

Beyond GDP: The Ongoing Search to Measure “Wellbeing”



- OLLI Fall Term 2022
- Wednesdays, 1-3pm
- Sept. 14 thru Nov. 2

- Co-facilitators:

David Carlson,

EEE Forum founder
and

Paul Belanger,

EEE Forum webmaster

Good afternoon and welcome to the the SEVENTH week of Beyond GDP: The Ongoing Search to Measure Wellbeing. We'll begin with OLLI announcements—OR EMAIL THEM TO EVERYONE-- and an outline for the next couple of hours.

**“Other noteworthy frameworks of
human & ecological wellbeing (HEW)”
Session #7 Outline**

- OLLI Announcements
- **Highlights from Session #6** – Doughnut Economics, Climate Change, Regenerative Economics and the SDGs
- 1st hour: **Two noteworthy Colorado HEW frameworks**
- 5-minute break
- 2nd hour: **Guest presentation and Q&A: *see next slide***
- Looking ahead to Session #8 (Nov. 2nd)

Week #7 (Oct. 26th) Guest Presentation
“Planning to Thrive: Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable
Communities for the 21st Century”



Rocky Piro
PhD, FAICP

Retired Urban Planner,
previous Executive Director,
Colorado Center for
Sustainable Urbanism,
Univ. of Colorado -- Denver

After our five-minute break, we'll hear about “Planning to Thrive” from Rocky Piro, recently retired faculty member, University of Colorado-Denver. Next, some highlights from last week.

Why it's time for "Doughnut Economics"

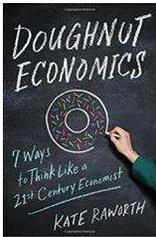


Kate Raworth
December 16, 2014

<https://youtu.be/1BHOflzxPjI>

Recall that in this 17-minute TEDx talk, Raworth describes her personal and professional journey in "going beyond GDP" to sketch core ideas of doughnut economics and display the first version of the doughnut model.

**The “Doughnut” of Social and Planetary Boundaries (2017)
Kate Raworth, Oxford Ecological Economist**



“Put simply, it’s a radically new compass for guiding humanity this century. And it points toward a future that can provide for every person’s needs while safeguarding the living world on which we all depend.”

--*Doughnut Economics*, p. 39.

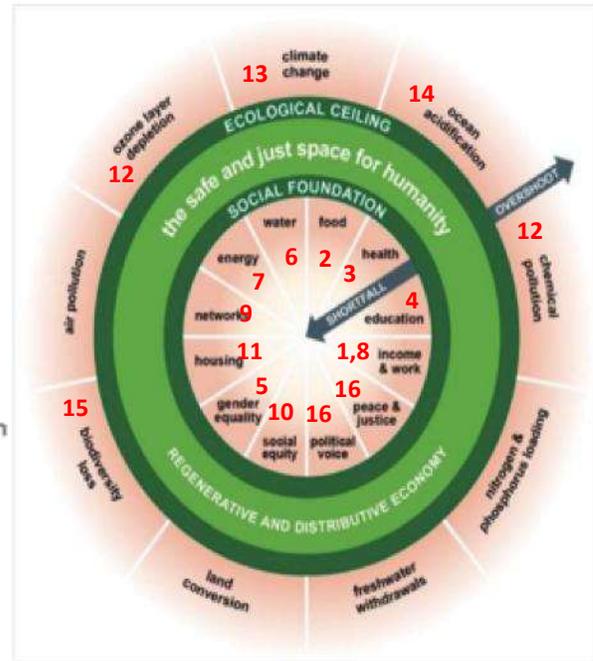
Here we see the slightly revised doughnut model that was published in 2017 in her book, *Doughnut Economics*. 12 domains of universal human needs are displayed within the doughnut hole, and 9 essential ecological systems are portrayed beyond the doughnut’s outer edge. These boundaries circumscribe the “safe and just space for humanity.”

This model also clearly displays (1) the inseparability of human and ecological wellbeing, and (2) the subordination of economics within the social fabric—both of which are enveloped within the environment.

Mapping the **SDGs** onto the Raworth Doughnut (preliminary)



- Goal 1: No poverty
- Goal 2: Zero hunger
- Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4: Quality education
- Goal 5: Gender equality
- Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9: Industry, innovation, and infrastructure
- Goal 10: Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13: Climate action
- Goal 14: Life below water
- Goal 15: Life on land
- Goal 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals



A KEY TAKEAWAY: The SDGs and the doughnut model are deeply intertwined.

This image displays the direct connections between the 17 SDGs and the 21 categories of the Raworth doughnut –12 social foundation domains and 9 earth-system domains.

Each of the 12 social foundation categories inside the doughnut is associated with 1 or 2 SDGs. Five of the 9 earth-system categories have direct linkages with an SDG. (More associations may be documented later. Some homework for the co-facilitators!)

Paul Belanger will refer to the doughnut model later to bridge to climate change and constructive responses.

“Regenerative Economics and the SDGs”



**Brenna
Simmons-
St. Onge,**
Executive
Director



[The Alliance Center](#)

Two key takeaways from our guest presenter last week -- Brenna Simmons-St. Onge, Executive Director of the Alliance Center.

The Alliance Center and the SDGs



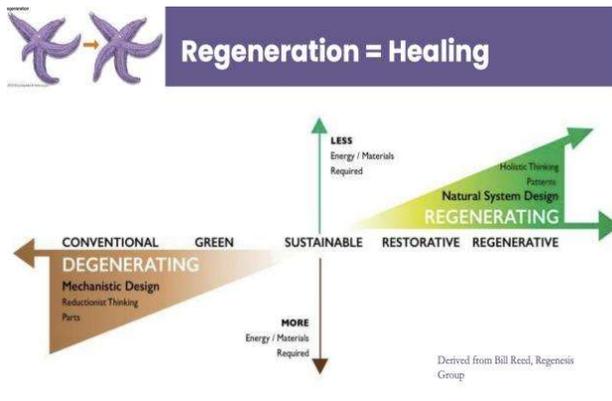
First, the Alliance Center’s mission and activities are strongly connected to the SDGs.

Here, the Center highlights 7 of the 17 SDGs that it focuses upon. This image is prominently displayed in the Alliance Center’s lobby in downtown Denver.

Perhaps this image could be called the SDG “signature” of the Alliance Center. Equally important, the Alliance tracks its impact in relation to the SDGs.

What would the SDG signature look like of organizations and groups important to you? Could the impact of these organizations and groups be measured in terms of the SDGs?

The Regenerative Recovery Coalition



A **Regenerative Economy** delivers wellbeing by meeting human needs abundantly in ways that strengthen our natural and social life support systems.

It's an economy in service to life! It enhances human dignity, as it ensures ecological integrity.

