




PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEMORANDUM
#39-2024

DATE: Nov. 18, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager 
Jason Loveland, Deputy City Manager 

FROM: Brook Svoboda, Director of Planning & Development 
Mara Owen, Sustainability Coordinator

SUBJECT: Climate Action and Resilience Plan

PURPOSE

To update City Council on the development of the Climate Action and Resilience Plan and to receive Council feedback and consensus on the draft plan.

BACKGROUND

In April 2024, the City engaged Brendle Group to develop Northglenn's first Climate Action and Resilience Plan. It focuses on a data-driven approach with a strong emphasis on community capacity building. The plan aims to address both the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and enhancing the community's resilience to current and future climate impacts (adaptation). Additionally, the plan seeks to empower residents, businesses, and organizations to act.

This discussion will highlight progress on the plan, including the draft vision, goal framework, and proposed objectives and solutions to ensure alignment with Council's strategic priorities.

Key questions/discussion items for Council consideration:

1. Provide feedback on the draft:
 - a. Plan vision
 - b. Greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal framework
 - c. Resilience goal framework
 - d. Topic area objectives
 - e. Solutions
2. Other considerations from Council

NEXT STEPS

The Brendle Group, in collaboration with staff, will incorporate Council feedback to finalize the vision and goal framework. Subsequent phases will include prioritizing actions within each solution, informed by data and resource optimization.

Upcoming Council touchpoints:

- March 3, 2025: Detailed review of the implementation plan, which will include the final set of actions, timelines, budget, and staffing needs required to achieve the plan's objectives.
- April 14, 2025: Presentation of the final plan

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

The Brendle Group is under contract for \$150,000 to complete this work, with funding coming from the General Fund.

There are no time implications.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff is seeking consensus on the plan's vision, emissions goal framework and resiliency goal framework.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council Members have any questions, please contact Brook Svoboda, Director of Planning & Development, at bsvoboda@northglenn.org or 303.450.8937.

ATTACHMENT

1. Presentation



CITY OF
Northglenn

Climate Action and Resilience Plan

Sarah Kaye (she/her) | Brendle Group, Lead Sustainability Planner |
Northglenn Climate Plan Project Manager

November 18, 2024

Presented By:



Agenda and Objectives

Objectives

- Get Council feedback on Northglenn's Climate Action and Resilience Draft Framework including:
 - Plan-wide Vision
 - Plan-wide GHG and Resilience Goals
 - Topic area objectives and solutions

Agenda

Time	Topic
5 min	Planning Process Update
5 min	Draft Vision Overview
10 min	Draft Goals Overview
10 min	<i>Draft Topic Area Overview</i>
30 min	Discussion

In Focus for Discussion Today:

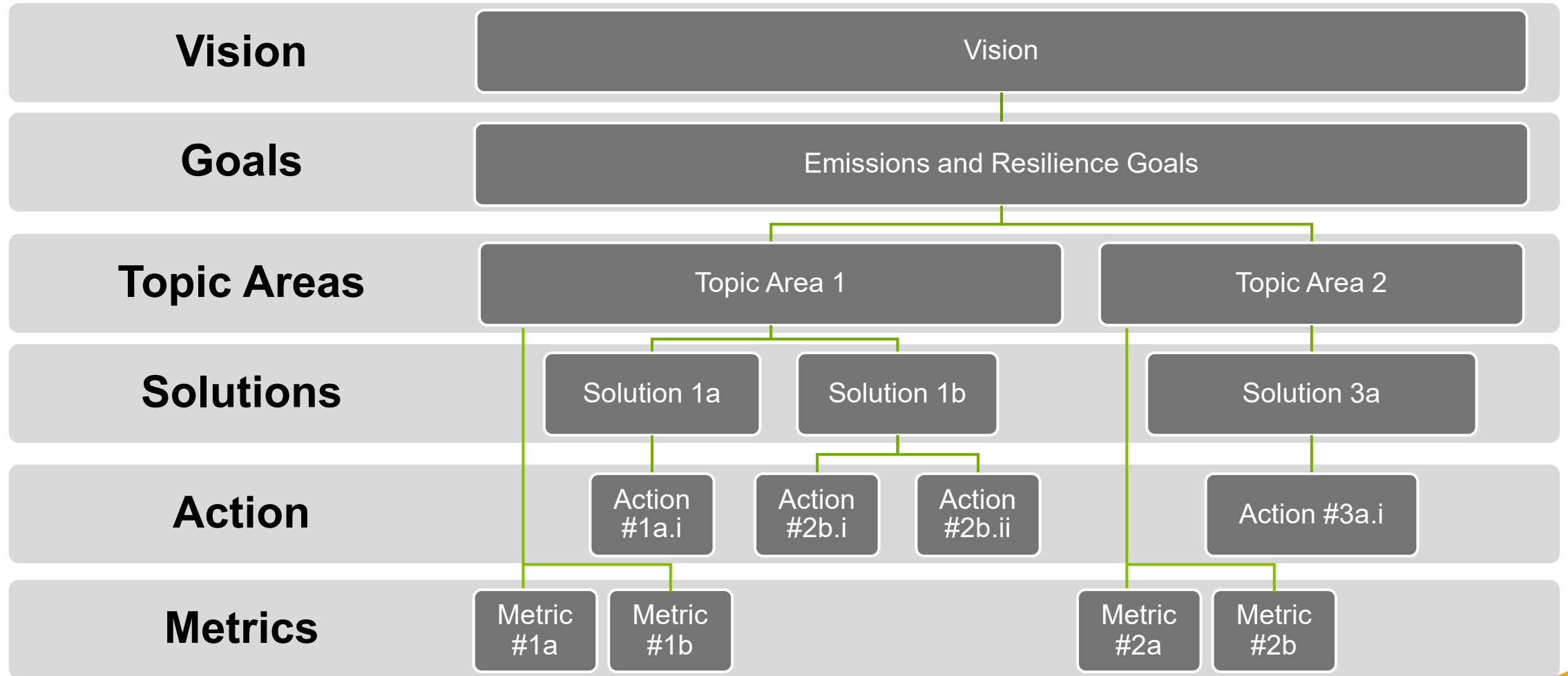
1. Do you support and/or have feedback on the draft:
 - a) Plan vision?
 - b) Greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal framework?
 - c) Approach for a resilience goal framework?
 - d) Topic area objectives?
 - e) Solutions?
2. Is there anything else you would like us to consider as we refine bottom-up modeling

