

CLIMATE  
**ACTION**  
COLLABORATIVE

# 2022 IMPACT REPORT



**Walking  
Mountains**



# MISSION

## CLIMATE ACTION COLLABORATIVE PURPOSE & GOAL

The effects of climate change are impacting us now and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. The Eagle River Valley community urgently prioritizes climate action so current and future generations of citizens and guests can enjoy a flourishing year-round economy, recreational experiences, and a healthy, resilient ecosystem that enhances the wellbeing of all. The Eagle County Climate Action Plan's goal is to reduce county-wide carbon emissions 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.









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WELCOME

#BeBetterTogether



# CLIMATE ACTION, TOGETHER



Dear Eagle County Community Members,

We are pleased to bring you the Climate Action Collaborative (CAC) Impact Report for the 2022 calendar year.

For the past five years, the CAC's local government leaders, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community members have worked relentlessly on our collective climate action goal. Thanks to generous contributions of time, money, and expertise from our community partners, the CAC has become the trusted local resource for climate action. We are grateful to our founding members for their vision and commitment, and to our more recent members for the renewed energy and urgency they bring to our work.

The CAC accomplished a lot in 2022. We elicited the expertise of 2,000 people through our six specialized working groups, facilitated more than 80 meetings on diverse sustainability topics, hosted our first-ever Climate Action Week, added 500+ kilowatts to the electric grid through the Solarize Eagle County program, and developed a plan to build the infrastructure needed to meet future electric vehicle demand in Eagle County. This momentum continues in 2023 with a robust suite of programs that enable meaningful reductions in our community's greenhouse gas emissions.





# CLIMATE ACTION, TOGETHER

As we go to press with this report in the summer of 2023, the devastating impacts of ignoring the climate crisis for decades is being felt around the world. This deepens our resolve to engage everyone in the community to take action for the sake of our environment, our economy, and our future generations who deserve to inherit a healthy planet.

So connect with us! Join the conversation, ask us questions, and understand how to be part of the solution. Together, we can create a resilient Eagle County.

Sincerely,

Gina McCrackin, Manager  
*Gina McCrackin*

Sarah Smith Hymes, Board Chair  
*Sarah Smith Hymes*

## CLIMATE ACTION COLLABORATIVE BOARD

Sarah Smith Hymes, Town of Avon (chair)  
Eric Heil, Town of Avon  
Elyse Hottel, Town of Basalt  
Sara Nadolny, Town of Basalt  
Ellen Bodenheimer, Town of Eagle  
Geoff Grimmer, Town of Eagle  
Tori Franks, Eagle County  
Matt Scherr, Eagle County  
Earle Bidez, Town of Minturn  
Michelle Metteer, Town of Minturn  
Ben Kleimer, Town of Red Cliff  
Kristen Bertuglia, Town of Vail  
Kim Langmaid, Town of Vail (Vice Chair)

## CLIMATE ACTION COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Gina McCrackin, Manager  
Will Barror, Coordinator



# 2020 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

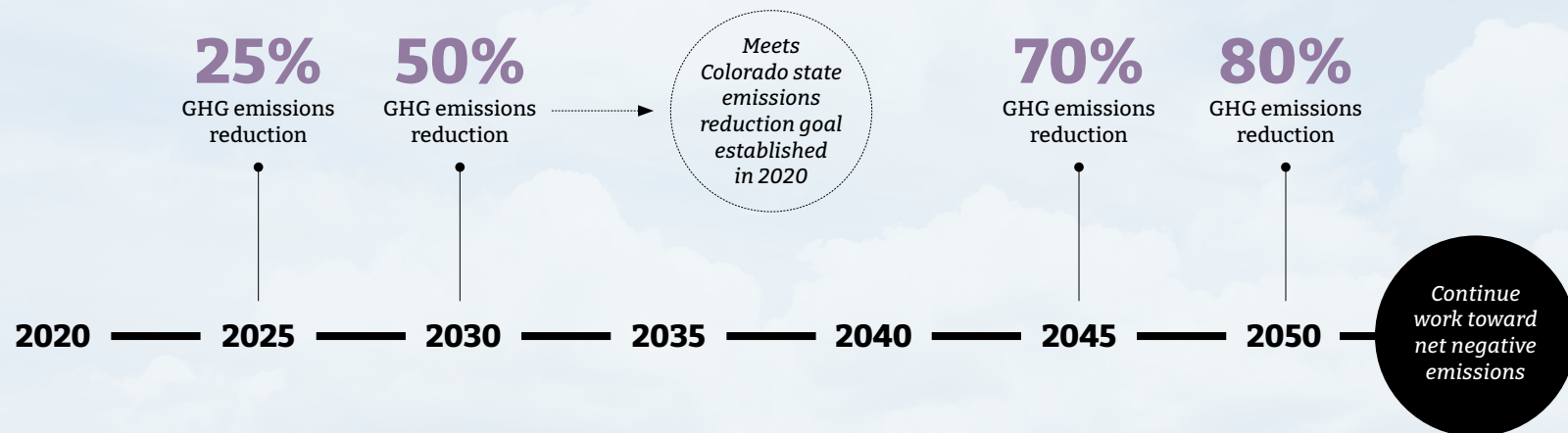
The Climate Action Collaborative chose to update the Eagle County Climate Action Plan in 2020 in lieu of a 2020 Annual Report. This decision was based on the tremendous strides being made in our community that empowered us to set more rigorous CO2 emissions reduction targets. The Eagle County Climate Action Plan now has a goal to reduce carbon emissions from our six sectors 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

