

Boulder Open Data

I. What is it?

[Open Data](#) is machine-readable information from any source that is free for anyone to use and reuse.

II. Why is it valuable?

Transparency. Citizen awareness & involvement. Create new insights.

- Promote transparency and democratic control
- Promote civic participation
- Improved or new private products and services
- Improved efficiency/effectiveness of government services
- Impact measurement of policies
- New knowledge from combined data sources and patterns in large data volumes

III. Potential Uses

- Used to influence business decisions at local and state levels
- Used by non-profit and for-profit to create better products for the community
- Used by citizens to...
 - Understand the landscape around them
 - Get a deeper understanding of societal issues
 - Understand literally anything at the governmental level

Specific Case Studies:

- Prison crisis brought to life (<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/CO.html>)
- OpenStreetMaps of Boulder (https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Boulder,_Colorado)
- GoCodeColorado furthering business opportunities (<https://gocode.colorado.gov/>)
- Italy's aid (<http://openaid.esteri.it/>)

IV. Who's involved? Where does this data come from?

(EDIT with the City) The City of Boulder has created an Open Data task force that works to make data from across city government available and easy to use to the general public.

(EDIT because it's sparse) Code for Boulder is working with the City of Boulder to create materials that make Open Data more friendly.

Road Map Overview

Part I | Familiarization

Part II | Here's how to dive in

Part III | API navigation

Part VI | Deploy to all 'Code for X' organizations

Other Questions to Answer:

- Where does this data come from?
- What data is available?

Ideas for Videos:

- Quick video showing someone going to the website, finding a data set, downloading it, analyzing it in Excel, making two graphs/visuals out of it. "That's Open Data"
- Video explaining what type of data is available - visually demonstrate what makes up Boulder's Open Data

Key Resources: (give each 1-5 stars based on their perceived usefulness)

- Open Data Essentials
- DataSF
- Mozilla's Open Data Primer
- Colorado Information Marketplace
- Data.gov
- Awesome Public Datasets @ Awesome Data
- City of Boulder Open Data Engagement Portal
- City of Boulder Open Data Catalog