

Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation

339 E Highway 50, Suite 103
Salida, Colorado 81201
Phone: 719-239-2018



Public Policy Committee Pillar Position Statement

Date: January 1, 2024

Issue: Sustainability and Innovation

Position:

The EDC considers environmental stewardship and sustainability through the lens of innovation, public-private partnerships and application of technology. This sustainability is vital to the long-term viability of year-round life in the valley.

Strategy 1: Leverage data & innovation.

- a. Advocate for grounding public sector policy & budget decisions in data of what actually works and in clearly defining the problem before designing policy solutions.
- b. Advocate for incorporating and recognizing new technologies, especially those developed or provided by local businesses, in implementing sustainability solutions.
- c. Elevate & assist local sustainability companies as preferred vendors and solution-providers.

Strategy 2: Balance progress with real-world economic impacts.

- a. Elevate the positive and detrimental local economic impacts of new sustainability rules, regulations, policies, or programs.
- b. Advocate for appropriate subsidies to impacted businesses in proportion to the cost of implementing sustainability solutions.
- c. Advocate economic vitality as hand-in-hand and inextricably interconnected with environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Rationale:

Natural resources, including the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat, are the foundation on which our livelihoods and economy are built. A long-term view grounded in stewardship, data, and innovation is critical to Chaffee County. Increasing the self-sufficiency of the valley in all respects will only serve to increase

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year-round jobs, lower vulnerability to supply chain issues, and decrease impacts to the place we live, work and play.

Background:

May 11, 2023 Governor Polis signed into law Senate Bill 23-016. The state bill summary reads, "statewide GHG emission reduction goals to add a 65% reduction goal for 2035, a 75% reduction goal for 2040, and a 90% reduction goal for 2045 when compared to 2005 GHG pollution levels. Section 8 also increases the 2050 GHG emission reduction goal from 90% of 2005 GHG pollution levels to 100%". August 2, 2019 the state has mandated that all building codes be in compliance with the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Please see below links for the legislation for these new laws.

Chaffee County won a \$4 million dollar grant to build a recycling facility at the county landfill. They are the only jurisdiction within the state to win the grant. Current Commissioner Wood and Deputy Administrator Beth Helmke are leading the project and hope to expand the county's programs to work on sustainable practices.

The City of Salida has established the Sustainability Advisory Committee and hired a new full time position, Sustainability Coordinator. The Committee will consist of 5-9 community members and 1 representative from the county to be appointed by the BOCC. The Sustainability Coordinator will work closely with all the department heads to ensure that all projects are meeting their Sustainability goals, which align with the state's .

- 2030 down 50% carbon energy emissions from the 2021 baseline
- 2050 net zero carbon energy emissions

Buena Vista has allocated \$15,499 into a Recycling Program for the town. The exact program has yet to be determined.

Dig in Deeper:

Learn more about current local sustainability & innovation work by exploring these resources.

- General:
 - [SB 23-016 State Legislation](#)
 - [GARNA Sustainability](#)
- Buena Vista:
 - [BV Community Vision](#)
- Salida

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- [Salida Sustainability Efforts](#)
 - [Salida Energy Action Plan](#)
 - County:
 - [EPA Article_ Chaffee Award](#)
 - [County Press release](#)