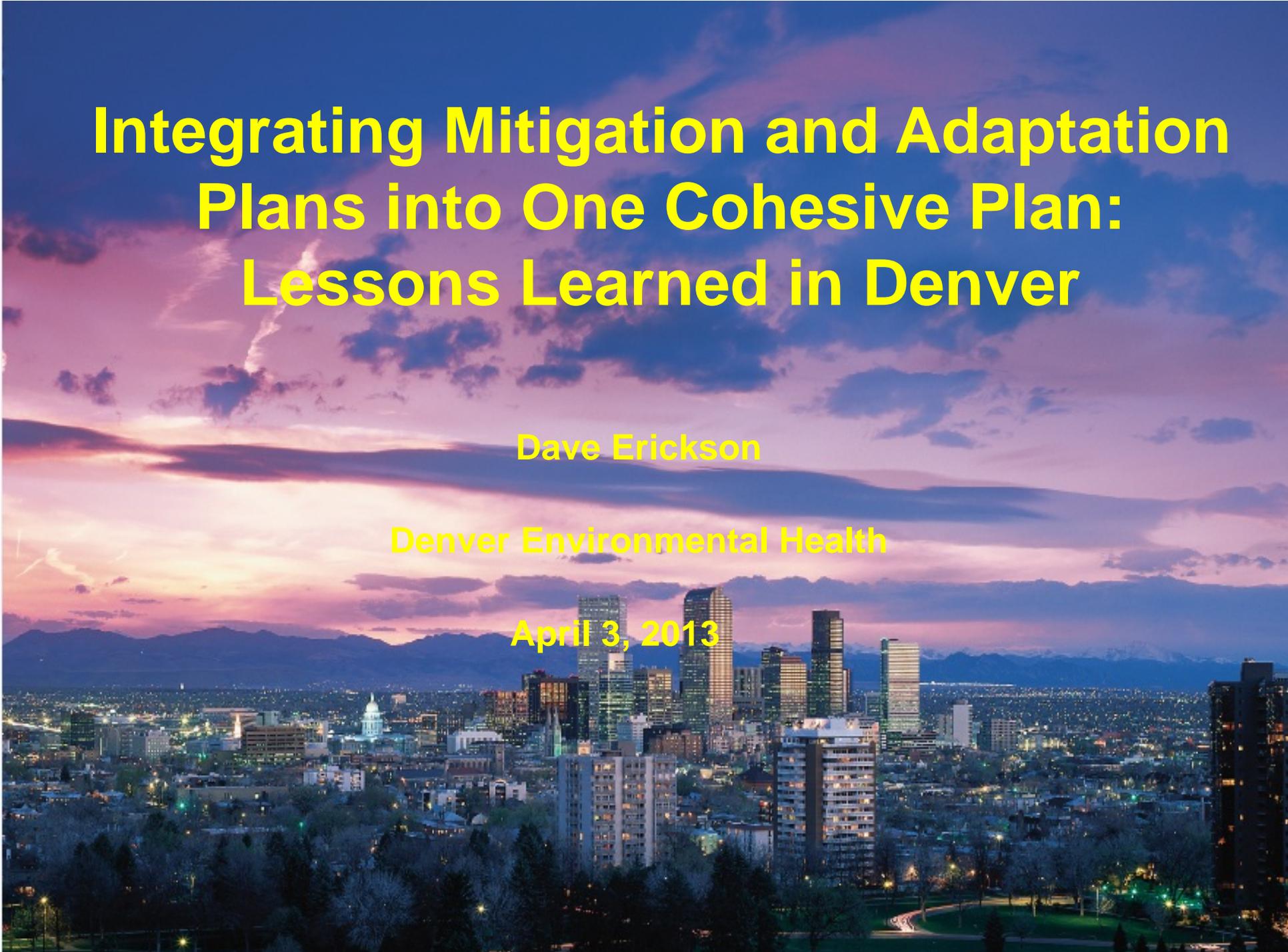


Integrating Mitigation and Adaptation Plans into One Cohesive Plan: Lessons Learned in Denver