Planning Process Overview

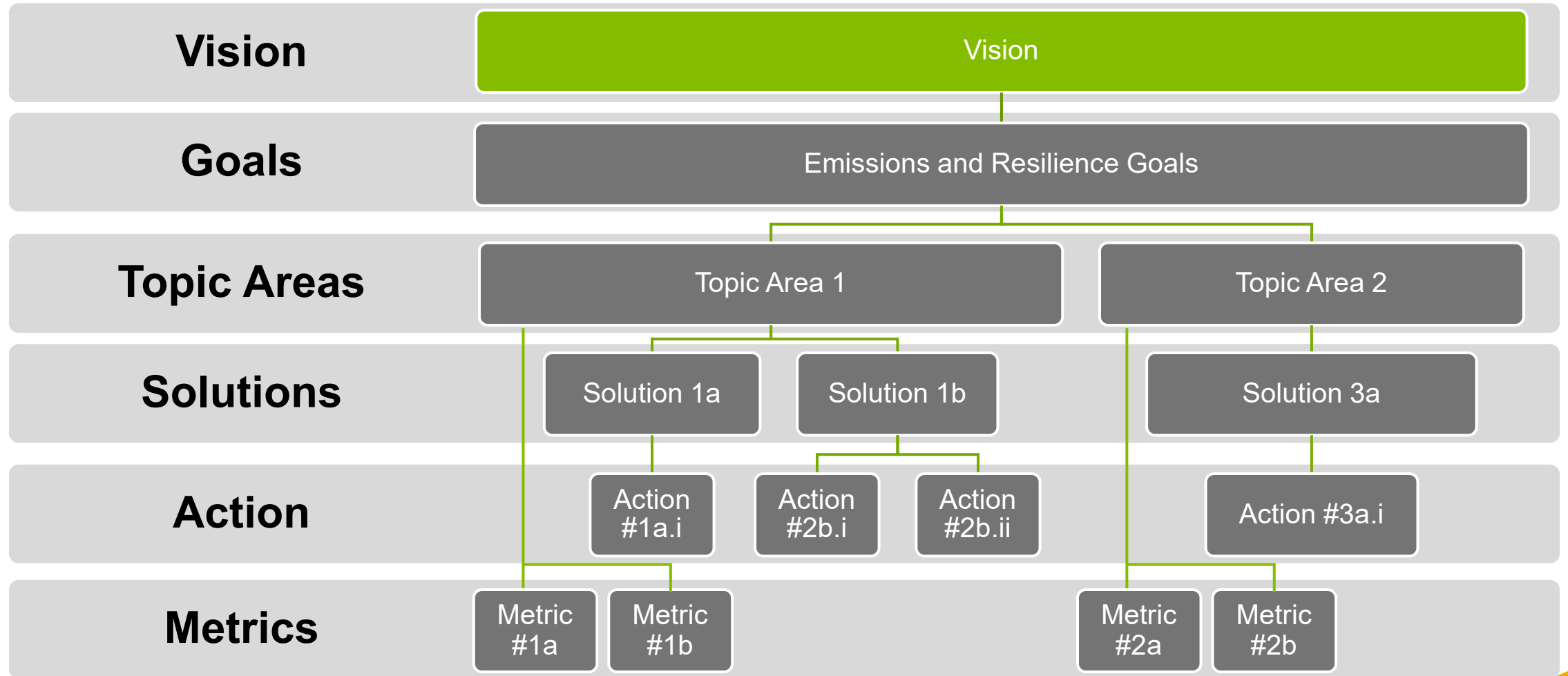
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Existing Conditions Where have we been?	WG												
Vision and Goals Where do we want to go?			SC CE	CC	WG								
Priority Actions How will we get there?								WG					
Defining Success How will we be accountable?								CC	SC	CE	CC	CC	

WG = Working Group
 SC = Sustainability Committee
 CE = Community Engagement
 CC = City Council

