

Denver Sustainable Development Initiative

Beth Conover
Green Cities Forum
11/29/05

www.denvergov.org/sustainability

Mayor John Hickenlooper

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Denver's Legacy : Strong but Unknown

History of Local Innovations

- Green Fleet leader
- ICLEI/PTI charter members/ CCP
- Water “Xeriscape” 25 years old
- Energy Conservation programs - \$2million/year
- Stapleton Redevelopment
- Renewable energy technology and potential
- DIA ISO 14001 in '04

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Denver Sustainable Development Initiative

- Launched by Mayor Hickenlooper in 2005
- Partnership between Mayor's Office, Dept. of Environmental Health and 6 other agencies
- Quick Wins
- City Sustainability Council formed 8/05
- Long term planning process underway

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What the SDI seeks to accomplish:

- Communicate SD in terms of public health, economic benefits and quality of life
- Develop coherence in goals, policies and priorities
- Integrate and focus city activities
- Develop metrics and Report Card
- Leave a positive legacy for the future

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"It runs on its conventional gasoline-powered engine until it senses guilt, at which point it switches over to battery power."

Key issues: Water, Energy, Land Use

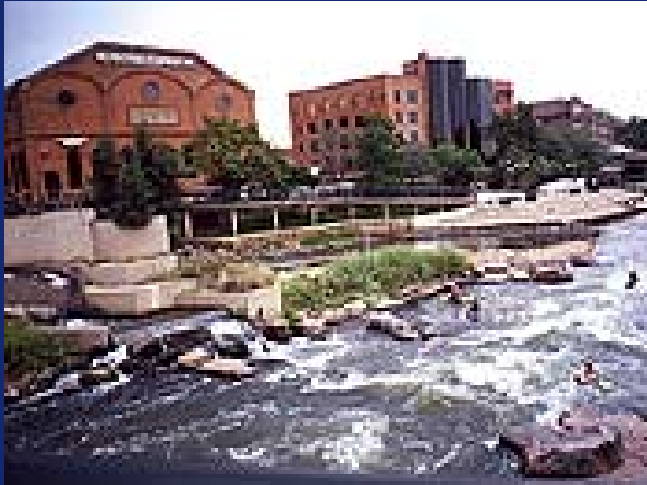
- Water : Supply, Conservation and Quality
- Energy: Cost, Conservation, Climate, Economic Heritage and new opportunities (renewables, green building)
- Land Use/ Transportation: regional growth/ sprawl; traffic; redevelopment FasTracks and Blueprint Denver

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Water



Water Initiative - Summer '05

- Community Conservation Gardens
- Water Quality Initiative
- Museum Speaker's Series



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Energy/ Emissions



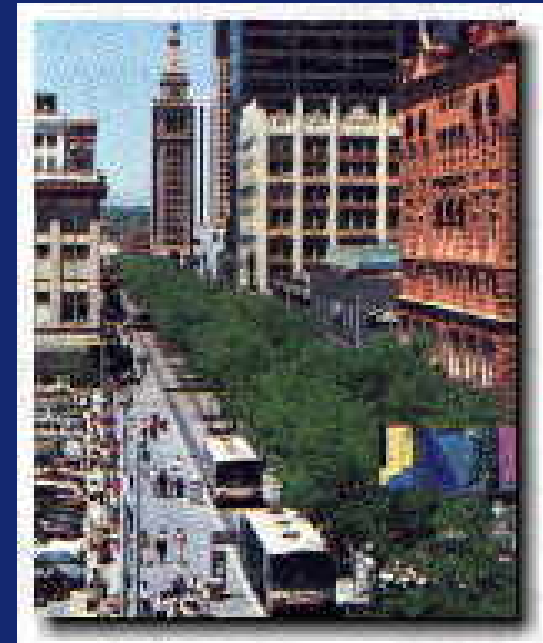
- DSM/LED programs
- **Green building** for Justice Center complex, city-wide policy
 - Partnership with CSU
 - Affordable Housing
- Regional Climate Planning
- Renewables Opportunities

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Land Use/ Transportation



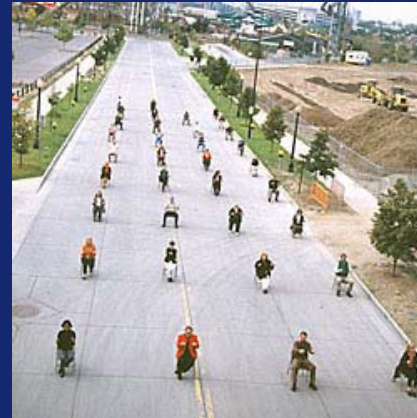
- Urban infill/ redevelopment
- Blueprint Denver
- FasTracks
- Regional TOD potential