**READ THE  
CLIMATE ACTION  
PLAN UPDATE**



## TARGET MILESTONES

### GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN\*



\* COMPARED TO A 2014 BASELINE





# 2022 EAGLE COUNTY ENERGY INVENTORY

Each year, Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER), a mountain region partner out of Garfield County, produces the Eagle County Energy Inventory. Yearly energy inventories allow us insights to our climate action progress.

The 2022 Eagle County Energy Inventory shares a number of highlights, some of which reflect our progress, and others demonstrate the need for more improvements. Buildings and transportation remain our two highest emissions sources, therefore more resources must be put behind building and transportation electrification and efficiency. Additionally, COVID-19 had a favorable impact on our emissions reduction efforts in 2020 and 2021, but with the economic rebound, we've seen emissions tick back up. This is a global trend that emphasizes the interconnection between the economy and greenhouse gas emissions. Click the link below to review the most recent Eagle County energy inventory.

**READ THE  
MOST RECENT ENERGY  
INVENTORY REPORT**





# KEY RESULTS

## **2022 COUNTY-WIDE METRICS**

The Climate Action Plan in Action





## BUILDINGS

### 2022 RESULTS

**146**

rebates awarded by  
Energy Smart Colorado  
and Holy Cross Energy

**170**

Energy Smart Colorado  
home energy assessments  
completed

**103**

LED bulbs swapped

**4,838**

pounds of CO2 saved  
from LED swaps

**659**

all-electric commercial  
buildings in Eagle County,  
a 0.15% increase since 2021

**7,581**

all-electric homes in  
Eagle County

**86**

buildings benchmarked,  
a 56.36% increase  
since 2021

### 2023 PRIORITIES

- ▶ Launch an Eagle County Code Cohort to pass consistent 2021 IECC building codes and supporting amendments that make new construction as sustainable and efficient as possible
- ▶ Continued research and development on a future Eagle County benchmarking and building performance standards ordinance
- ▶ Assist Eagle County building owners complying with the State of Colorado's Building Performance Colorado ordinance and forthcoming building performance standards







## TRANSPORTATION 2022 RESULTS

### 2022 RESULTS

**692**

light duty EVs registered  
in Eagle County, a 65.95%  
increase since 2021

**142**

Level 2 chargers in Eagle  
County, a 15.45% increase  
since 2021

**24**

Level 3 chargers in Eagle  
County, a 50% increase since  
2021

**7,393**

number of trips taken via  
ShiftBike

**21,735**

number of miles traveled via  
ShiftBike

**8.68**

metric tons of GHG emissions  
reduced via ShiftBike trips

### 2023 PRIORITIES

- ▶ Strive for expanding e-bike share program across the County
- ▶ Implement the strategies and actions found in the Eagle County EV Infrastructure Plan with the goal of increasing the amount of public EV charging stations in our community
- ▶ Research and advocacy around securing electric school buses for Eagle County School District
- ▶ Strive for expanding e-bike share program across the County







# ENERGY SUPPLY

## 2022 RESULTS

**50%** of energy is renewable on Holy Cross electric grid

**1,310**

participants in the [PuRE Program](#), a 15% decrease since 2021

**3.0%**

participation rate out of 42,454 accounts

**1,461**

participants in [Peak Time Payback](#), a 10.42% decrease since 2021

**3.4%**

participation rate out of 42,454 accounts

## 2023 PRIORITIES

- ▶ Apply for the National Renewable Energy Lab's (NREL) Waste to Energy Technical Assistance Program to receive consulting services related to waste to energy solutions for Eagle County
- ▶ Support the development of large scale solar and storage projects in Eagle County