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Denver Environmental Health

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Presentation Outline

- Summary of Denver's Climate Action Plan 2007
 - Process and results to date
- Discuss Denver's climate adaptation planning process
- Update for the Climate Action Plan 2013
- Advantages and challenges of a combined plan
 - Lesson learned



Climate Action Plan 2007

- Recommended Climate Action Goal
 - By 2012 Reduce Denver's per capita green house gas (GHG) by 10% below 1990 levels
 - Per capita GHG emission reduction goal was reached in 2009 and 2011
 - Accounts for increase in Denver's population and building square footage
 - Community wide GHG emissions fell by 4% by end of 2011
 - Mainly due to Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) implementation



Climate Action Plan 2007

- Example GHG Reduction Strategies:
 - Corporate and residential climate challenges
 - Denver leading by example
 - Enhanced recycling programs
 - Increased energy efficiency in existing city buildings
 - Transportation options



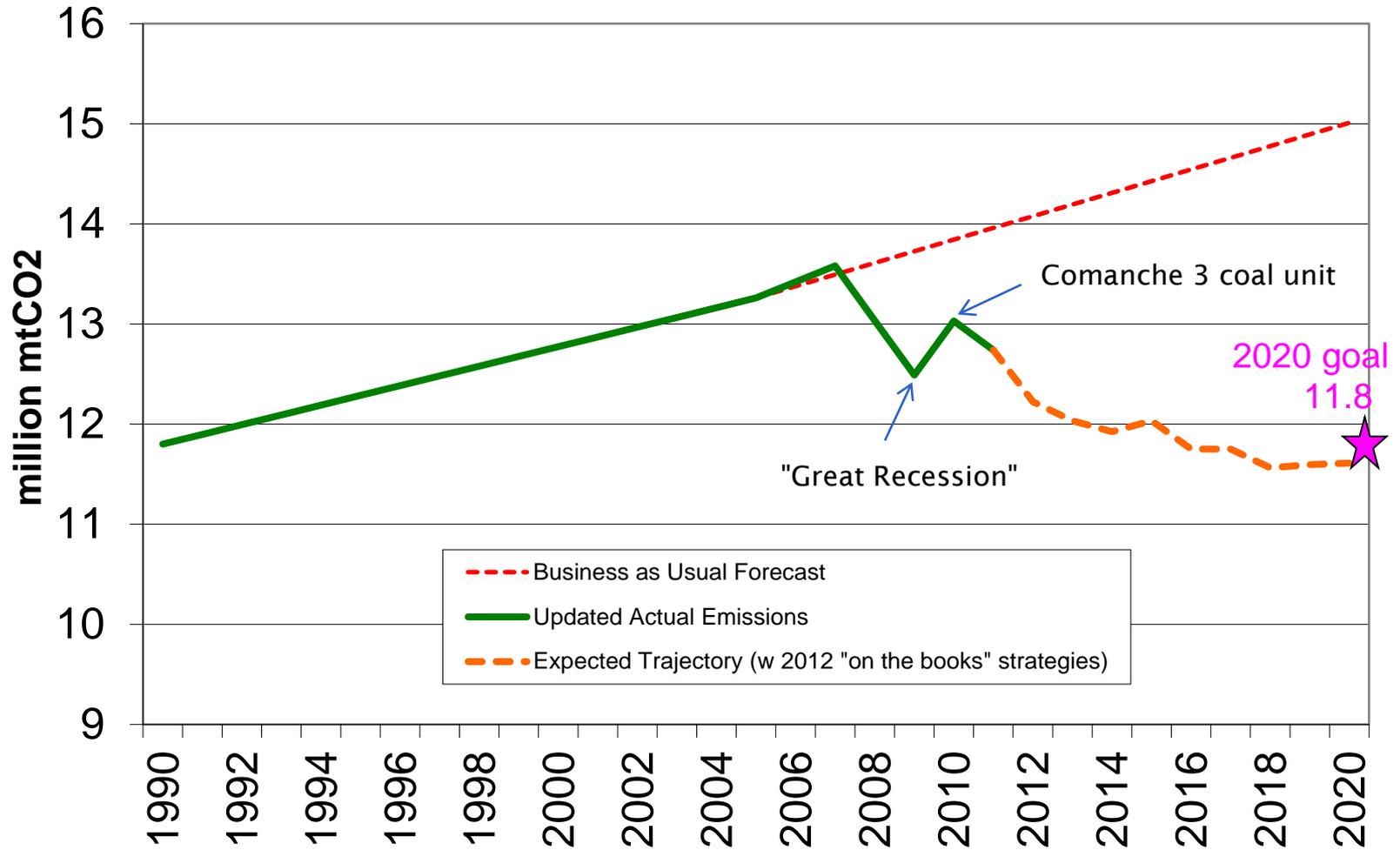
Climate Action Plan 2007

- Process
 - Inclusive process with more than 50 stakeholders
 - Civic and community leaders
 - City staff and appointees
 - University staff including health sciences
 - Large number of mitigation strategies selected in 10 categories
 - Several required political will to implement





GHG Trends 1990-2011 and Forecast to 2020



Climate Adaptation Plan

- Climate Adaptation Plan builds a common understanding, prioritizes issues and coordinates responses for a hotter and likely drier Denver