Planning Framework



Draft Plan Vision



Plan Vision: Northglenn's Approach to Climate Action

The City of Northglenn's Climate Action and Resilience plan will inspire collective action to strategically draw down climate emissions, while improving our collective ability to cope with the impacts of climate change. Climate action in Northglenn will be:

Aspirational

We acknowledge the importance of local efforts in the context of a global crisis

Inspirational

Northglenn residents see their priorities reflected in the plan, and are excited to take part in working toward shared community goals

Integrated

Climate mitigation and resilience is integrated into the fiber of everything we do

Strategic

Northglenn prioritizes climate action and investment in a manner that maximizes direct benefits to our community

Regionally Aligned

Northglenn's climate action and resilience plan will advance regional collaboration and act as a part of the larger front range and Colorado climate action ecosystem

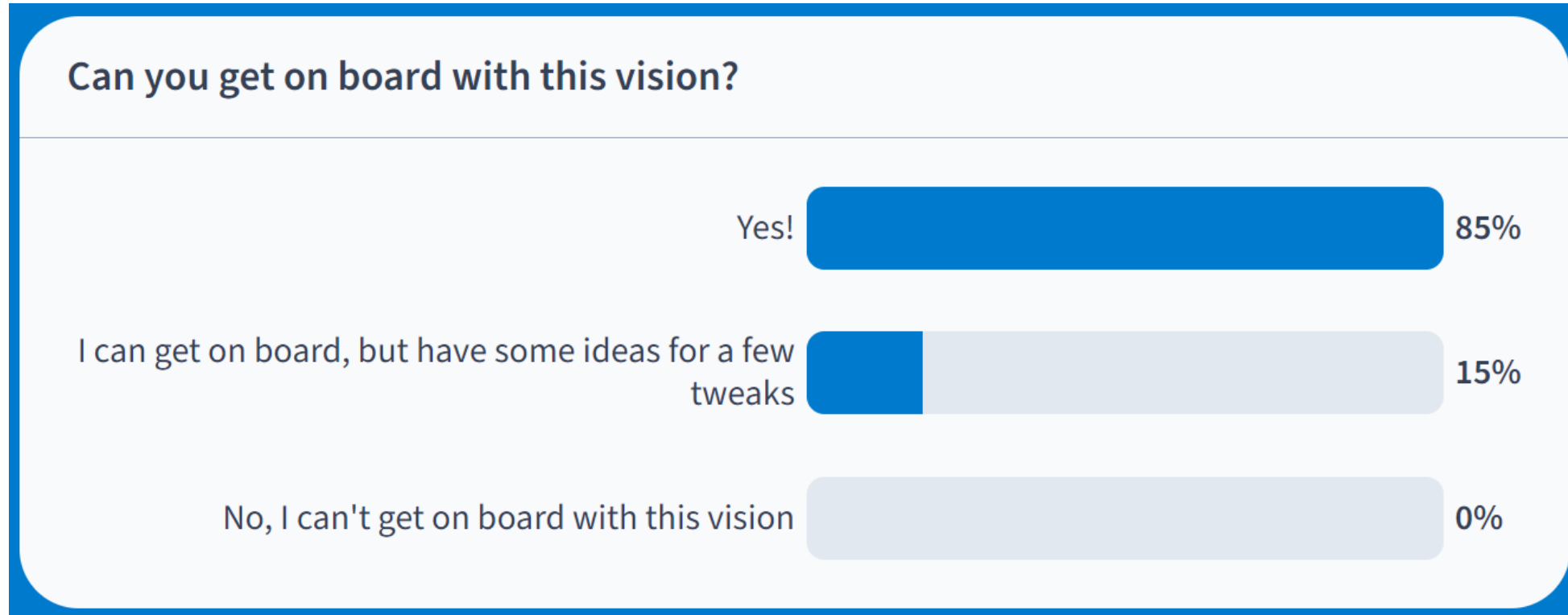
Inclusive

Climate action and resilience efforts are accessible, and culturally relevant

Just

No one gets left behind, and those who are hit first and worst by the impacts of climate change are prioritized

