON EQUITY RECOGNITION VARIABLES

Common demographic variables

- Income / % in poverty
- Education & employment
- Race & ethnicity

Other demographic variables

- % without internet
- Linguistic isolation
- % without health insurance
- % with a disability
- Seniors living alone
- Single parent households

Climate variables

- Risk of floods, fire, heat waves, hurricanes
- Urban heat islands
- Adaptive capacity (emerging)

Pollution exposure

- Lead
- Proximity to hazardous waste
- Air, water, & soil quality

Health outcomes

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Cancer clusters
- Maternal & infant survival
- Life expectancy

Housing factors

- Energy insecurity
- Energy burden
- Age of housing
- Occupancy status (owner, renter)
- Eviction risk
- Median income of households adopting clean energy

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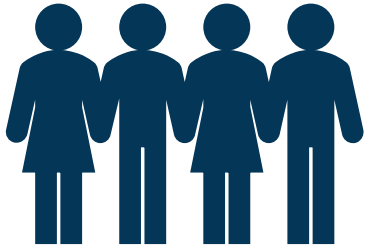
WHAT DOES EQUITY MEAN IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



What are the equity concerns your community is currently facing?

How is your community currently prioritizing equity?

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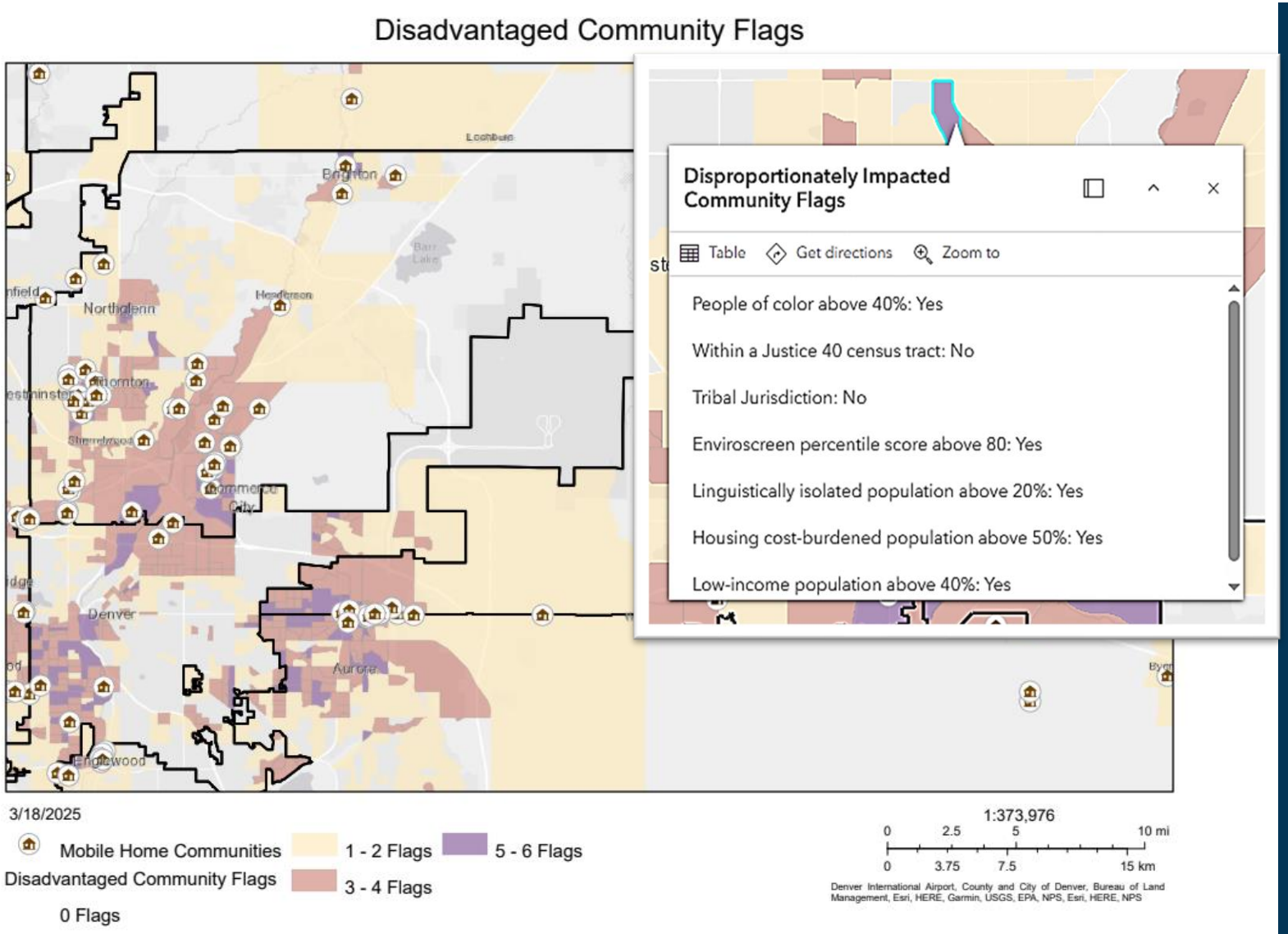
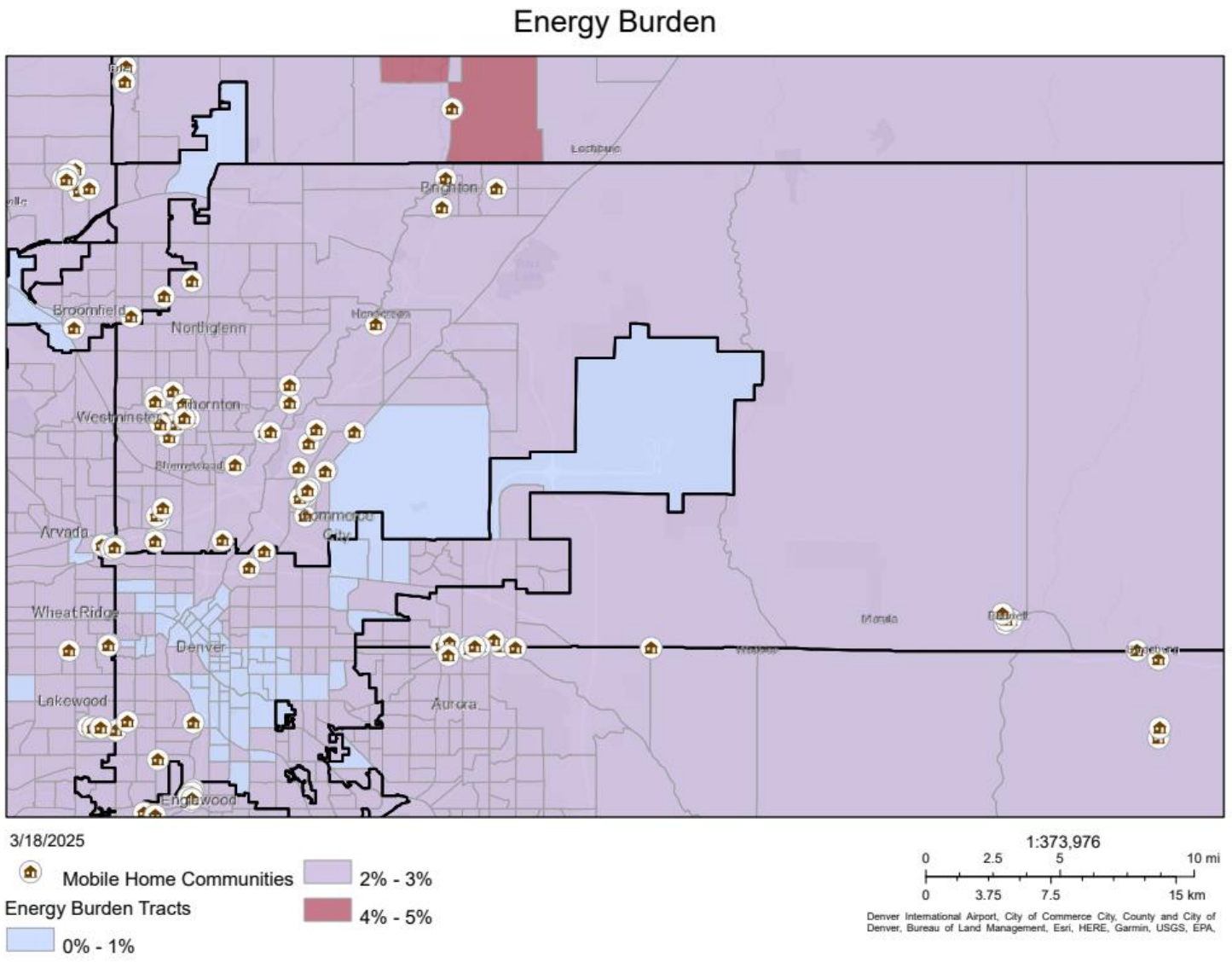
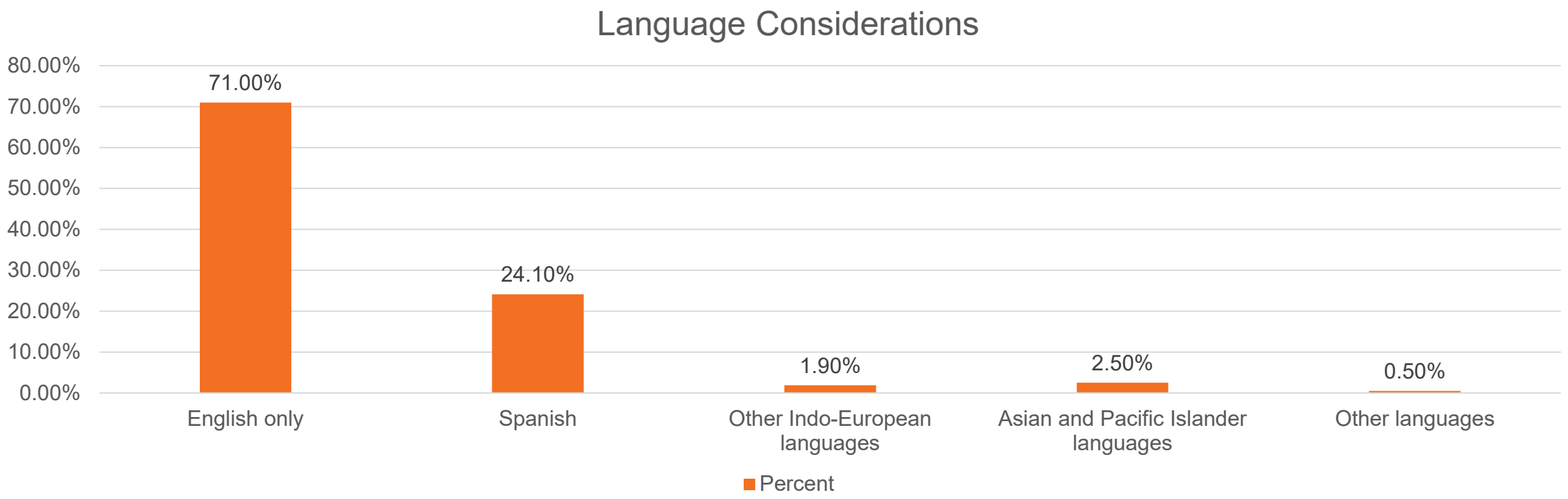
EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS: DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES





EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS: ENERGY BURDEN

EQUITY-DRIVEN CONSIDERATIONS



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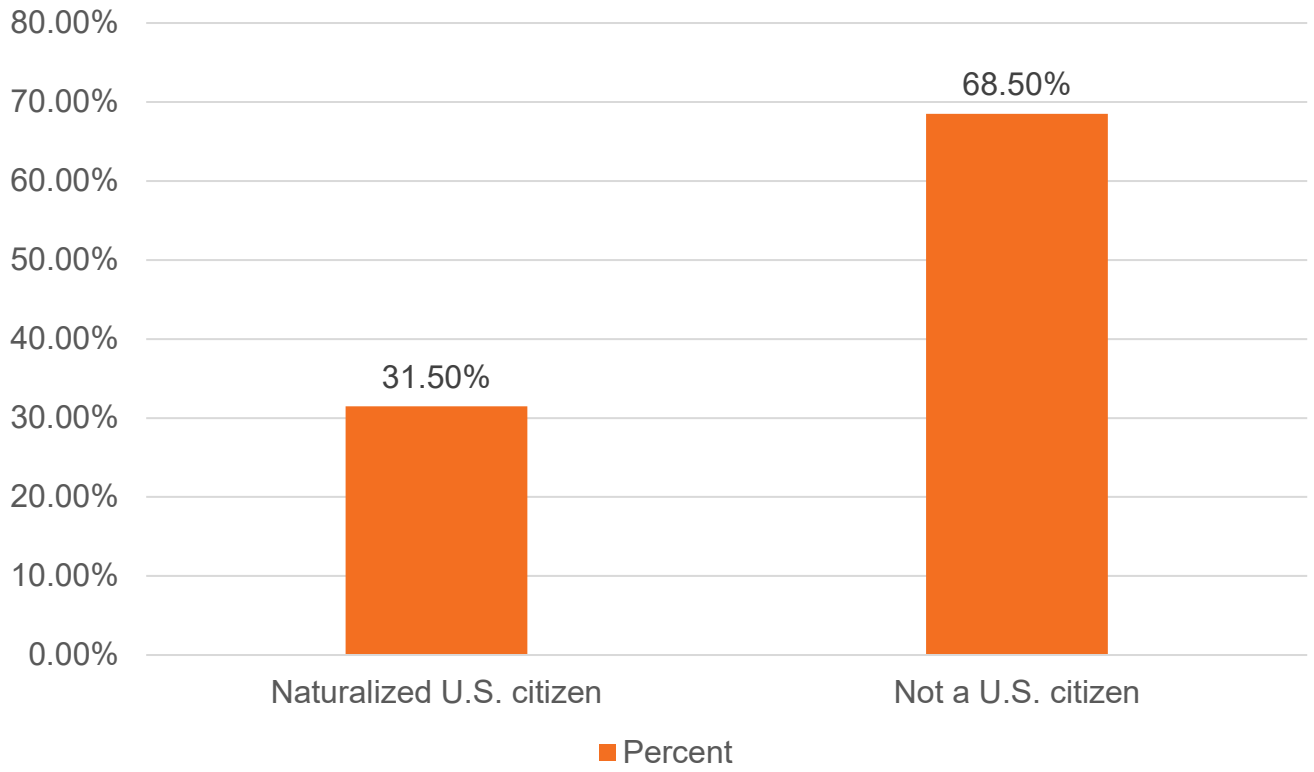
EQUITY-DRIVEN CONSIDERATIONS

- 15.7% Foreign-born population, of which:



