

Jonathan Koehn

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Boulder, CO

Summary

Accomplished climate and sustainability professional with over 25 years of experience working with state, regional and local governments, private organizations, and constituencies domestically and internationally to develop strategic and tactical solutions to sustainability, resilience, and climate-related challenges.

Professional Experience

Director, Climate Initiatives Department

City of Boulder: Boulder, CO

Jan 2021-Present

Provides leadership and vision to enhance integration and coordination on sustainability and resilience efforts throughout the organization and the community to move the city towards the next step of a more sustainable future. Responsible for overseeing comprehensive programs that tackle environmental and climate-related challenges while emphasizing a problem-solving orientation, effective communication, focus on continuous improvement, and effective, efficient, and accountable service to internal work groups, other city departments, and external partners.

- Lead and coordinate citywide efforts to implement and advocate a broad range of programs and projects to reduce GHG emissions and prepare for local climate change impacts.
- Provide vision, leadership and direction to the many programs and services that pursue Council policies on climate, sustainability, and resilience, including the development of appropriate goals, objectives, policies, and priorities; preparation of action plans related to key strategic initiatives and the preparation of an operations plan and budget.
- Oversee the programs and services that support and align with City Council policies on sustainability, climate action, resilience, circular economy, nature-based solutions, community engagement, and climate justice.
- Lead and mentor the highly skilled team supporting and growing the departments local and regional impact and effectiveness.
- Serve as a key spokesperson, advocating for the city's mission and priorities before a wide range of constituencies including policymakers, the media, community members, and other external stakeholders.
- Provide strategic development and project leadership in the creation of strategies, goals, objectives, policies and priorities to advance the city's efforts in climate-stabilizing and resilience-based initiatives.
- Foster a culture of inclusion, diversity, transparency, innovation, collaboration, and teamwork in coordination with the departments staff-led JEDI Team.
- Provide project leadership in the management of the preparation and presentation of the Departments \$8M annual operating budget.

Teaching Faculty, University of Colorado- Masters of the Environment (MENV) Graduate Program

CU Boulder: Boulder, CO

Aug 2019-Present

- Develop curriculum and syllabus for students in the Masters of the Environment Graduate program exploring sustainability and resilience from a practitioner's perspective.
- Coach students in conducting and presenting their capstone research projects.
- Mentor graduate students through weekly coaching sessions.

Chief Sustainability & Resilience Officer

City of Boulder: Boulder, CO

Jan 2020-Jan 2021

- Led Boulder's sustainability, resilience, and climate efforts, partnering with other city departments, businesses, non-profits and residents, publicizing Boulder's successes to the rest of the world, and working with and learning from communities elsewhere to achieve common climate, sustainability, and resilience objectives.
- Oversaw staff working in a variety of areas, including but not limited to, renewable energy, circular economy, climate change mitigation, adaptation, climate equity, policy development and community engagement.
- Directed the city's strategy, implementation, and tracking of climate and environmental sustainability work.
- Served as the steward of the city's Climate Mobilization Action Plan (CMAP) and Sustainability & Resilience Framework.
- Served as a liaison to develop collaborative relationships with key public and private partners to collaboratively solve challenges with innovation, research, policy, and business solutions.
- Engaged with departmental leaders to foster sustainability and resilience broadly across City Departments.

Regional Sustainability Coordinator

City of Boulder: Boulder, CO

Jan 2010-Jan 2020

- Advised the City Manager and City Council on policy and regulatory positions related to state and federal legislative matters.
- Led strategy development related to Boulder's climate and sustainability commitment including 100% renewable energy and emissions goals, zero-waste resolution, resilience strategy and circular economy efforts.
- Provided testimony in relevant regulatory proceedings at the Public Utilities Commission, and on specific bills at the state legislature.
- Developed strategic partnerships with the public and private-sectors in pursuit of achieving collective sustainability-related goals and targets.
- Managed and coordinated government affairs related to issues of sustainability, climate, resilience and energy.
- Coordinated the implementation of the city's sustainability agenda, specifically in relation to climate action and waste reduction, but more broadly across the complete spectrum of the city's sustainability goals.
- Represented Boulder as spokesperson for sustainability-related efforts with the media, at conferences and a diverse array of presentations.
- Provided regular updates to City Council, Boards & Commissions on sustainability-related issues.
- Performed data modeling and related analyses related to sustainability performance indicators, goals and metrics.
- Served as a central role in work related to *Boulder's Energy Future* and Boulders Municipalization Exploration Project, and city liaison with diverse stakeholders.

Environmental Affairs Manager

City of Boulder: Boulder, CO

Sept 2006-January 2010

- Managed and supervised the Office of Environmental Affairs (OEA) team of environmental professionals, providing oversight and direction on city's environmental sustainability work plan.
- Oversaw the establishment of performance measures related to the achievement of sustainability goals.
- Coordinated development of OEA strategic plan, key issues and internal departmental responsibilities.
- Identified and developed and evaluated new programs and services as needed.
- Estimated needed resources, budget, and funding impacts and options.
- Reviewed and analyzed data and information to ensure the efficiency, effectiveness, and success of policy.
- Provided guidance and expertise on program elements of OEA including energy, waste reduction, integrated pest management, urban wildlife issues, and green building programs.
- Provided oversight of OEA budget and contract management.

- OEA representative and staff liaison to the City Council Environmental Goal Committee (EGC) and the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB).

Conservation Manager

City of Flagstaff: Flagstaff, AZ

July 1999-Aug 2006

- Overall responsibility for the City's Conservation, Recycling, Composting, Green Building, Brownfield redevelopment, alternative energy/ fuel and sustainability programs.
- Perform professional level work in current, advanced planning in environmental analysis for City Government while developing effective solutions to current preservation issues.
- Implement and oversee long term sustainability plan for City with components of alternative energy and fuels, sustainable building, open space preservation, wildlands urban interface, water conservation, infill and redevelopment and noxious weed prevention.
- Developed first set of community sustainability metrics to track progress in key areas related to energy, waste, water, transportation, ecosystems and local food production.
- Initiated the development of City's public/private partnership for curbside recycling collection, and construction of local Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).
- Obtained grant funding for permanent Household Hazardous Waste facility (HHWF)
- Designed and implemented Brownfield program; oversaw remediation and CRCLA compliance.

Education

Northern Arizona University

M.S. Environmental Science and Biology; 1996

University of Florida

B.S. Marine Sciences; 1993

Certifications/ Committee's

- Certified International Society of Sustainability Professionals
- World Bank Certified Climate Professional (CCP)
- Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO)
- North American Clean Air Association (NACCAA) Steering Committee
- Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) National Policy Committee
- iURBAN International Smart City Advisory Group Chair
- Ellen Macarthur Circular Cities Network Steering Committee
- Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) founding member; steering, Legislative & Policy Committee's
- Colorado Climate Network Steering Committee
- Applied Solutions Technical Advisory Committee Chair
- Boulder Sustainability Alliance Committee
- Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance Technical Committee
- LEED AP-ND
- Hawaii Energy Conference Founder/ Program Committee