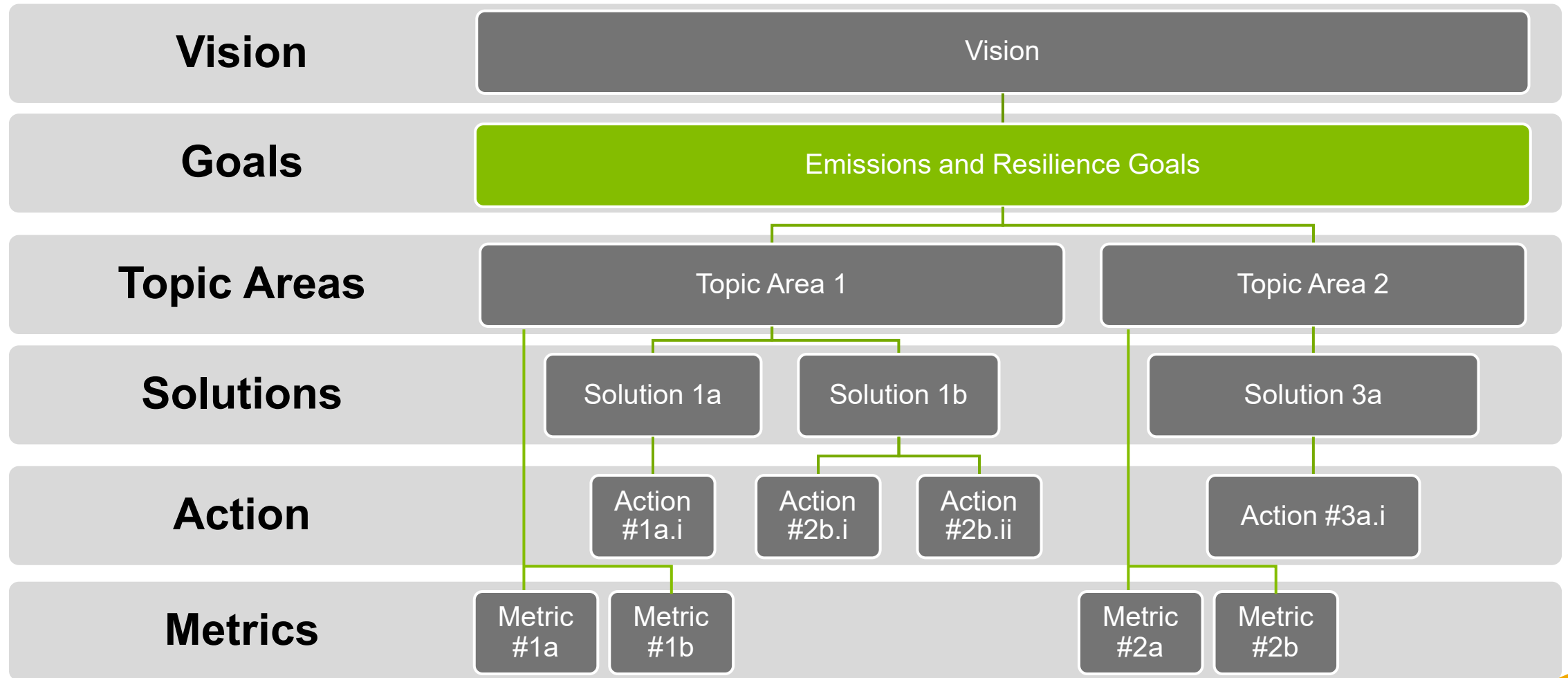
Staff Feedback on Vision



“Want to acknowledge it can be hard to influence behavior and choice, both internally and externally”

Do you have feedback on the draft
plan vision?

Draft Goal Framework



SMART(ER) Goals



Specific



Measurable



Achievable



Relevant



Time-bound



With a process for **E**valuating and **R**eadjusting as needed

Goal Setting Process for Emissions Reduction



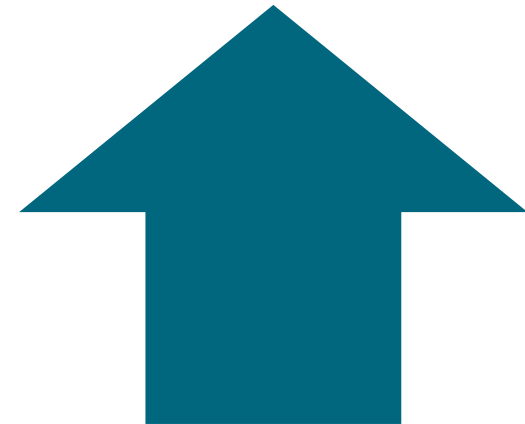
Top-Down Goal

- Begin with desired big picture impact
- Qualitative “level of ambition” or based on larger goals (e.g., state, climate)
- **Example:** Northglenn aligns with Colorado’s target to achieve 65% reduction by 2035



Bottom-Up Goal

- Refine goal based on expected strategy impact
- Can help identify a more realistic and tangible goal
- **Example:** “Northglenn wants 100 residents to electrify their home heating equipment. What is the GHG impact of that action?”



Example GHG Emission Reduction Goals

- Range of level of ambition
- Movement toward “net-zero”
- General alignment around more ambitious interim goals, then ease up