Second, the concept of "Regenerative" is fundamental for the Center's mission and activities.

Regenerative"—two steps beyond "sustainable." What might Regenerative Development Goals [RDGs] look like beyond Sustainable Development Goals? Possible discussion topic next week?



This slide was shown two weeks ago when we discussed how the Sustainable Development Solutions Network began developing indicators for countries and U.S. states and cities to track progress toward the SDGs by 2030. Let’s take a deeper look at trends in Colorado from the SDSN’s latest report.

From the Dashboard color scheme, two of the 15 goals tracked have been reached by Colorado (green): SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).

Note that two of the 17 SDGs are not tracked for any states (grey): SDG 14 (Life Under Water) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

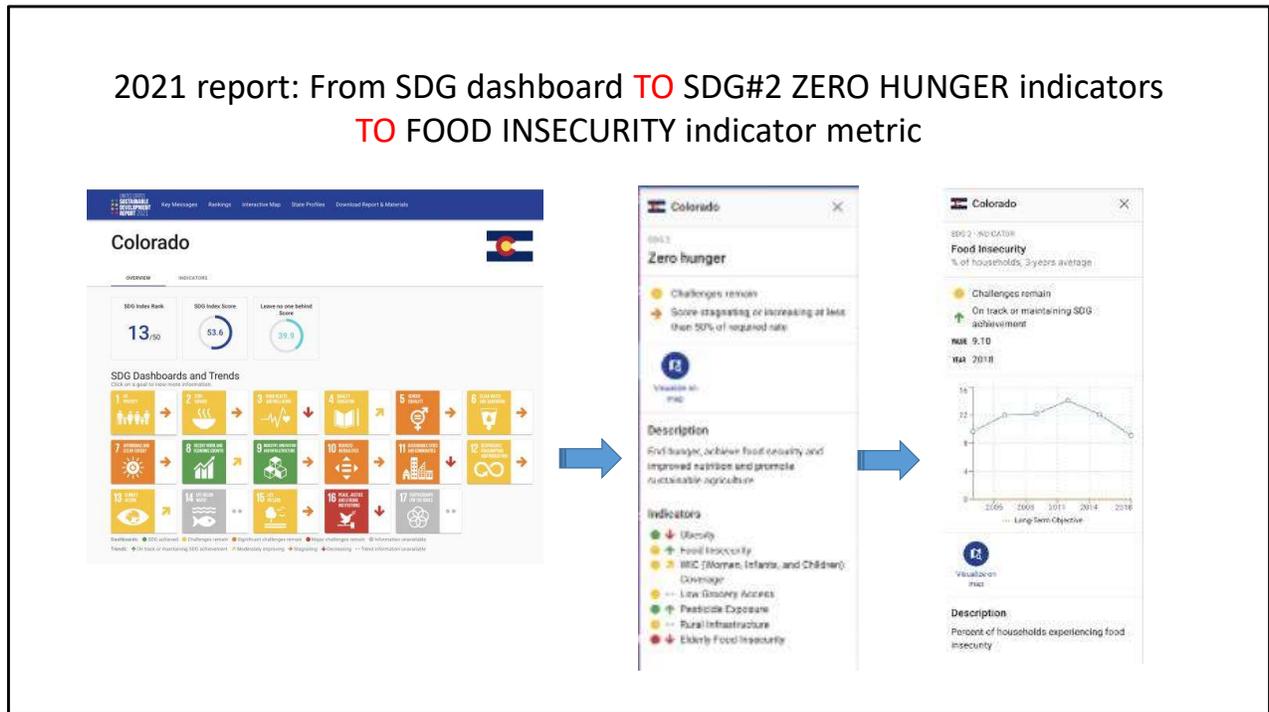
Challenges remain for 8 of the 15 SDGs tracked (yellow), and 4 have significant challenges (orange).

Only 1 SDG faces major challenges in Colorado (red). Perhaps surprisingly, the goal is Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions! Why is Colorado rated red on this SDG? It turns out that 6 of the 8 indicators for this SDG are tracking red, including murder rate, incarceration rate, police violence, and youth incarceration. Furthermore, the

trend is getting worse (downward red arrow).

You can see the full list at the hot link.

2021 report: From SDG dashboard **TO** SDG#2 ZERO HUNGER indicators
TO FOOD INSECURITY indicator metric

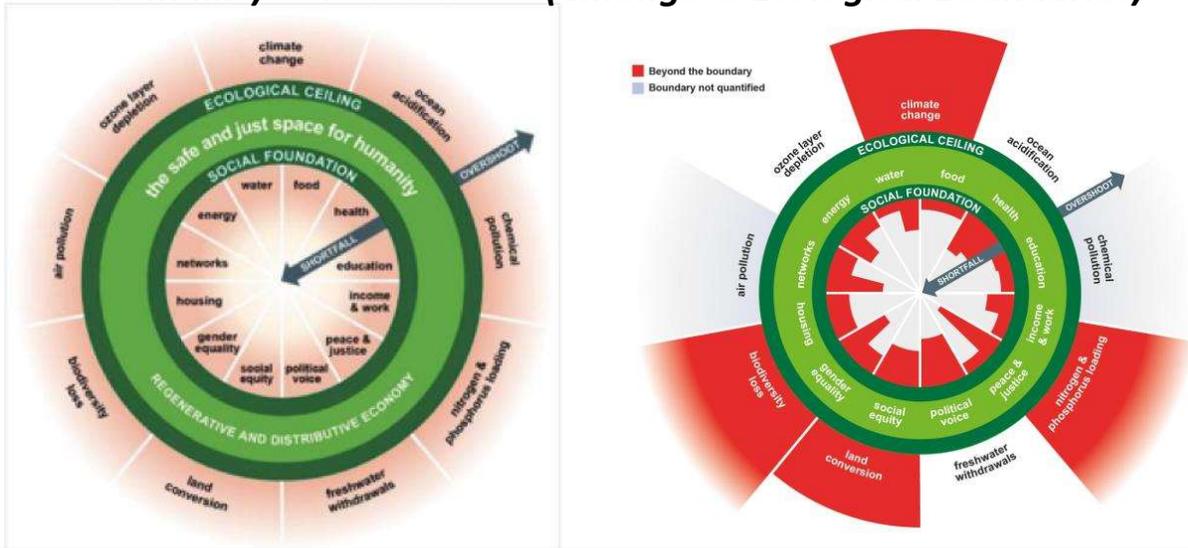


In Week 5, we specifically looked for the indicators for SDG #2 ZERO HUNGER and Colorado's performance on all seven indicators. We chose one of the 7, Food Insecurity, to see the actual quantitative metric: food insecurity, % of households, 3-year average.

