



Building a Green Denver and a Sustainable Future

Let's make smart investments in the future of Denver and create the Greenest City in America

Transforming Denver into the leading city in the United States for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality is a top priority for a Chris Hansen mayoral administration. Chris first ran for public office in 2015 because of his deep commitment to addressing climate change. This commitment continues to motivate his work in the public sector as demonstrated by the successful passage of more than 60 energy and climate bills in the state legislature that have made Colorado a national leader in climate policy. He plans to do the same at the local level as Denver's next Mayor.

→ **Adding More EV Infrastructure:** Although electric-vehicle (EV) sales in the United States have climbed by more than 40 percent each year on average since 2016, nearly half of US consumers say that battery or charging issues are their top concerns about buying EVs.¹ The equitable build-out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure would make it possible for residents to drive all-electric vehicles. Knowing that there are chargers available at grocery stores, in city-owned parking lots, and at schools and workplaces encourages folks to make the switch to EVs. Public charging stations need to be economical, equitably distributed, appealing to use, and wired to a robust power grid.² Adding EV charging infrastructure is especially important for residents that live in multi-family units because property owners must act in order for chargers to be added to rental properties. Hansen will work with property owners to add EV charging for residents of multifamily buildings, including supporting the requirement that new-builds must have adequate charging stations for residents.

→ **Electrifying Heating & Cooling Systems:** Chris will lead a rapid acceleration of the electrification of heating, cooling and transportation in Denver, which he has been pioneering at the state level. Chris will work closely with Denver Public Schools (DPS) to move forward quickly in this area. The combined footprint of the City and DPS will allow both to take advantage of significant economies of scale, creating new, high-quality jobs even as it generates huge future savings for both entities. While the goals are ambitious, Chris wants to help DPS students get closer to reaching the climate goals they have been pushing the district to pursue: 100% clean electricity by 2030 and a 90% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.³

→ **Electrifying City Fleets:** Chris plans to dramatically increase the number of buses, cars, and trucks in the city's fleet that are EVs. Chris would set much more ambitious goals than Denver's current "EV-First Fleet Policy" includes. Currently, the City is committed to purchasing EVs when replacing its city fleet vehicles where feasible. Under the commitment, by 2029, a maximum of 850 vehicles, only 25% of the city fleet, could be electric by

¹ McKinsey & Company, [Building the electric-vehicle charging infrastructure America needs](https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/automotive-and-transportation/our-insights/building-the-electric-vehicle-charging-infrastructure-america-needs), April 18, 2022. <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/automotive-and-transportation/our-insights/building-the-electric-vehicle-charging-infrastructure-america-needs>

² *Id.*

³ Denver Public School, [A Livable Future: Denver Students Push Sustainability Policies](https://www.dpsk12.org/newsroom/2022/04/20/a-livable-future-denver-students-push-sustainability-policies), April 20, 2022.

2029.⁴ Chris knows we can do better and pledges to prioritize funding and facilitating a transition to 50% of city fleet vehicles being electric by 2030.

→ **Green Economy Jobs:** The energy transition Chris plans to lead as Denver's next Mayor will support and include union workers. The types of updates Chris envisions making will create employment opportunities in this new Green Economy. For instance, projects that involve installing new EV infrastructure and electrifying heating and cooling systems require similar skills as traditional utility work. In Chris Hansen's Greener Denver, there will be thousands of new jobs and a high volume of work for our union partners in the trades, opportunities for DPS students to engage in apprenticeships, and pathways for reskilling those who may be transitioning into the sector.

→ **Transportation Emissions Reduction:** Chris supports climate-friendly transportation projects in Denver, including projects that would help public buses or bicycles move faster, as well as the RTD Bus Rapid Transit project in order to help reduce car dependence in Denver. Chris' philosophy about growth puts the focus on building complete neighborhoods that meet the needs of its current and future residents, ensuring that residents in every neighborhood have easy access to public transportation, grocery stores, parks and other amenities. These neighborhoods should be connected to each other and to downtown. This requires Denver's next administration to make smart investments in transportation and housing in ways that build towards this vision. This approach does not necessarily mean building out, it can mean building up in certain areas to increase housing density, especially around main corridors such as East and West Colfax, Broadway and Federal Boulevard. Denver's future under Chris' leadership will include many well-planned transit oriented developments, bus rapid transit lanes, and an activated downtown core with significantly more residents able to live, work, and play downtown. With added density in key locations, comes greater safety benefits and more efficiency in our public transportation systems as well as cleaner air due to the reduced dependence on cars.

⁴ City & County of Denver, [Denver Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Action Plan](#), April 2020.