

# Sustainability Self-Assessment


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## Description

This assessment tool is designed to help communities identify areas in which they want to focus attention in order to achieve efficiencies, improve processes and work toward sustainable community development goals. The assessment looks at the community's financial condition, major infrastructure, transportation and land use planning, housing, economic development, public health and more. To maximize the results of the community's efforts, an outcome-based action plan and identification of metrics should follow. DOLA staff can assist the community in developing the process for the assessment and, if desired, help facilitate the assessment and implementation discussions.

## How to use the information

The department has designed this tool to allow community leaders to conduct a fairly rapid and wide-ranging appraisal in order to assess the status of their local systems, policies and infrastructure. The assessment can serve as an excellent precursor to a new strategic plan, a municipal/county master plan update or a sustainability plan. Interested communities should talk with CDO staff and/or regional staff to discuss the outcome the local government is trying to reach, and decide together whether this tool is a good fit. If so, the local government may need assistance identifying who from the community should participate, and whether DOLA or other state resources are needed. Recommended steps are listed in detail in the assessment tool, which can be found at <http://dola.colorado.gov/cdo>. Click on "Sustainability."

## Why this is important

Experience shows that coordinating and integrating different planning and operational efforts creates effective, lasting change. Often planning for land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and health are not well coordinated, despite the fact they are inter-related. If programs are not integrated, planning and development occurs in narrow subsets, and a community's efforts in one area may conflict with another, impeding progress. This assessment tool facilitates a necessary and informed dialogue that will lead to sustainable community development, with a high degree of efficiency and coordination.