This slide is just a reminder as to how to find the indicators that drive the current ratings of Colorado's progress toward the SDGs.

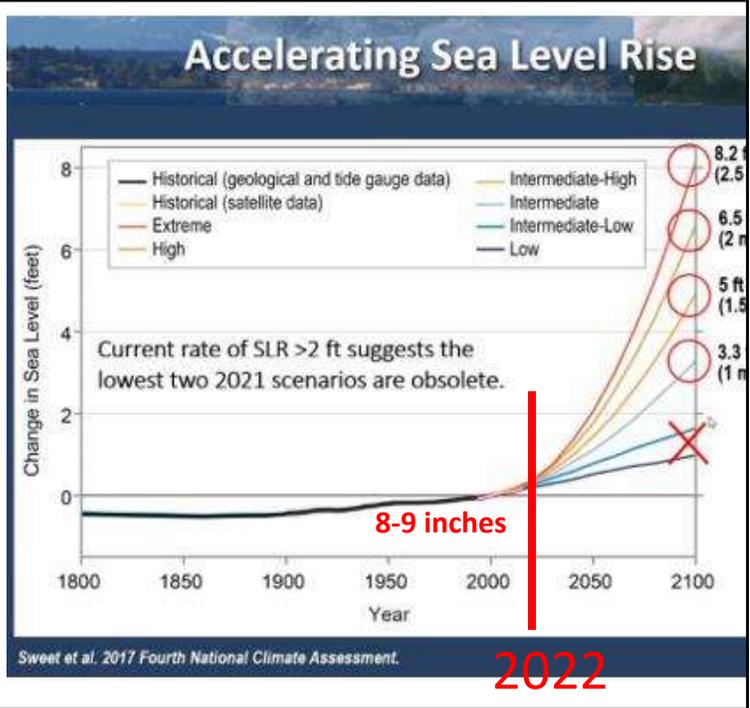
To Paul Belanger's slides

The Raworth Doughnut:
Red indicates Social Foundation *shortfalls* (of 12 human wellbeing domains) & 4 *overshoots* (amongst 9 Ecological Boundaries)



PAUL – ADD YOUR NOTES

Projected Sea Level Rise





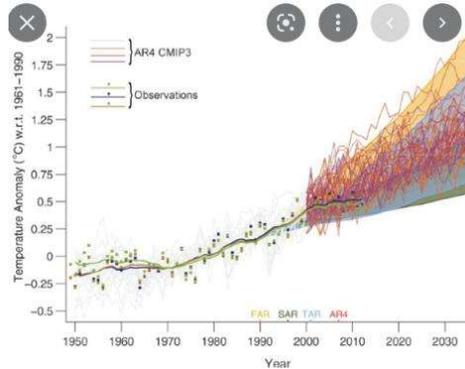
IPCC PRESS RELEASE

9 August 2021

Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying – IPCC

GENEVA, Aug 9 – Scientists are observing changes in the Earth’s climate in every region and across the whole climate system, according to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, released today. Many of the changes observed in the climate are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and some of the changes already set in motion—such as continued sea level rise—are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years.

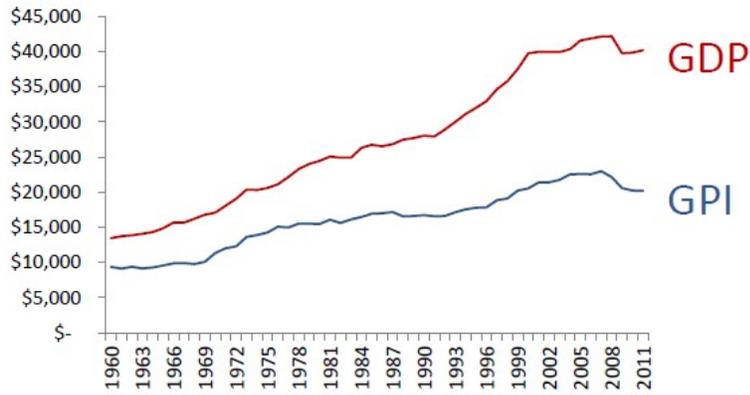
www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2021/08/IPCC_WGI-AR6-Press-Release_en.pdf



<https://skepticalscience.com/ipcc-global-warming-projections.htm>

Colorado Results: GPI vs GDP

GDP grew by 300%
GPI grew by 215%



- Extreme Weather events will become more costly resulting in a false GDP – i.e. a divergence of the GDP vs. GPI
- Sea level rise – becomes astronomical



Chris Stiffler presentation 9/21/2022 to OLLI: Beyond GDP

<https://eeforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Chris-Stiffler-Measuring-Genuine-Progress-GPI-Lecture-2022.pdf>

Colorado Results: GPI vs GDP

GDP grew by 300%
GPI grew by 215%

\$45,000
\$40,000
\$35,000
\$30,000
\$25,000
\$20,000
\$15,000
\$10,000
\$5,000

World rocked by 29 billion-dollar weather disasters in 2022

Posted on 25 October 2022 by Guest Author

This is a re-post from Yale Climate Connections by Jeff Masters

Weather events
come more costly
in a false GDP – i.e.
inflation of the GDP vs.



dollar weather disasters have rocked the planet so far in 2022, said
On in its quarterly disaster report issued October 18. Heat waves in
than 16,000 people and nearly 1,700 d

1996
1999
2002
2005
2008
2011



The New York Times

Climate Pledges Are Falling Short, and a Chaotic Future Looks More Like Reality

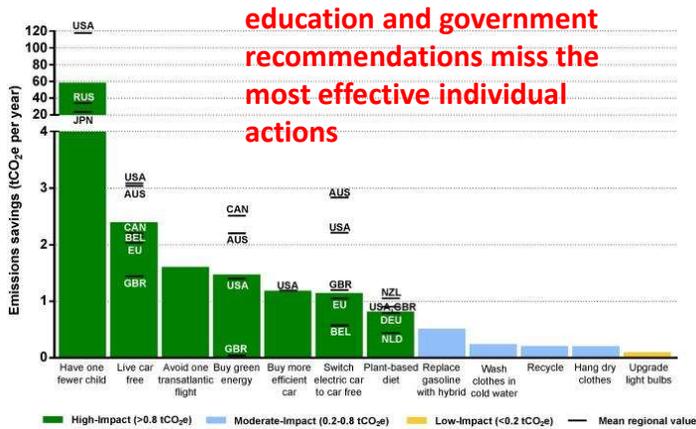
With an annual summit next month, the United Nations assessed progress on countries' past emissions commitments. Severe disruption would be hard to avoid on the current trajectory.

becomes

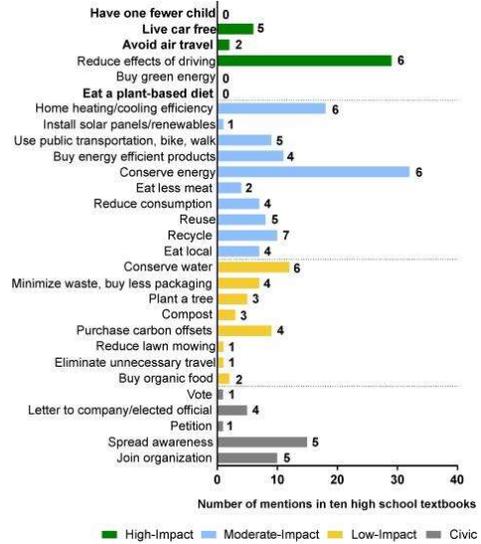
<https://skepticalscience.com/29-billion-dollar-disasters-2022.html>

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/26/climate/un-climate-pledges-warming.html?emc=edit_na_20221026&ref=cta&nl=breaking-news

What Individuals can do and how are we educating about it?