## GET INVOLVED

*If you're interested in helping our community achieve our climate action goals, please visit the [Holy Cross Energy website](#) for more information on enrolling in their renewable energy programs.*







# MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

## 2022 RESULTS

**72%**

increase in organic  
waste diverted  
from landfill as  
compared to 2021

**2%**

increase in diversion  
of recoverable  
construction waste as  
compared to 2021

## 2023 PRIORITIES

- ▶ Create a construction and demolition management plan to divert 100% of recoverable C&D from the landfill by 2030
- ▶ Create an Eagle County specific diversion toolkit for local contractors
- ▶ Assist communities in preparing for the state-wide plastic bag ban







## WATER

### 2022 RESULTS

**5,978**

square feet of turf replaced  
under ERWSD's turf  
replacement program

**10**

residential and commercial  
irrigation audit rebates  
provided by ERWSD

### 2023 PRIORITIES

- ▶ Support the Beyond Lawn program and Eagle River Water and Sanitation District with their water conservation, lawn conversion, and rebate programs
- ▶ Create a water-greenhouse gas calculator to determine the emissions associated with water treatment and distribution across Eagle County, then use reports to advocate for efficiency improvements







# NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

## 2022 RESULTS

**135**

number of conservation  
easements in Eagle County

**31,937**

total acres of land under  
a conservation easement  
in Eagle County

**\$15.86**

donated to Walking  
Mountains  
Sustainability via the  
**Good Traveler** program

## 2023 PRIORITIES

- ▶ Work with a CU Denver student to develop a public-private partnership natural climate solutions report specific to Eagle County
- ▶ Support education efforts from partner organizations related to regenerative agriculture and soil health





# GRATITUDE

Our Most Sincere Thanks



THANK YOU

# EAGLE RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY



The Climate Action Collaborative excels at educating our community about our critical climate action work in creative, inspiring ways. We know that public engagement and educational opportunities allow Eagle County residents to feel they have agency in addressing the impacts of climate change. We're thrilled to report that we hosted 22 successful community events in 2022, including our first ever Climate Action Week, along with our mainstay events such as the EV Ride n Drive.

6

speaker series and civic  
engagement events

4

EV and multimodal  
transportation events

5

building and energy events

7

land, waste, or water events



# THANK YOU COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

The Climate Action Collaborative recognizes that the most effective way to achieve the scalable change we need is through thoughtful, reciprocal partnerships. As such, our passionate, steadfast, and consensus-driven alliance of leaders in our community have driven forward the material impact of our climate work. We could not have realized our important climate accomplishments without our Collaborative Partners.





## THANK YOU ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

**Additionally, we would like to extend a thank you to each of our committed, participating Organizational Partners.**

- ◆ About Saving Heat
- ◆ Active Energies
- ◆ Adam Palmer Sustainability Fund
- ◆ Backyard Irrigation
- ◆ Betty Ford Alpine Garden
- ◆ Black Hills Energy
- ◆ Clean Energy Economy for the Region
- ◆ Colorado State University Extension
- ◆ Eagle County Conservation District
- ◆ Eagle County School District
- ◆ Eagle River Watershed Council
- ◆ Eagle Valley Community Foundation
- ◆ Eagle Valley Land Trust
- ◆ East West Family of Companies
- ◆ EC Solid Waste and Recycling
- ◆ ECO Trails
- ◆ Encore Electric
- ◆ Ethos Landscape and Design
- ◆ EV Connect
- ◆ Evergreen Zero Waste
- ◆ Lotus Engineering and Sustainability
- ◆ Mountain Recreation
- ◆ Mountain Youth
- ◆ New Roots CO
- ◆ North 29 Energy
- ◆ Partners Environmental Consulting
- ◆ R&H Mechanical
- ◆ Schneider Electric
- ◆ Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
- ◆ Sunsense Solar
- ◆ The Ground Up
- ◆ Trinity Recycling
- ◆ US Green Building Council (USGBC)
- ◆ Vail Honeywagon
- ◆ Vail Valley Foundation
- ◆ Vail Valley Partnership
- ◆ White River National Forest
- ◆ Wint Water Intelligence
- ◆ Zehren and Associates







CLIMATE  
**ACTION**  
COLLABORATIVE

**CONNECT WITH US**

#BeBetterTogether

[climateactioncollaborative.org](http://climateactioncollaborative.org)

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[willb@walkingmountains.org](mailto:willb@walkingmountains.org)



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