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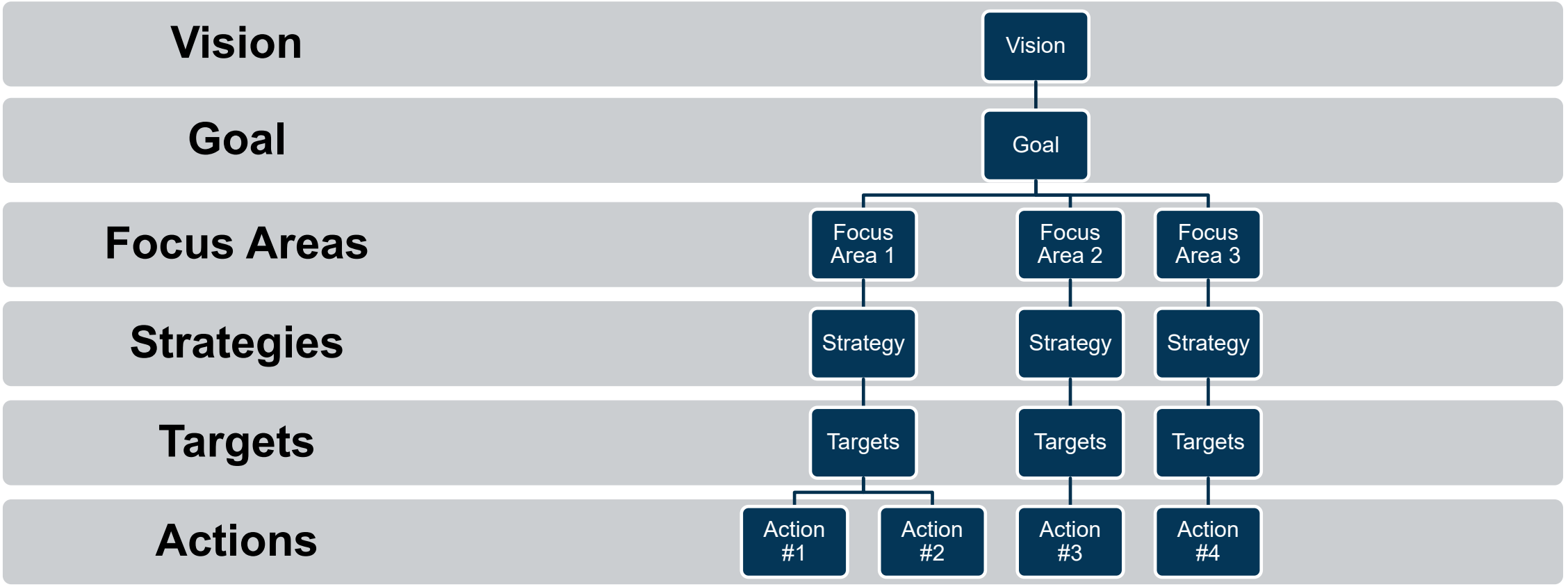
IMPLICATIONS FOR EQUITY

- *Are there barriers or opportunities based on income, language spoken, education?*
- *Are there key community participants who should be involved based on equity demographics?*
- *How can Adams County support your community to meet its equity needs?*

Kids recycling, Aug 17, 2022. (Pexels/Pixabay)

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

ENERGY ACTION PLAN STRUCTURE



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WHAT IS AN ENERGY VISION?

Expression of the community's shared energy intention

- Serves as a North Star in planning process
- Reflects community's voice
- Used as a focusing tool
  - How should we prioritize which strategies?
  - What should we track to measure success?
- Provides a "why" and "how" vs. a "what" and "who"

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EXAMPLE VISION STATEMENTS

City of Thornton

Thornton will lead the way in creating a more resilient community through energy efficiency improvements and the adoption of energy sources that reduce carbon emissions from municipal operations while also facilitating equitable access to energy programs and opportunities for residents and businesses.

CITY OF Northglenn

The Northglenn community will conserve its resources and promote sustainability through energy awareness, renewable sources, and collaboration to provide an exceptional quality of life and resilient future for residents and businesses.

GROUP ACTIVITY:
DEVELOPING OUR ENERGY VISION

What are our core values? Which values do all communities have in common?

What does a successful collaborative energy future look like?

HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

FOCUS AREAS

IF YOU HAD 3 STRATEGIES TO IMPLEMENT OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, WHAT FOCUS AREA WOULD YOU PUT THEM IN?

- Poster Activity
- Instructions
  1. You have 3 dots (votes) total to allocate on per page.
  2. Place your dots next to the focus areas you believe are most important to address over the next two years.
  3. You may distribute your dots however you like (all 3 on one area, or 1 each on three different areas).

ELEMENTS OF A WELL-DEFINED GOAL

S	**Specific**	*Who, what, where, and why*
M	**Measurable**	*How much, how many*
A	**Achievable**	*Goals within reach to increase likelihood of success*
R	**Realistic**	*Tools to accomplish the goals should be available*
T	**Time-bound**	*Set a timeframe for accomplishing goals*
I	**Inclusive**	*Includes perspectives of historically marginalized populations*
E	**Equitable**	*Elements of fairness so everyone benefits*

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COLORADO CONTEXT

- Climate commitments
  - **By 2025,** reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by at least **26% from 2005 levels**
  - **By 2030,** reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by at least **50% from 2005 levels**
  - **By 2050,** reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by at least **90% from 2005 levels**
- Governor Polis' administration priorities
  - **By 2040, 100%** renewable energy

Sources:

- *https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1261*
- *https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6111385-Governor-Polis-Roadmap-to-100-Renewable.html*

EXISTING ENERGY EFFORTS IN ADAMS COUNTY

ENERGY

Goal 1: Incorporate energy efficiency and new energy technologies and building practices in new facilities and retrofit eligible existing facilities.

- Achieve 15% reduction in energy use intensity (EUI – energy use per square foot)
- Track the number of existing facility energy efficiency retrofits
- Incorporate at least 1 sustainable technology in each new facility

Goal 2: Increase use and procurement of renewable energy for county facilities.

- Achieve 50% renewable energy supply
- Increase number of facilities with on-site solar to 5

Goal 3: Expand, create, and advocate for equitable clean energy opportunities for all community members to reduce our carbon footprint.

- Create 1 solar co-op annually
- Increase number of CPACE projects in the county to 20
- Maintain or increase the number of participants in weatherization and Minor Home Repair programs
- Issue 2,600 total solar permits

What else is happening in your community?

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COMMUNITY GOAL CONTEXT

Survey Results

- Align existing/planned energy or sustainability goals with Adams County
- Focus on public outreach, utility cost reduction (esp. for low-income), and greenhouse gas reductions
- Implementation support with focus on low-income and marginalized communities
- Planning support to expand energy efficiency opportunities for underserved residents

COMMUNITY GOAL EXAMPLES

- **Thornton**

Our Goals: The planning team expressed a collective desire to “move the needle” on a community scale through energy efficiency improvements and promotion of renewable energy sources in the short term (2020-2022), and through alignment with the State of Colorado’s climate commitments in the long-term (2030 and beyond).

Based on these shared intentions, Thornton commits to:

- By 2022, increasing participation in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs by 30% over the 2018 baseline year.
- By 2030, aligning with state climate and energy goals, which means reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% across all sectors.

WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE METRIC FOR THIS PLAN'S GOAL?

GHG Reduction	Energy Savings	Energy Use/Cost	Renewable Energy Adoption	Community Participation
• Reflects energy efficiency and renewable energy impacts • Aligns with State goals • Units may not be intuitive	• Most concrete • Directly tied to community participation • Units may not be intuitive	• Tangible metric • Impacted by weather, population, etc.	• Could be overall (impacted by grid mix) or local generation • Units may not be intuitive	• Easiest to track • Intuitive units • Impact is not as clear

WHAT ARE OUR NEXT STEPS?

NEXT STEPS

Mark your Calendars

- Next Workshop
  - August
    - Align around draft vision and goals
    - Review relevant energy programs by focus area
    - Brainstorm and prioritize strategies
    - Brainstorm preliminary action plan components for prioritized strategies