<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aa7541/meta>



QuimperGeology.org

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2022-12-10 Marcia Bjornerud—Timefulness: How to think like a geologist can save the world

September 17, 2022 QMPGEOeditor1

TIMEFULNESS
HOW THINKING LIKE A GEOLOGIST
CAN HELP SAVE THE WORLD

On Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, Marcia Bjornerud, Professor of Geosciences at Lawrence University in Wisconsin, will share ideas from her book *Timefulness: How Thinking Like a Geologist Can Help Save the World*.

TIMEFULNESS
HOW THINKING LIKE A GEOLOGIST
CAN HELP SAVE THE WORLD
MARCIA BJORNERUD

**A Geologic Perspective:
How thinking like a
geologist can help save the
world**

**Save the date: Saturday
December 10th 5 p.m.
Mountain**

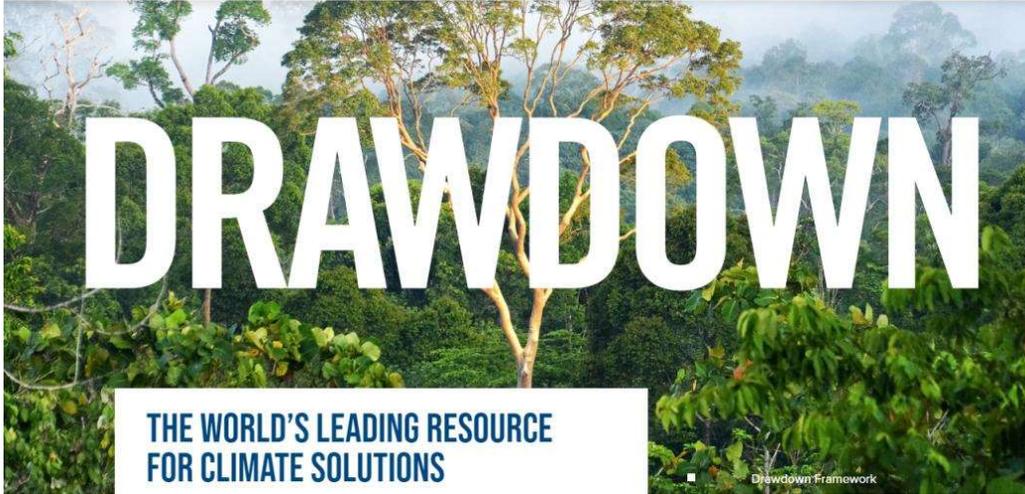
<https://quimpergeology.org/2022/2022-12-10-marcia-bjornerud-timefulness-how-thing-like-a-geologist-can-save-the-world/>

My point here is that geologists think of the Earth in very different ways than most – in terms of time and space as related to present processes.

It leads some to be dismissive about Anthropogenic global warming (AGW) – “climate has always changed” in a somewhat smug, cold calculated way to sweep under the rug that our AGW issue is not about “just” climate change – it’s about our present sustainability. I bring up this title as intro to my slide deck in that I’m on the board for Sound Water Stewards because I care about our marine environment and where I can contribute locally with my science background <https://soundwaterstewards.org/>

I’ve taught many an OLLI course in Denver (West, Central, East and South) to the tune of “Earth Climate, Past, Present and Future; Concerns and solutions.

I’m also on the advisory board for Quimper Geologic Society <https://quimpergeology.org/> - that being said



Click on the link: sign up for newsletters, learn more
<https://drawdown.org/>



TABLE OF SOLUTIONS

Drawdown Framework	Sectors
All Solutions	Energy, Buildings, and Cities
Table of Solutions	Industry
Glossary	Transportation
Models	Buildings
Methods	Land Sinks
	Coastal and Ocean Sinks
	Engineered Sinks
	Health and Education
	Other Energy

Here, we present the individual solutions reviewed and assessed by Project Drawdown, including their relevant sector(s) and their impact on reducing heat-trapping gases. This list is extensive but not exhaustive, and we continue to add to it as a living project.

Project Drawdown uses different scenarios to assess what determined, global efforts to address climate change might look like. Both scenarios shown here are plausible and economically realistic. Drawdown Scenario 1 is roughly in line with 2°C temperature rise by 2100, while Drawdown Scenario 2 is roughly in-line with 1.5°C temperature rise at century's end.

The results shown here are based on projected emissions impact globally. The relative importance of a given solution can differ significantly depending on context and particular ecological, economic, political, or social conditions. We invite a deeper dive into the many particularities and nuances of all of these solutions.

THE WORLD'S LEADING FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

<https://drawdown.org/>



* Gigatons CO2 Equivalent Reduced / Sequestered (2020–2050)

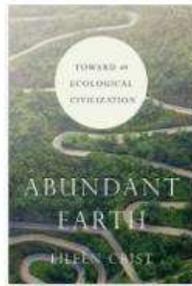
▲ SOLUTION	◆ SECTOR(S)	◆ SCENARIO 1*	◆ SCENARIO 2
Abandoned Farmland Restoration	Land Sinks	12.48	20.32
Alternative Cement	Industry	7.70	15.56
Alternative Refrigerants	Industry / Buildings	42.73	48.75
Bamboo Production	Land Sinks	7.70	19.60
Bicycle Infrastructure	Transportation	2.73	4.63
Biochar Production	Engineered Sinks	1.36	3.00
Biogas for Cooking	Buildings	4.65	9.70
Biomass Power	Electricity	2.62	2.50

Click on the link: sign up for newsletters, learn more
<https://drawdown.org/>



<https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050>

Resources



Abundant Earth: Toward an Ecological Civilization

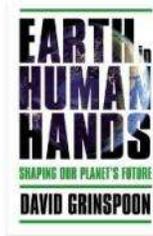
by Eileen Crist

★★★★★ 4.33 · Rating details · 3 ratings · 2 reviews

In *Abundant Earth*, Eileen Crist not only documents the rising tide of biodiversity loss, but also lays out the drivers of this wholesale destruction and how we can push past them. Looking beyond the familiar litany of causes—a large and growing human population, rising livestock numbers, expanding economies and international trade, and spreading infrastructures and incursions upon wildlands—she asks the key question: if we know human expansionism is to blame for this ecological crisis, why are we not taking the needed steps to halt our expansionism?