 - Multiple agency effort
 - Understanding of risk and vulnerabilities
 - Identification of implementable response strategies
 - Encourage ownership of priority adaptation strategies by partners



Climate Adaptation Plan

- Process
 - Convened working group of agency representatives and other stakeholders
 - Working group identified vulnerabilities
 - Response strategies developed by agencies
 - Embedded response strategies in Denver's Environmental Management System (EMS) – ISO 14001
 - Sets goals for implementation and established path to measure success



Climate Adaptation Plan

• Example Adaptation Strategies

Climate Impact	Annual Target	How will this target be measured	How will this target be achieved
Increase in temperature ▼	Complete and adopt a climate adaptation plan and implementation strategy.	Completion and adoption of plan and strategies	DEH will coordinate with an agency-wide working group to establish strategies and an adopted Climate Adaptation Plan.
Increase in temperature ▼	Define extreme heat event; Specify how DEH will interact/cooperate with other agencies such as Public Health or OEM.	Adoption of definition and extreme heat protocol established	
Increase in temperature ▼	Write a city-wide vector control plan in which both existing and emerging vectors are discussed.	Completion of plan	
All ▼			



Climate Adaptation Plan

- Collaborative Process
 - Western Adaptation Alliance (WAA)
 - DEH is working with southwest cities' planning efforts
 - Shared events
 - Collaborate on topic areas (water supply, infrastructure etc.)
 - Collaborative work products
 - Shared planning efforts

