

A Climate Action Strategy for the Cool Boulder Campaign

A collaboration between the City of Boulder, Nature-Based Climate Solutions, and the CU Masters of the Environment (MENV) program. Compiled by Aspen Bias, Danielle Furuichi, Adam Hall, and Shannon Keane.

Why Cool Boulder?

Leading experts are recognizing that in order to mitigate climate change, cities must think beyond emissions reduction and prioritize the implementation of nature-based climate solutions (NCS)—efforts that aim to sequester carbon while also improving a community's resilience to climate change (1). **The Cool Boulder Campaign will support and mobilize Boulder residents in their NCS efforts over the next 10 years by focusing on three primary areas: Connected Canopies, Pollinator Pathways, and Absorbent Landscapes (2).**



Connected Canopies

Expanding Boulder's urban forest



Pollinator Pathways

Supporting native pollinators



Absorbent Landscapes

Capturing C, H₂O, & thermal energy

Equity in NCS Implementation

The MENV Team strives to incorporate the following dimensions of equity into their project:

- Procedural Equity
- Distributional Equity
- Structural Equity

Our Purpose

The purpose of this project is to create a strategy for action: a compilation of recommendations to guide Cool Boulder's efforts to implement NCS over the next decade. In these efforts, the health and resilience of communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change have been prioritized.

1. Kopsieker, L et al. (2021, February 24). Nature-based solutions and their socio-economic benefits for Europe's recovery. Institute for European Environmental Policy. Retrieved March 15, 2022, from <https://ieep.eu/publications/nature-based-solutions-and-their-socio-economic-benefits-for-europe-s-recovery>
2. <https://www.coolboulder.org/>

Key Collaborators



Methods

- Background Research
- Stakeholder Surveys
- Community Events
- Process Documentation
- Relationship Building
- Campaign Meeting Participation

Project Outcomes

Cool Boulder Strategy Document

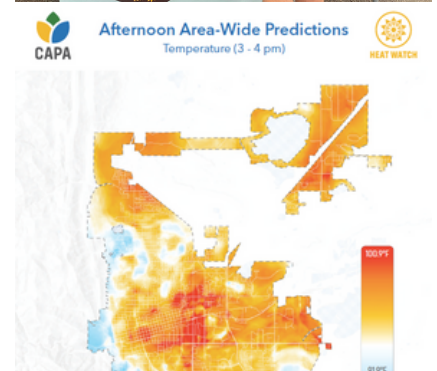
The team will create short and long-term strategies for the Cool Boulder Campaign to implement nature-based climate solutions in the City of Boulder over the next 10 years. This document will focus on Cool Boulder's action areas, Connected Canopies, Absorbent Landscapes, and Pollinator Pathways, as well as urban heat mapping and community engagement.

Lessons Learned Document

Following the completion of their project, the team will compile their experiences into a lesson learned document for the internal leadership team of the Cool Boulder Campaign. This document will be used to inform future decisions related to stakeholder engagement, communications, implementation strategies, and events related to the Campaign.

Cool Boulder Events

To engage with community members and build support around the Cool Boulder Campaign and NCS, team members supported and co-led several events. The first was BVSD's tree planting event for Earth Day 2022 in which over 2,000 trees were planted by volunteers throughout Boulder county. The team also led the 2022 Urban Heat Island (UHI) Mapping Project with NOAA and CAPA Strategies in which they had over 70 volunteers collect heat data in late July. Lastly, the team will assist Cool Boulder in hosting planting and educational events with their recently trained Pollinator Advocates for Pollinator Appreciation Month in September.



From top down: UHI mapping, UHI Map, Earth Day planting

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