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/39105295-abundant-earth?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=76HySSNn9u&rank=1

Resources: David Grinspoon
Earth in Human hands:
We know what we can do
but we need government leadership partnered
with the private sector

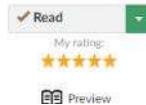


Earth in Human Hands: Shaping Our Planet's Future

by David Grinspoon

★★★★★ 4.21 · Rating details · 272 ratings · 43 reviews

For the first time in Earth's history, our planet is experiencing a confluence of rapidly accelerating changes prompted by one species: humans. Climate change is only the most visible of the modifications we've made—up until this point, inadvertently—to the planet. And our current behavior threatens not only our own future but that of countless other creatures. By comparing Earth's story to those of other planets, astrobiologist David Grinspoon shows what a strange and novel development it is for a species to evolve to build machines, and ultimately, global societies with world-shaping influence.



https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/26031232-earth-in-human-hands?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=8iCQ0YNM0g&rank=1

VOTE

In my mind:

- ALL HANDS-ON DECK
- VOTE: every vote is a climate vote (among others)

- End Paul Belanger's slides/presentation

Back to David Carlson's slides

There was discussion and everyone got kicked out and resumed some 15 minute later

Session #7: Other noteworthy frameworks of human and ecological wellbeing

- We'll examine at least two examples: The 12-page [2022 Colorado County Health Rankings Report](#) features a common set of 35 indicators for ranking the counties in Colorado that gives equal weight to Health Outcomes and Health Factors. Similar reports for each state have been published since 2010.
- Since 2014, the [Social Progress Imperative](#) has produced a Social Progress Index (SPI) of 50+ social and environmental indicators for most countries annually and for U.S. states in 2018. (from the syllabus)



This 12-page annual report features a common set of 35 indicators for ranking the counties in Colorado that gives equal weight to Health Outcomes and Health Factors.

[2022 Colorado County Health Rankings Report](#)

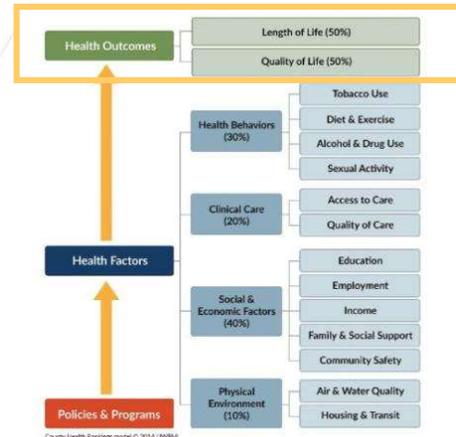
The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) has prepared annual “County Health Rankings” reports for each state since 2010, using a conceptual framework that gives equal weight to Health Outcomes and Health Factors.

2022 County Health Rankings for the 59 Ranked Counties in Colorado

County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors
Adams	27	46	Crowley	47	57	Gunnison	7	8	Mesa	32	38	Rio Blanco	25	21
Alamosa	53	41	Custer	41	30	Hinsdale	NR	NR	Mineral	NR	NR	Rio Grande	50	50
Arapahoe	14	20	Delta	48	44	Huerfano	44	52	Moffat	43	45	Routt	6	6
Archuleta	21	26	Denver	23	34	Jackson	NR	NR	Montezuma	51	40	Saguache	57	58
Baca	39	42	Dolores	49	33	Jefferson	12	11	Montrose	31	35	San Juan	NR	NR
Bent	58	56	Douglas	1	1	Kiowa	NR	NR	Morgan	40	49	San Miguel	16	22
Boulder	4	3	Eagle	3	15	Kit Carson	36	31	Otero	59	53	Sedgwick	37	47
Broomfield	5	2	El Paso	33	24	La Plata	13	17	Ouray	19	5	Summit	8	10
Chaffee	17	13	Elbert	10	7	Lake	34	36	Park	26	12	Teller	30	16
Cheyenne	35	28	Fremont	42	43	Larimer	11	9	Phillips	29	14	Washington	45	27
Clear Creek	9	18	Garfield	15	25	Las Animas	55	55	Pitkin	2	4	Weld	18	32
Conejos	54	48	Gilpin	28	23	Lincoln	24	39	Prowers	46	51	Yuma	22	29
Costilla	56	59	Grand	20	19	Logan	38	37	Pueblo	52	54			

Note that 5 of Colorado's 64 counties are not ranked.

Conceptual Framework



Health Outcomes and Health Factors are equally weighted – 50-50. Counties are ranked separately for each of these two “dimensions” of overall health. Do these side-by-side rankings suggest an underlying pattern or correlation?

The rankings are based upon the conceptual framework on the right. Health Outcomes are based upon two components; Health Factors rest upon four primary components, each of each has at least two subcomponents – 13 subcomponents in all. In turn, as we shall see a few slides later, the 13 subcomponents are tracked by a total of 35 quantitative indicators.

Length and Quality of Life → Health OUTCOMES (= 50% of ranking)

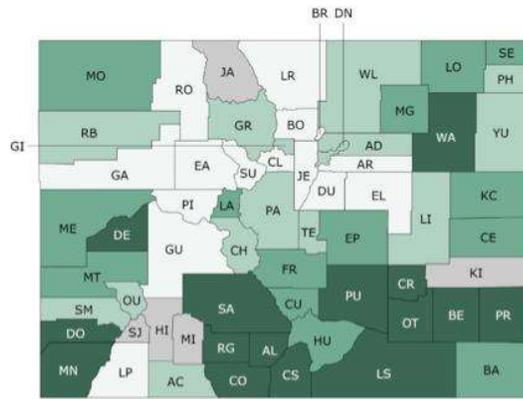
Length of Life

Premature death
(years of potential life lost before age 75)