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Land Use/ Transportation



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“Quick” Wins

- **Water Initiative - Summer '05**
- **Green building for Justice Center complex**
 - Partnership with CSU
 - Platform for citywide policy/programs
- **Regional & national forums/ agreements**
 - Seattle Pledge, Urban Environmental Accords, Sundance Summit, Peak Oil Conference
- **Communications**
- **Denver Green Cities Forum**

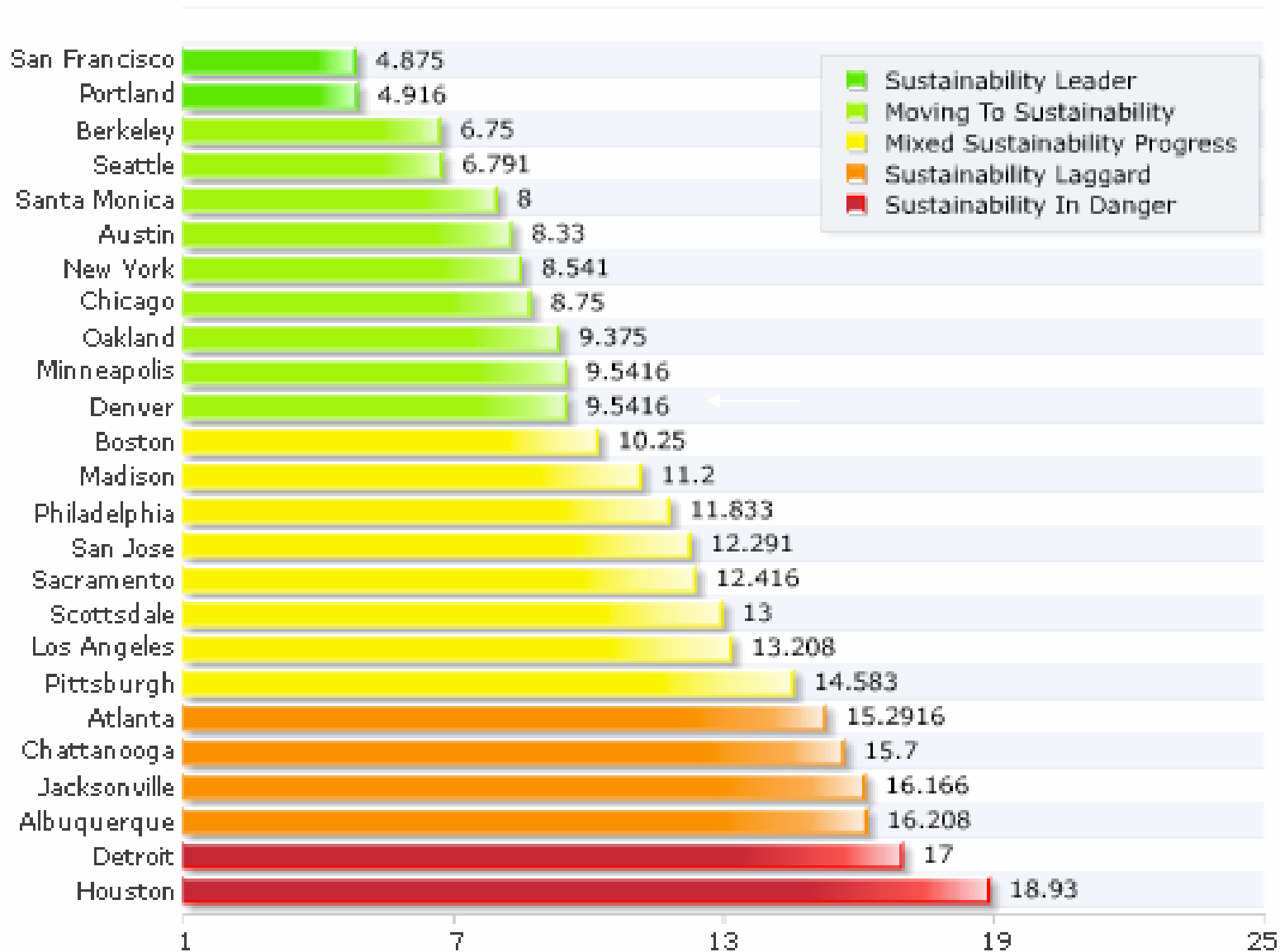
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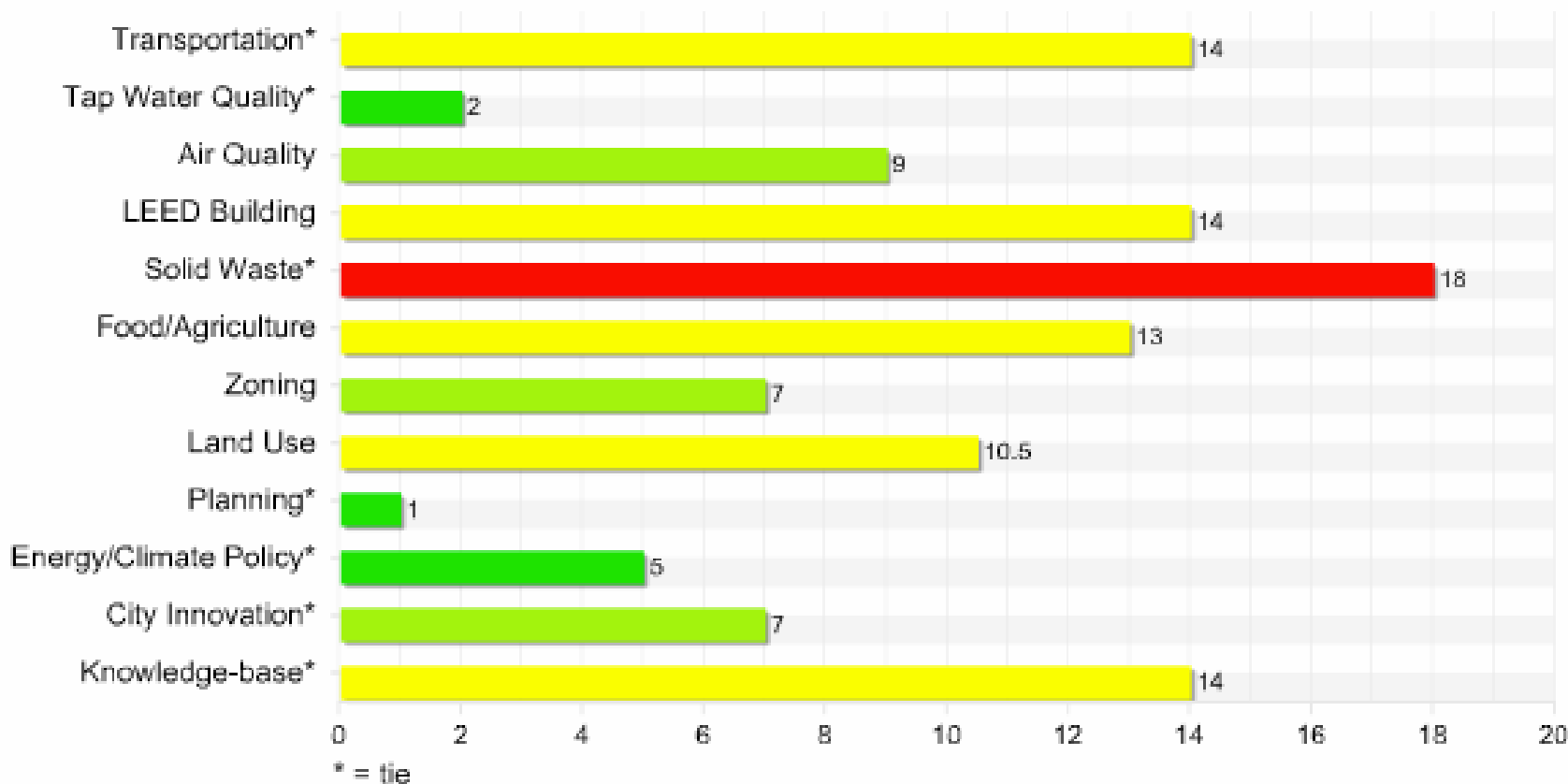
SustainLane US City Rankings: Overview