City of Thornton

- 50% below 2018 by 2030

State of Colorado

- 65% below 2005 by 2035
- 100% below 2005 by 2050

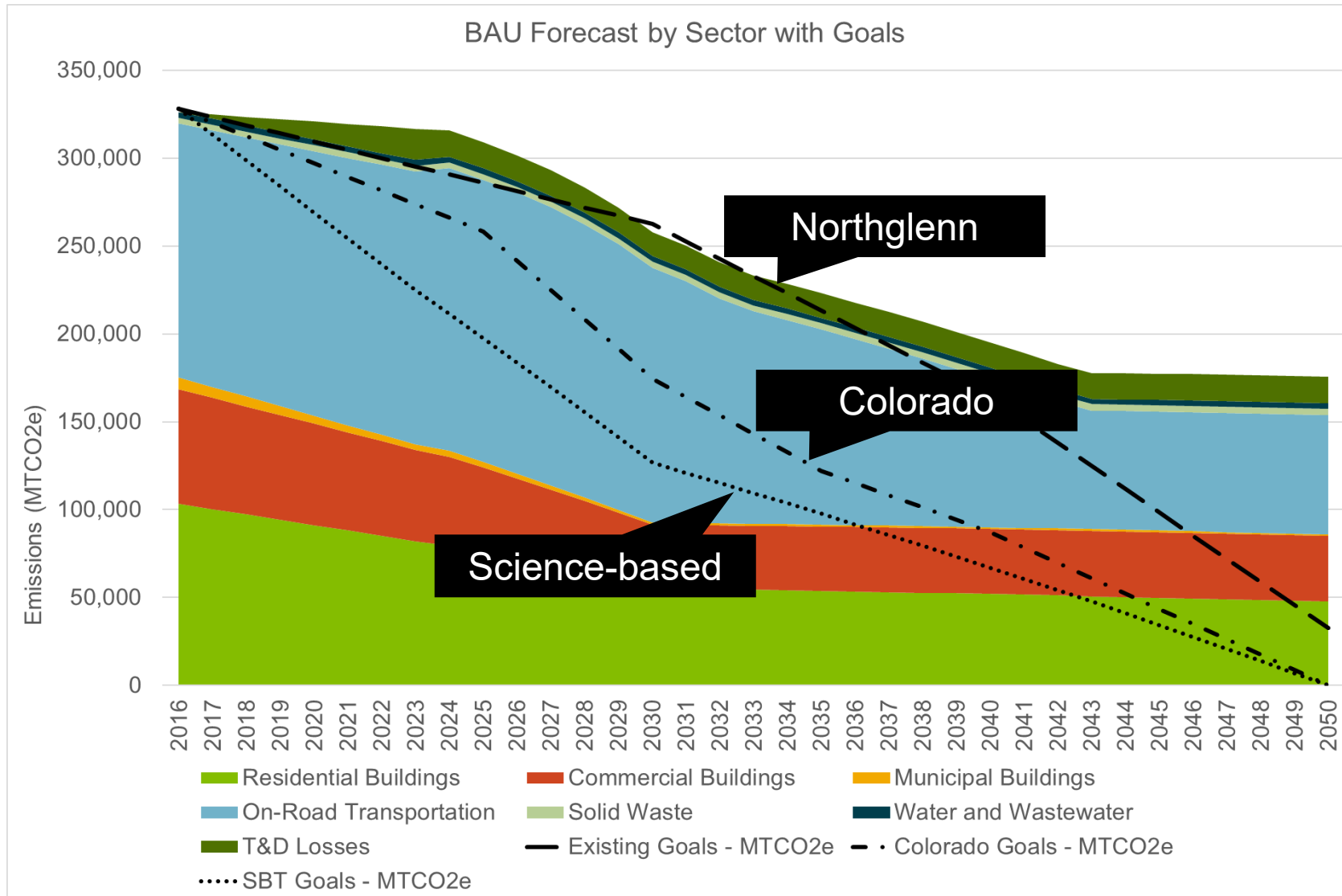
Town of Superior

- 25% below 2016 emissions by 2025
- 60% below 2016 emissions by 2030