Quality of Life

Self-reported health status

Percent of low birthweight newborns



Health Outcome Ranks 1 to 15 16 to 30 31 to 44 45 to 59

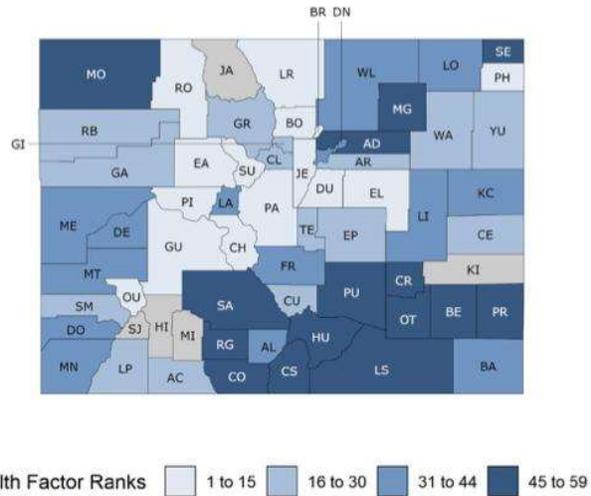
Components of Health FACTORS (= 50% of ranking)

- Health Behaviors**
- Tobacco use
 - Diet & exercise
 - Alcohol & drug use
 - Sexual activity

- Clinical Care**
- Access to care
 - Quality of care

- Social and Economic Factors**
- Education
 - Employment & income
 - Family & social support
 - Community safety

- Physical Environment**
- Air & water quality
 - Housing & transit



What do these two maps imply about the correlation between Health Outcomes and Health Factors?

Let's recall the title of Dr. Sheila Davis' presentation in session 4: "It's Not Your Genetic Code. It's Your Zip Code!"

2022 County Health Rankings: National and Colorado State Values for Ranked Measures					
Measure	Description	US	CO	CO Minimum	CO Maximum
HEALTH OUTCOMES					
Premature death*	Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted).	7,300	6,300	3,100	14,200
Poor or fair health	Percentage of adults reporting fair or poor health (age-adjusted).	17%	14%	9%	28%
Poor physical health days	Average number of physically unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted).	3.9	3.3	2.6	5.0
Poor mental health days	Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted).	4.5	4.0	3.5	4.8
Low birthweight*	Percentage of live births with low birthweight (< 2,500 grams).	8%	9%	7%	22%
HEALTH FACTORS					
HEALTH BEHAVIORS					
Adult smoking	Percentage of adults who are current smokers (age-adjusted).	16%	14%	10%	21%
Adult obesity	Percentage of the adult population (age 18 and older) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m ² (age-adjusted).	32%	24%	20%	34%
Food environment index	Index of factors that contribute to a healthy food environment, from 0 (worst) to 10 (best).	7.8	8.5	1.7	9.5
Physical inactivity	Percentage of adults age 18 and over reporting no leisure-time physical activity (age-adjusted).	26%	19%	13%	31%
Access to exercise opportunities	Percentage of population with adequate access to locations for physical activity.	80%	88%	6%	100%
Excessive drinking	Percentage of adults reporting binge or heavy drinking (age-adjusted).	20%	20%	14%	24%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	Percentage of driving deaths with alcohol involvement.	27%	34%	0%	75%
Sexually transmitted infections	Number of newly diagnosed chlamydia cases per 100,000 population.	951.0	517.8	81.5	1,091.2
Teen births*	Number of births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19.	19	16	4	34
MUNICIPAL CARE					
Uninsured	Percentage of population under age 65 without health insurance.	11%	9%	4%	18%
Primary care physicians	Ratio of population to primary care physicians.	1,310:1	1,200:1	1,830:0	630:1
Dentists	Ratio of population to dentists.	1,400:1	1,210:1	3,920:0	770:1
Mental health providers	Ratio of population to mental health providers.	350:1	250:1	720:0	70:1
Preventable hospital stays*	Rate of hospital stays for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions per 100,000 Medicare enrollees.	3,767	2,337	746	5,864
Mammography screening*	Percentage of female Medicare enrollees ages 65-74 that received an annual mammography screening.	43%	40%	22%	52%
Flu vaccinations*	Percentage of fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare enrollees that had an annual flu vaccination.	48%	48%	19%	61%
SOCIAL & ECONOMIC FACTORS					
High school completion	Percentage of adults ages 25 and over with a high school diploma or equivalent.	89%	92%	79%	99%
Some college	Percentage of adults ages 25-44 with some post-secondary education.	67%	72%	23%	87%
Unemployment	Percentage of population ages 16 and older unemployed but seeking work.	8.1%	7.3%	2.3%	11.3%
Children in poverty*	Percentage of people under age 18 in poverty.	16%	11%	3%	32%
Income inequality	Ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to income at the 20th percentile.	4.9	4.4	2.6	5.7
Children in single-parent households	Percentage of children that live in a household headed by a single parent.	25%	21%	4%	44%
Social associations	Number of membership associations per 10,000 population.	9.2	8.6	0.0	31.4
Violent crime	Number of reported violent crime offenses per 100,000 population.	386	326	0	631
Injury deaths*	Number of deaths due to injury per 100,000 population.	76	83	46	164
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT					
Air pollution - particulate matter	Average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5).	7.5	5.6	4.6	11.1
Drinking water violations*	Indicator of the presence of health-related drinking water violations. 'Yes' indicates the presence of a violation. 'No' indicates no violation.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Severe housing problems	Percentage of households with at least 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, or lack of plumbing facilities.	17%	16%	7%	27%
Driving alone to work*	Percentage of the workforce that drives alone to work.	75%	73%	52%	84%
Long commute - driving alone	Among workers who commute in their car alone, the percentage that commute more than 30 minutes.	37%	30%	9%	70%

2022 County Health Rankings: 35 key indicators

- 50% of each county's ranking is based upon on **Health OUTCOMES** (5 indicators)

AND

- 50% of each county's ranking is based upon on **Health FACTORS** (30 indicators)

Here we have a “dashboard” of indicators for county health – 2 overarching dimensions of county health; 5 domains or categories; and 35 quantitative indicators.

Previous slides show RELATIVE ranking of counties among themselves. This slide compares Colorado state values (i.e., averages) with national values, plus lists the lowest and highest values among Colorado counties.

Three examples are highlighted in RED: LOW BIRTHWEIGHT, TEEN BIRTHS, and UNINSURED. They illustrate that relying exclusively—or even primarily—upon averages can be seriously misleading. Especially so if we keep in mind the U.N.'s fundamental SDG equity principle – Leave No One Behind.

I leave it as an exercise to see how many indicators map onto the SDGs – or the Raworth doughnut.

“Economic Security is Key to Thriving Communities”

- Economic security enables families to cover basic needs such as housing, education, childcare, food, and medical care. Each of these needs has demonstrated ties to health. **However, economic security is not equally accessible to all people.**
- Median household income varies by race and ethnicity across Colorado counties ranging between \$52,028 for American Indian & Alaska Native households to \$83,168 for Asian households. **These income disparities demonstrate how economic security is not equally accessible to all people living in Colorado.**

--from the [2022 Colorado County Health Rankings Report](#) (p. 7)

A key takeaway from this latest report.