There is an old saying, "If It Isn't measured, it doesn't exist."



#10 (tie) Denver (Total score 9.5416)

Summary: Denver shared the #10 slot for overall sustainability in our study, statistically in a dead heat with Minneapolis



■ Sustainability Leader ■ Moving To Sustainability ■ Mixed Sustainability Progress ■ Sustainability Laggard ■ Sustainability In Danger

Long Term Planning Process

Summary:

- Citywide Sustainability Planning
 - August '05 - Feb '06
- SD Council formed (7 agencies)
- Inventory Completed (over 100 items)
- Five Work Groups underway with 50+ participants
- Plan draft due January '06

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Where We Are Now

5 Themes:

- Energy and Emissions
- Materials and Waste Reduction
- Natural Resource Stewardship
- Community Economic Development
- Land Use and Transportation

Work Groups developing

- 1 Year Strategies
- 5 Year Goals
- **Indicators of Success** (metrics)

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Partnerships

- Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Water
- MDEDC
- State Agencies: CDPHE/OEM
- Federal Agencies: USEPA, NREL/DOE
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- USGBC, ICLEI, ASPO
- CSU, UCD Wirth Chair & GSPA
- Community Organizations: Alliance Center, etc.

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What YOU can Do

How to get involved:

- **Sign Up** for notice of future events, programs, volunteer opportunities
- Participate in Denver conferences in '06
- Check the website for news
- Participate in other local efforts
- Lead by Example
- Send us your ideas

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THERE'S A
ANOTHER NATURE
TO SEE YOU, SIR.

W. H. RAY