- Net-zero by 2050

City of Boulder

- 70% below 2018 by 2030
- Net zero by 2035
- Carbon-positive by 2040

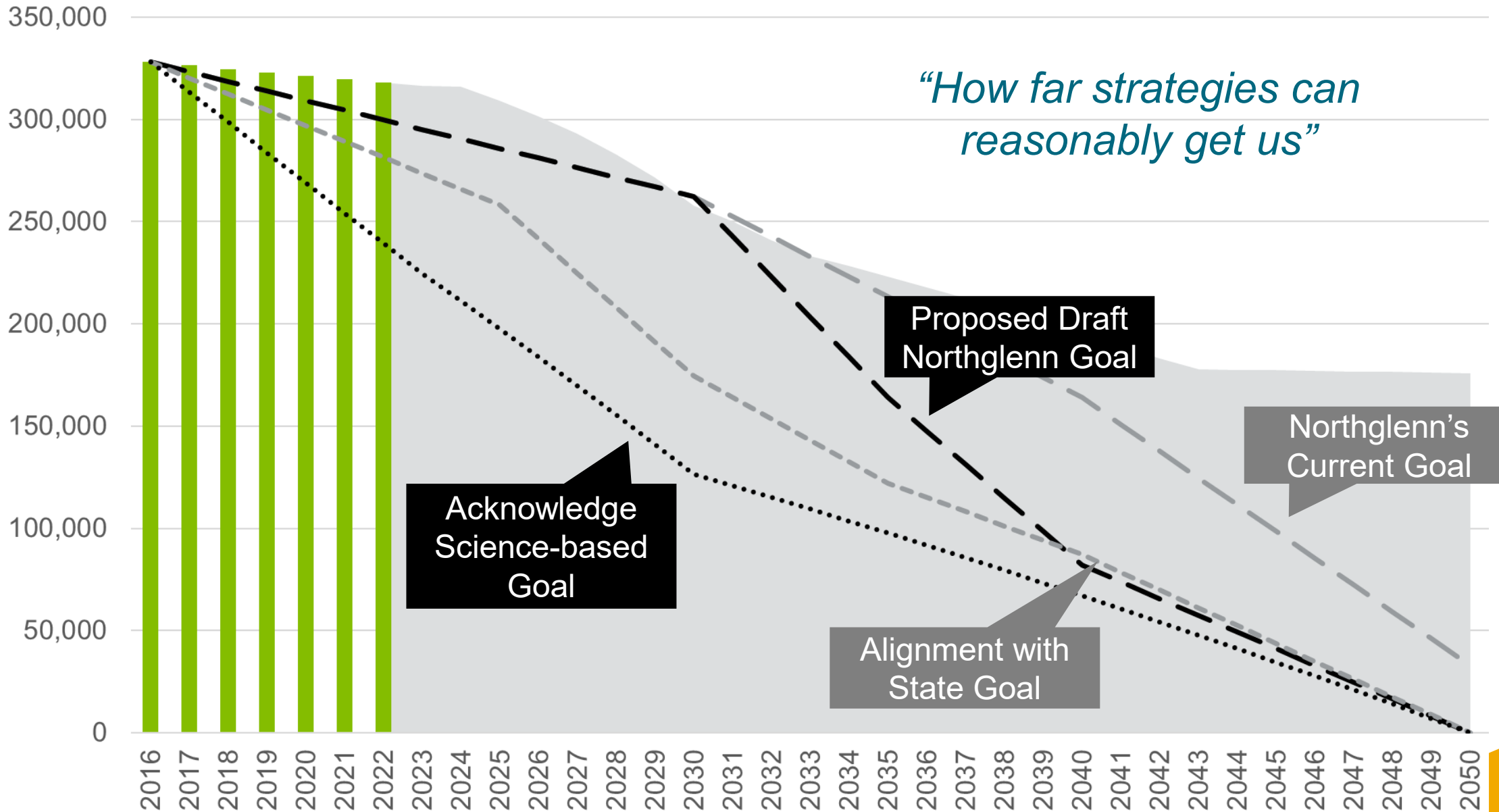
Modeling Goals Against our Business As Usual (BAU) Forecast



