



GLOSSARY

Supporting Transit, Walking and Biking

Micromobility

Small, lightweight transportation options, typically electric or human-powered, designed for short trips (electric scooters, bicycles).

Complete Streets

A transportation policy and design approach that ensures streets are planned, designed, and operated to provide safe and accessible travel for all users (pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, & public transit).

Transit-only Lanes

Dedicated roadway lanes reserved exclusively for public transportation vehicles (buses & streetcars) to improve transit efficiency and reduce traffic congestion.

Micro-transit

On-demand, shared transportation services that use flexible routing and scheduling to provide efficient, localized transit options (vans, shuttles, or small buses). Serves areas with limited fixed-route service, enhancing mobility for commuters and under served communities.

Increase Energy Efficiency and Decarbonize Buildings, Install Renewable Energy Systems & Support the Zero Emissions Vehicle Transition

Decarbonize Buildings

The process of reducing or eliminating carbon emissions associated with the operation of buildings.

Renewable Energy Systems

Technologies that generate energy from natural, replenishable sources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and biomass.

Retrofit

The process of modifying or upgrading existing buildings, structures, or systems to improve their performance, efficiency, or sustainability. Can include energy-efficient windows, insulation etc.

Industrial Process Emissions

Greenhouse gases and other pollutants released during manufacturing processes or industrial activities such as cement production and chemical manufacturing.

Fleet Electrification Playbook

A strategic guide (best practices, infrastructure requirements, implementation strategies etc.) that outlines the process of transitioning a fleet of vehicles from fossil fuels to electric power.



GLOSSARY

Increase Native Trees and Natural Spaces, Evaluate Sustainable Waster Management Practices & Promote Sustainable Food Production and Distribution

Natural Spaces

Areas of land or water that are primarily shaped by natural processes, rather than human intervention, and are often characterized by diverse ecosystems, wildfire habitats, and plant life.

Carbon Sequestration

Process of capturing (human-engineered methods such as carbon capture) and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) to mitigate the effects of climate change. By removing CO₂ from the atmosphere, carbon sequestration helps reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases and limits global warming.

Hydroponic Agriculture

A method of growing plants without soil. It uses a nutrient-rich water solution to deliver essential minerals directly to plant roots.

Aquaponics Agriculture

A sustainable farming system that combines aquaculture (the cultivation of aquatic animals, such as fish) with hydroponics (soil-less plant cultivation). In this system, fish waste provides nutrients for plants, while plants help filter and purify the water for the fish, creating a symbiotic relationship.

Local Food Hub

A centralized facility or network that connects local farmers, food producers, and consumers, facilitating the distribution and access of locally grown or produced food. These hubs may include storage, processing, and distribution services to streamline the supply chain, support sustainable agriculture, and promote food security within our region or community.

Biogas

A renewable energy source produced through the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter, such as food waste, agricultural residues, or livestock manure, by bacteria in the absence of oxygen.

Cool Communities and Protect Health

Urban Heat Island (UHI)

The phenomenon where urban areas experience higher temperatures than their surrounding rural areas due to human activities and dense infrastructure. This effect results from heat absorption and retention by buildings, roads, and other surfaces, leading to increased energy consumption, air pollution, and health risks, particularly during extreme heat events.

Critical Facilities

Essential infrastructure and services that support the health, safety, and well-being of a community, particularly during emergencies. These include hospitals, fire stations, police departments, and emergency shelters, which must remain operational during disasters to ensure public safety and resilience.

Climate-Resilient Building

Structures designed and constructed to withstand and adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, flooding, and storms. These buildings incorporate sustainable materials, energy-efficient systems, and resilient design strategies to enhance durability, reduce environmental impact, and ensure long-term safety and functionality.



GLOSSARY

Reduce Flood Risk, Build Drought Resilience and Conserve Water & Protect Critical Infrastructure

100-Year Floodplain

A geographic area with a 1% chance of experiencing a flood in any given year. Floodplain management aims to reduce risks and protect people, property, and the environment from potential flood damage.

Green Infrastructure

A network of natural and semi-natural systems, such as parks, green roofs, wetlands, and permeable pavements, designed to manage storm water, enhance biodiversity, and improve environmental quality.

Impermeable Surfaces

Refers to materials or surfaces, such as asphalt, concrete, and rooftops, that do not allow water to pass through them.

Culverts

Structures such as pipes that direct water around an obstacle or into a waterway.

Enhanced Arroyo Infiltration Facility

A large, two-mile-long basin designed to resemble a natural stream channel, used to infiltrate treated water back into the aquifer by mimicking a natural arroyo.

El Paso Water's Advanced Water Purification Facility

Use of advanced technologies to remove contaminants and impurities from water, making it safe to drink..

El Paso Water's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

A system of integrated hardware and software that enables real-time, two-way communication between utility providers and customer meters. Allows for the automatic collection of data on water, providing more accurate billing, improved operational efficiency, and better resource management. Enables consumers to monitor their usage patterns and make informed decisions about conservation and efficiency.

Groundwater Recharge

Increase of natural infiltration of water into the ground, replenishing underground aquifers through the creation of wetland areas and parklands.