The Social Progress Imperative

Mission: To use data to influence policies and investments to better serve all of humanity.



“Countries need a new measure that assesses and quantifies the things that really matter to real people: Do I have enough to eat? Do I have shelter? Can I get an education? The Social Progress Index was created to meet that need.”

Michael Green, CEO of the Social Progress Imperative. View his most recent TED talk (2018): "[The global goals we've made progress on, and the ones we haven't.](#)"

The Social Progress Imperative is a global nonprofit based in Washington, DC, launched in 2014. SPI provides decision-makers and everyday citizens with the very best data on the social and environmental health of their societies and helping them prioritize actions that accelerate social progress. (from the SPI website, www.socialprogress.org .)

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[From Wikipedia: The **Social Progress Imperative** is a US-based nonprofit created in 2012 best known for the [Social Progress Index](#), a multi-indicator index that assesses the social and environmental performance of different countries. The Social Progress Index is an effort to complement the measure of national performance using traditional economic measures such as gross domestic product with data on social and environmental performance.¹

The Social Progress Imperative

Mission: To use data to influence policies and investments to better serve all of humanity.

- **Definition:** **Social progress** is “the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential.”
- **Economic indicators are intentionally excluded:** “. . . our aim is to measure social progress directly, rather than through economic proxies.” Indicators are based on outcomes, not inputs or goals.

socialprogress.org

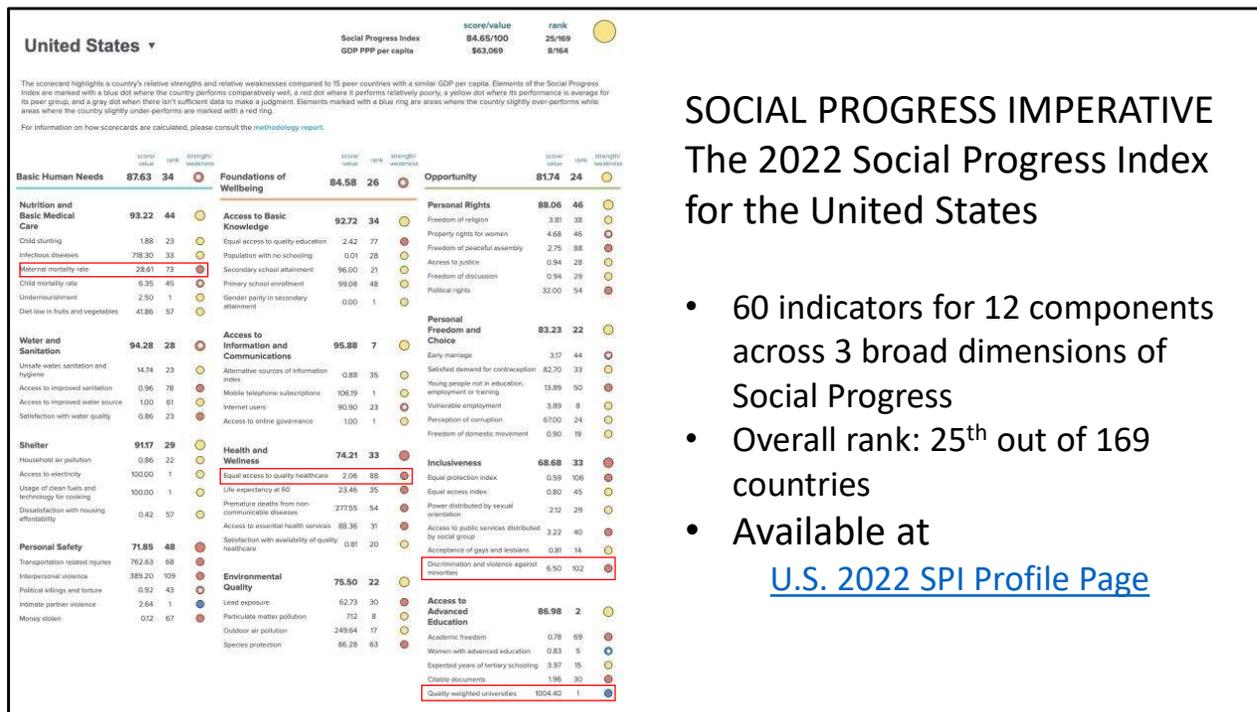
Since 2014, the [Social Progress Imperative](http://socialprogress.org) has produced an annual *Social Progress Index* (SPI) for more than 130 countries, including the United States.

Social Progress Index component-level framework



Since 2014, the [Social Progress Imperative](#) has produced an annual *Social Progress Index* (SPI) for more than 130 countries, including the United States. The index is based upon a common set of 50+ social and environmental indicators across 3 broad dimensions of social and environmental wellbeing: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity. In turn, each dimension clusters its indicators in four components, or categories. Economic metrics are intentionally excluded. Results for each country are summarized on 1-page profiles.

In 2018 SPI profiles were prepared for each state in the U.S. State profiles use the same 3-dimension, 12-component framework but a different common set of quantitative indicators. An update for U.S. states and 500 of the largest cities in the U.S. is promised “soon.” Details later.



SOCIAL PROGRESS IMPERATIVE The 2022 Social Progress Index for the United States

- 60 indicators for 12 components across 3 broad dimensions of Social Progress
- Overall rank: 25th out of 169 countries
- Available at [U.S. 2022 SPI Profile Page](#)

Here we see the 1-page Profile for the U.S. – three columns, one for each dimension of social progress, with four components in each.

Numerical values--or scores, using a 100-point scale--are calculated for each indicator, component, dimension, and the country as a whole. Likewise, national rankings are given for each indicator, component, dimension, and the country as a whole. In addition, over- and under-performance is evaluated relative to 15 countries of similar GDP per capita.