Goal Feedback to date

- Most support for alignment with the state
- Want to acknowledge what needs to get done to avoid the work impacts of climate change
- Don't want to run the risk of disenfranchising people doing the work if we set a goal that is too hard to achieve

Proposed Top Down Approach: Scaffold



Next Step: Bottom-Up Analysis

	Ambitious, But Rooted	Science Based Target
Scenario Overview	Prioritize high-impact action in sectors with greatest sphere of Northglenn influence AND supported by community	Prioritizes high-impact, aggressive action to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
Emissions Reduction Strategies Emphasized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deep energy retrofits of existing homes - Focus on improving transportation choice in Northglenn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deep energy retrofits of existing buildings stock - Focus on improving transportation choices across region
Technical Feasibility	Moderate	Low

Do you have feedback on the draft greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal framework?

Setting a Plan-wide Resilience Goal

Option 1: Align with Existing Goal

1. Build resiliency from top climate risks by 2025, particularly for vulnerable populations (Sustainability Plan)
2. Reduce the impacts of natural and man-made hazards (Comprehensive Plan)

Option 2: Establish Quantitative Goal

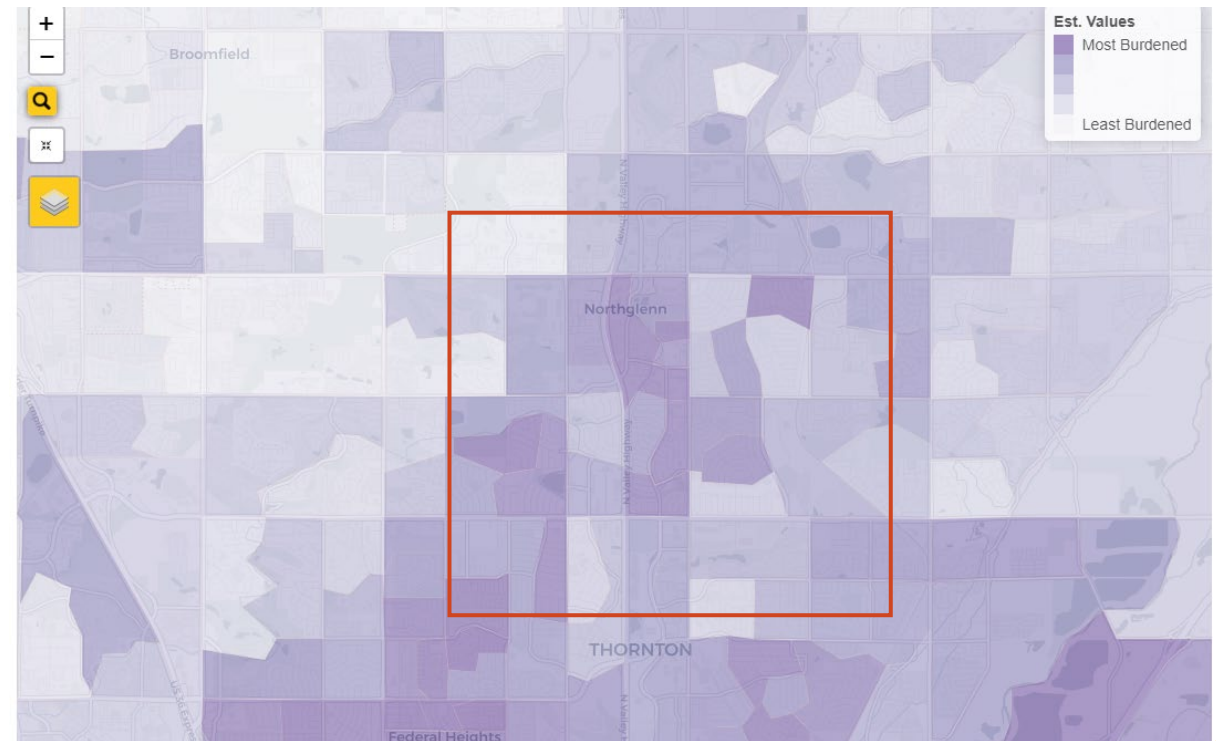
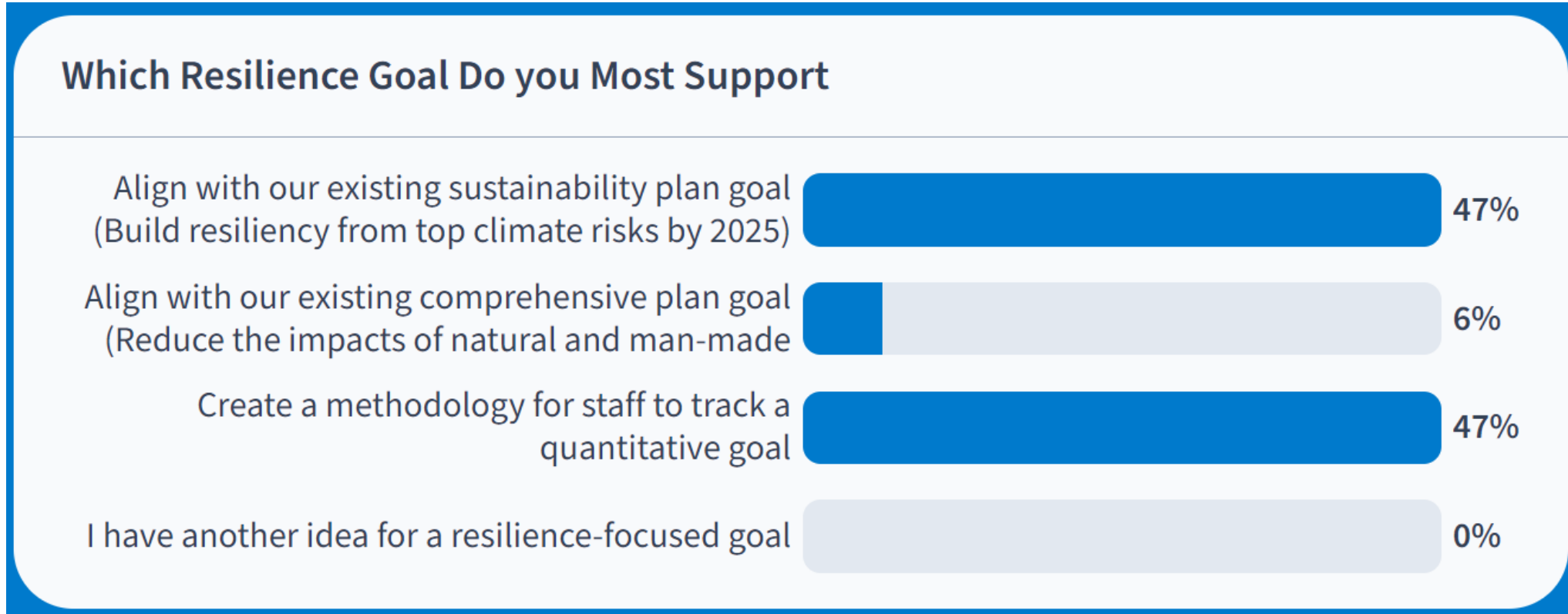