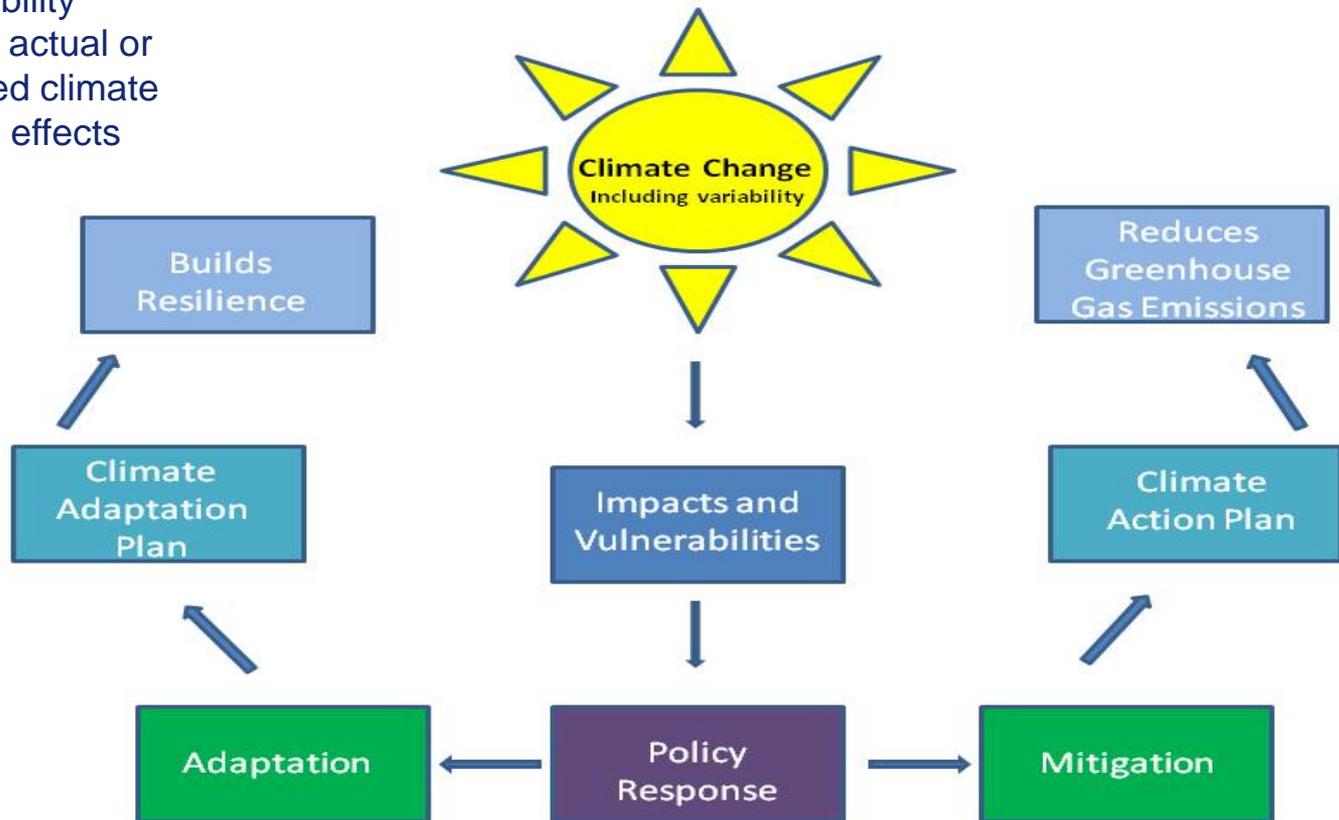


Adaptation and Mitigation

Adaptation:

reduces vulnerability against actual or expected climate change effects

Mitigation: Reduces GHG emissions



Climate Action Plan Update 2013

- Revision Due Late 2013
 - Fewer strategies than 2007 plan
 - Bigger impacts
 - Political will is an important factor
 - Align with 2020 sustainability goals
 - Certain policies may not be fully realized until ~2050 but need to get started now
 - Incorporate lessons learned from adaptation planning (involve implementing staff)



Climate Action/Adaptation Plan

- Advantages of Combined Plans
 - Address climate in one place
 - Less confusing to the public
 - Highlights strategies that overlap both mitigation and adaptation
 - Climate action plan and adaptation plan will be separate volumes in one plan
 - Similar timetable for completion (mid to late 2013)



Climate Action/Adaptation Plan

- Challenges of Combined Plans
 - Adaptation may be an “innocent bystander”
 - Some mitigation strategies tied into politics; may result in hostility toward both plans
 - Mitigation and adaptation may not have the same long-term update schedule
 - Adaptation planning has a steering committee separate from mitigation
 - Will evaluate success of plan implementation starting in spring 2014