In addition to providing how the U.S. ranks against the other 168 countries surveyed, the SPI measures how the U.S. is doing relative to other countries with similar GDP per capita. Color code:

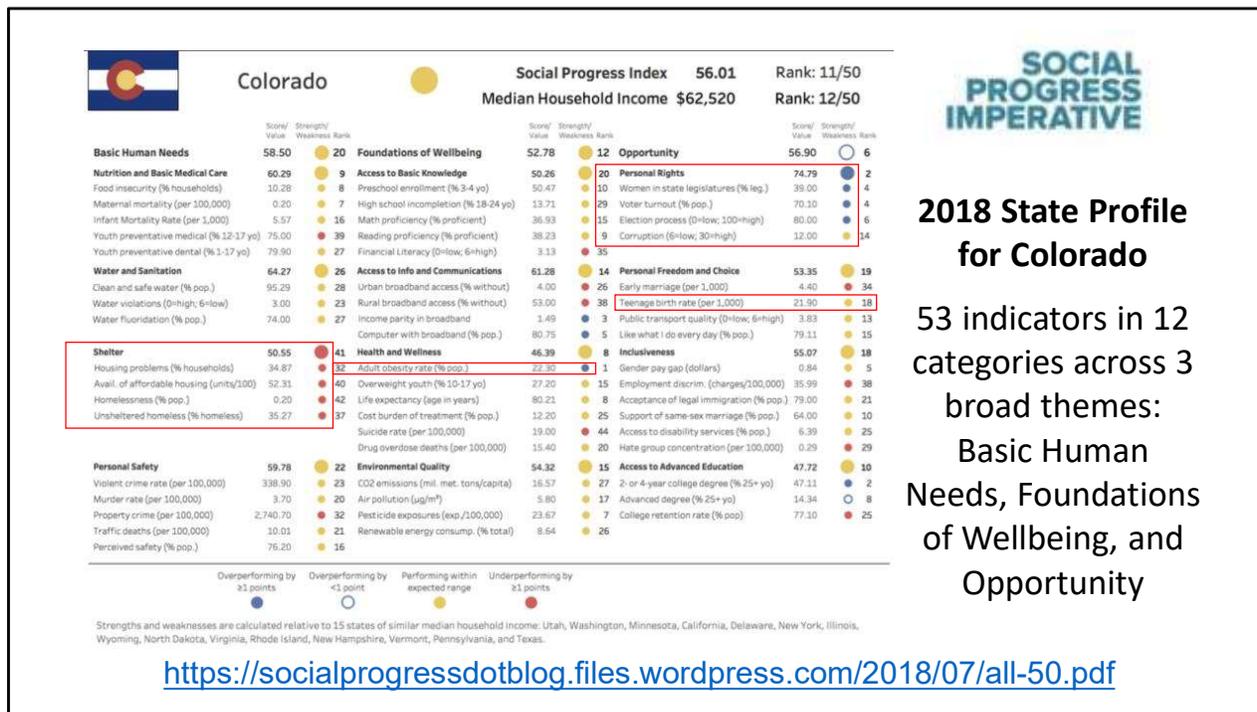
- Blue—performs comparatively well
- Blue ring—country slightly overperforms
- Yellow--"average" performance compared to the peer group
- Red ring—country slightly underperforms
- Red—performs relatively poorly

Three indicators have been highlighted with red boxes: Maternal mortality rate [column 1, first component]; Equal access to quality health care [column 2, third component]; discrimination and violence against minorities [third dimension, third component].

PPP DETAIL

- Purchasing power parity (PPP) is a popular metric used by macroeconomic analysts that compares different countries' currencies through a "basket of goods" approach.
- Purchasing power parity (PPP) allows for economists to compare economic productivity and standards of living between countries.
- Some countries adjust their gross domestic product (GDP) figures to reflect PPP.

<https://www.socialprogress.org/?code=USA&tab=2>



2018 State Profile for Colorado

53 indicators in 12 categories across 3 broad themes: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity

Same dimensions and components from the 2018 SPI report for states as those for the U.S. and other countries from the 2022 Report.

Strengths and weaknesses are measured in comparison to states with comparable median household income: Utah, Washington, Minnesota, California, Delaware, New York, Illinois, Wyoming, North Dakota, Virginia, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Indicators highlighted:

- Column 1, the entire third component (SHELTER) and its four indicators, all flashing red when compared to peer states.
- Column 2, third component (HEALTH & WELLNESS), and the "Adult obesity" indicator [Colorado is #1!]
- Column 3, the entire first component (PERSONAL RIGHTS), and its four indicators.
- Column 3, the second component (PERSONAL FREEDOM AND CHOICE), and indicator "Teenage birth rate"

With respect to this indicator, Colorado averages 22 births per 1,000 (rounded) in

2018. For comparison, the most recent Colorado County Health Rankings Report lists 16 births per 1,000 in 2022.

Column 1, the entire third component (Shelter), including its four indicators (one big red box)

Column 2, third component, Adult obesity rate indicator

Column 3, the entire first component (Personal rights), including its four indicators

Column 3, second component, Early marriage indicator

The Social Progress Index and the 17 SDGs



“Currently, the Social Progress Index measures outcomes related to all 17 goals and reflects 131 out of 169 targets in one simple framework, which makes the implementation, visualization and actionability of the SDGs a tangible reality for social innovators all over the world.”

[The Contribution of the Social Progress Index to the 2030 Agenda](#)

The Social Progress Index tracks strongly with the SDGs.

SPI Update Coming for U.S. States + 500 Cities

- “The US Social Progress Index is coming soon. It is the most comprehensive collection of social and environmental data of all 50 states and the 500 largest US cities, down to 28,000 census tracts. During such a polarized time it is important to have data-driven solutions, by creating a universally agreed upon framework for success we can agree on the metrics and the path forward for building back better.”
- For SPI updates via email, click on [form to receive SPI updates.](#)

The most recent SPI report for U.S. States was published in 2018, so this update will be very welcome. To be notified when it's becomes available, click on the hotlink.

To Rocky's presentation – see separately

Week #7 (Oct. 26th) Guest Presentation
“Planning to Thrive: Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable
Communities for the 21st Century”



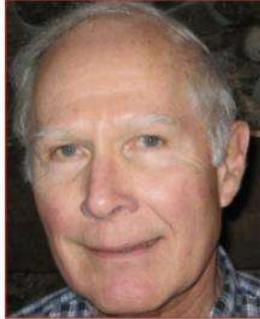
Rocky Piro
PhD, FAICP

Retired Urban Planner,
previous Executive Director,
Colorado Center for
Sustainable Urbanism

After our five-minute break, we'll hear from Dr. Sheila Davis, Director of the Office of Health Equity at CDPHE.

Final Session (Nov. 2nd) Guest Presentation

“Toward a Life-Centered Economy: From the Rule of Monday to the Rewards of Stewardship”



John Lodenkamper

Quaker Institute for the
Future Research Group

NOTE HOW THE TITLE OF NEXT WEEK'S TALK RESONATES WITH BRENNA SIMMONS-ST. ONGE'S CHARACTERIZATION OF A REGENERATIVE ECONOMY: I.E., **It's an economy in service to life!** It enhances human dignity, as it ensures ecological integrity.

Final session, 2nd hour: Topics chosen by class!

- Do you have **questions, suggestions, resources, or other comments** related to (a) topics and guest presentations from previous weeks, and/or (b) the course theme as a whole **that you would like to share with the class?**
- If so, **please email them to us beforehand**—best if we receive them no later than **Friday, October 28th**. We'll organize and distribute them to everyone by **Monday, October 31st**, for sharing and discussion on **November 2nd**.