




**FROM NEW
IDEA TO
COUNTYWIDE
INITIATIVE**

County Commissioner
Will Toor

**Boulder County -
Recent Major Initiatives:**

- **2005 Issue 1A** - a TABOR exemption that provides funding for public safety, sustainability, and health and human services programs
- **Sustainability Initiative**
- **Human Services** nonprofit funding
- **Integrated Treatment Court (ITC)**
- **Forest Health Initiative**
- **Transportation**

2005 Boulder County Issue 1A

Boulder County accomplished its own 'De-Bruce'ing' Ballot Initiative in 2005


- ▣ **Allocation restrictions:**
 - At least 30% must be spent on public safety services,
 - 6.77% on environmental sustainability
 - 20% on health and human services (of which 1/3 must go to local non-profits.)
- ▣ **Total for Sustainability:** \$1.5 million/year

How Sustainability Initiative was launched:

- ▣ Started with **Commissioner discussions**
- ▣ Adoption of **policy resolutions**
- ▣ 5-Year **dedicated funding** for Sustainability-related projects (from 2005 1A "de-TABORing" issue)
- ▣ Creation of the **Consortium of Cities Energy Strategies Task Force**
- ▣ Adoption of the **Sustainable Energy Plan**

Effective Strategies...

- ▣ **Collaboration** among multiple jurisdictions
- ▣ **Funding partnerships** (public, private)
- ▣ **Pooling staff resources** for program administration and program development
- ▣ **Active marketing** with the media, partners, local jurisdictions, etc.



Sustainability Initiative - Accomplishments '05-present:


- **Countywide Zero Waste Resolution**
- Innovative new Land Use programs – **BuildSmart** and **Transfer of Development Credits Clearinghouse**
- **Septic Smart** – collaboration with Public Health
- **Hauler Ordinance** w/contractor licensing
- **Single-stream recycling, residential composting**
- **Hybrids and biodiesel fleet options**
- **Cooperative proposals** – GEO and DOLA
- Creation of **Food and Ag policy council**

Sustainability Accomplishments '05-present (continued...)

- Facility Investments
 - ▣ LEED Gold building standard
 - ▣ Solar PV for 9 buildings through 3rd party (no County dollars)
 - ▣ Annual energy efficient building upgrades
 - ▣ Biomass heating at Open Space/Transportation complex
 - ▣ Zero Waste - recycling & composting - in County buildings

Policy adoptions:

- Worked on passage of **HB 1350** with Rep. Alice Madden (2008 state legislative session)
- Leveraging HB 1350 to launch **2008 County Ballot Issue 1A – Clean Energy Options LID**



Funding for Human Services Non-Profits:


- **Operations**
 - Dedicated funding – 2005 1A dedicated funding stream for non-profit operations
 - “Drop in the Bucket” campaign
- **Capital Improvements**
 - ‘Worthy Cause’ – Passed in ‘00, extended in ‘03
 - County Ballot Issue 1B – seeking third “term” in ‘08 (10-year extension)
 - Dedicated funding and pool funding for capital improvements

Forest Health Initiative:

- **Launched in 2008**
- Identified growing, long-term landowner and public land **Forest Health issues**
- Worked with Staff and partner agencies (local, state, federal) to determine county needs
- Establishing multiple sites for biomass/wood collection and air curtain burner utilization
- Pursuing **biomass** power plants – county & private sector collaboration
- FTEs and support staff -operations, public relations, community outreach

Transportation:

- **New multi-modal vision** for County Transportation Department
- New **focus on Eco-Pass, bike facilities, transit routes** in County
- **2007 Transportation CIP** ballot issue
 - ▣ 15-year extension, .1% sales tax for trails, transit, bikeways and road safety



Integrated Treatment Court

- Leadership by **Chief District Judge** and County Commissioners
- Collaboration with **Sheriff, Public Health, Social Services, Mental Health**
- Significant resources invested in targeting **habitual offenders with addiction problems**
- **Goal:** form a partnership to reduce addiction and improve life functioning for families and individuals, to reduce recidivism, increase family reunification with parents or other family members and reduce the use of jail beds.

Results of ITC

- **88% reduction in jail bed use** by participants in the first nine months
- Average of **42 jail beds saved on a daily basis** – meaning jail has extra capacity, whereas it was often at or near capacity in prior to ITC launch
- **Two ITC courts** - Adult, Family - in operation
- **DUI & juvenile ITCs being considered**

Summary: Ideal Factors for Community Support

- **Political environment receptive to change, new ideas**
- **Well-researched, well-reasoned idea** - even if untested or has costs associated with it
- **Well-documented costs and *cost savings***
- **Collaboration** with towns, cities, other agencies, private business
- **Clear, regular communications** about new initiatives

Questions?

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