Image Caption: Health and Social Factors Score, Colorado EnviroScreen

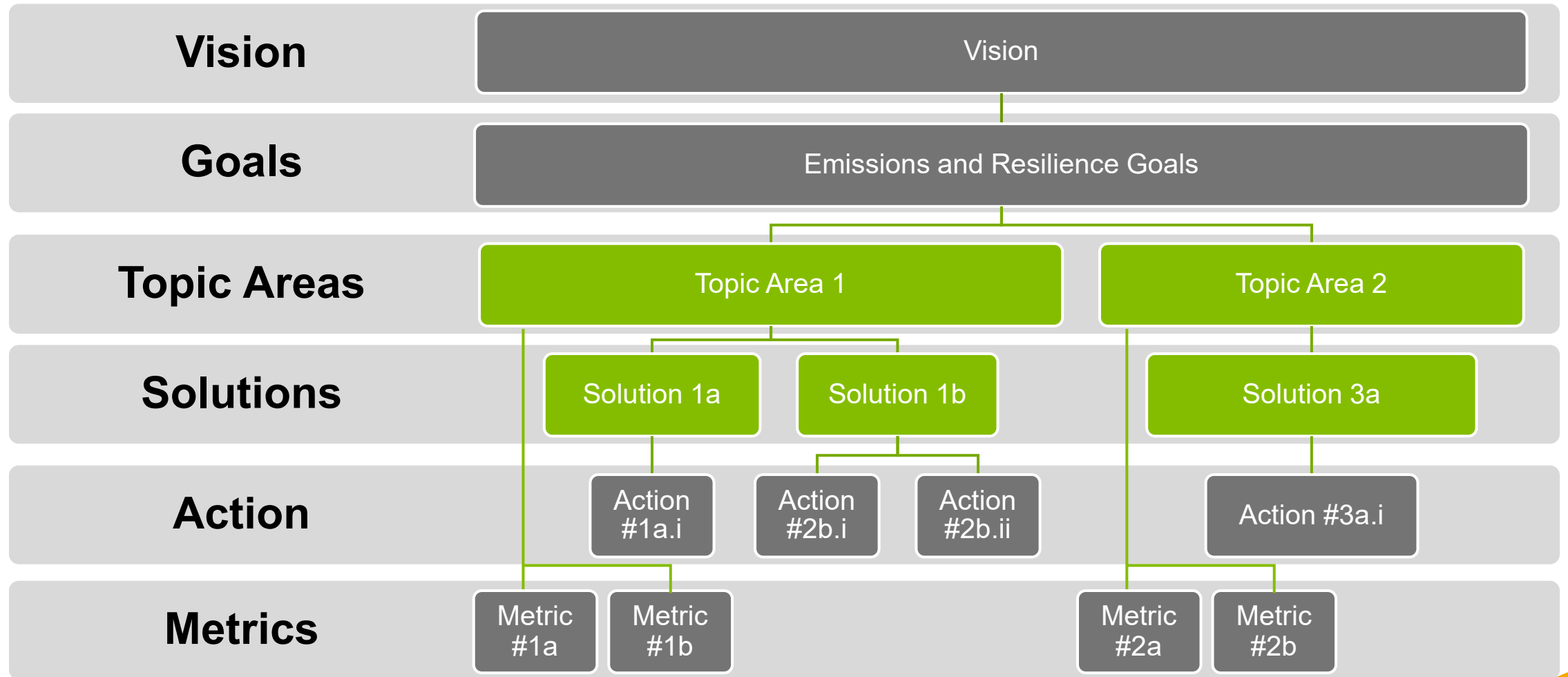
Staff Feedback on Resilience Goal Approach



“Why not do both!”

Do you have feedback on the draft resilience goal framework?

Draft Topic Area Framework



Topic Area Objectives



Connected Community

Foster a community that is well prepared for, and has the resources to adapt to, the impacts of climate change.



Mobility

Reduce greenhouse emissions associated with the transportation sector by making no-and low-carbon travel convenient and accessible for all community member.



Energy Supply

Pursue a resilient and low-carbon energy supply.



Buildings

Improve the health, adaptive capacity, and efficiency of new and existing buildings.



Natural Systems

Cultivate natural resources and systems that can adapt and support climate resilience.



Food and Waste

Develop resilient food and waste systems that emphasize the local economy

Topic Area

Objective

Statement that indicates the desired change or future outcome for the topic area.

Solutions

The “big levers” we can pull to help achieve the objective

Connected Community

Foster a community that is well prepared for, and has the resources to adapt to, the impacts of climate change.

**Advance climate
advocacy &
education**

**Enhance social
infrastructure and
community
preparedness**

**Provide resilient City
services**

Mobility

Reduce greenhouse emissions and air pollution associated with the transportation sector while advancing a resilient transportation system that is convenient and accessible for all community members.

Reduce vehicle miles traveled

Reduce vehicle emissions from idling

Increase the prevalence of low- and no-emission vehicles and equipment

Energy Supply

Pursue a resilient and low-carbon energy supply.

Increase local
renewable energy
generation and
storage

Increase participation
in renewable energy
subscription
programs

Expand local energy
workforce

Improve resilient grid
infrastructure

Buildings

Improve the health, adaptive capacity, and efficiency of new and existing buildings.

Support healthy, resilient, and efficient existing homes

Support healthy, resilient and efficient existing commercial, public, and institutional buildings

Support healthy, resilient and efficient new construction

Natural Systems

Cultivate natural resources and systems that can adapt and support climate resilience.

Conserve Water

Pursue a Diverse and Resilient Water Supply

Expand open & green spaces

Food and Waste

Develop resilient food and waste systems that emphasize the local economy.

Increase access to healthy, locally produced, and culturally relevant food

Reduce waste & consumption

Recover materials

Use low carbon materials and food

Do you have feedback on the draft topic area objectives and solutions?

Final Discussion

1. Is there anything else you would like us to consider as we refine bottom-up modeling?
2. Any other questions or feedback?

Next Steps for Plan Development



Incorporate council feedback to finalize vision and goal framework



Use modeling results and work with staff to further prioritize specific actions within each solution



Work with staff to build out action tables

Next Steps for Council

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Vision and Goals Where do we want to go?						
Priority Actions How will we get there?	Staff Working Group Action Plan Meetings					
Defining Success How will we be accountable?	Council Plan Framework Work Session		Sustainability Committee Plan Draft Plan Review	Community Draft Plan Review Party	Council 100% Draft Plan Review Work Session	Council Presentation of Final Plan