

EcoAction Partners Annual Report 2023

San Miguel, San Juan & Ouray Counties | Colorado



Welcome!

We are excited to present EcoAction Partners Annual report! EcoAction Partners (EAP) was created in 2007 as a collaborative entity to facilitate sustainable solutions for our mountain communities. Since then, it has evolved to lead energy and waste programming across the region, track greenhouse gas emissions, and support jurisdictions, utilities, and our communities in reaching climate action goals. EAP has developed our programming over the years to bring together stakeholders to support collaborative solutions to both short- and long-term regional climate goals.

Our work is more important than ever as we are experiencing the adverse effects of climate change in our community. Rising temperatures, a reduced snowpack, and an increased number of wildfires have all demonstrated the unprecedented risk that we are facing. We are committed to supporting our region as we move towards a more sustainable future.

We are so grateful for all our partners in supporting our programming and efforts in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, energy, and waste. We are thrilled to bring the Climate Action Plan to our region and support the next decade of collaborative climate planning and implementation. We look forward to continuing our programming and supporting triple bottom line solutions as we address the adverse effects of climate change on our community. Our programs are meant to respond to climate change in a way that not only mitigates risk, but creates new opportunity for residents, businesses, and visitors. We are excited to approach the next year of collaboration and innovation in our field and look forward to continuing our important programming across the region!

Our Work:












-  Tracking progress toward regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals
-  Empowering sustainability actions through education and awareness
-  Reducing waste through recycling, composting and education
-  Promoting energy efficiency, weatherization and renewable energy

Table of contents

	Meet the Team	3
	Greenhouse Gas Inventory	5
	GHG - Overview	
	GHG - Forecasting	
	GHG - Energy Supply	
	Community Engagement	8
	Sneffels Energy Board	
	EV Readiness Plan	
	Climate Action Plan	
	Environmental Justice	
	Outreach and Engagement	
	Green Business Program	
	Educational Programming & Workshops	
	EcoAction in the Schools	
	Waste	17
	Festival Compost Recycling & Trash	
	Regional Waste Reduction Efforts	
	Energy	19
	Telluride Green Grants	
	Colorado Affordable Residential Energy Program	
	Silverton GOLD	
	New Electrification Programs	
	Thank You to Our Partners	23
	Take Action	24

Our Mission

EcoAction Partners provides data-centered solutions and empowers our partners to drive climate action and create more sustainable communities.

Our Vision

We envision a region where people and their communities partner to enhance local self-reliance to ensure a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future.

Meet the Team



Emma Gerona, Executive Director



Paul Hora, Building Electrification Program Coordinator



Kim Wheels, Energy Specialist



Tyler Simmons, Zero Waste Coordinator



Mollie Theis, Education and Outreach Coordinator



Kendra Held, Climate Action Coordinator



Jay Saxton, Energy Auditor



Jacque Hess, CARE Program Administrator



Sean Hart, Energy Programs Coordinator

Welcoming New staff Members



“ I'm excited to be a part of the EcoAction team serving as a bridge of information through education and outreach! I'm looking forward to continuing curriculum development in not only our school programming, but also in collaboration with other partners and educational opportunities with youth in the community. - Mollie ”



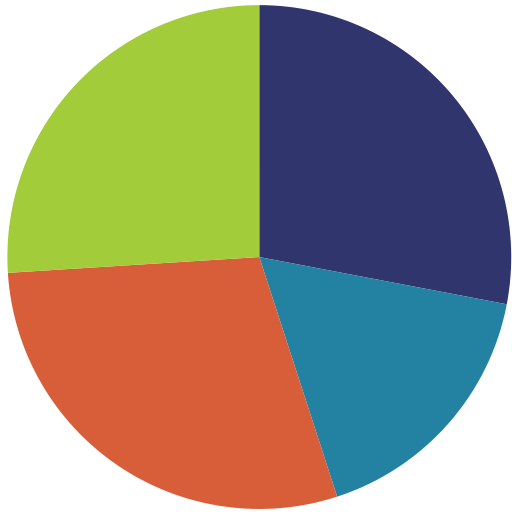
“ I'm thrilled to serve as EAP's first Climate Action Coordinator! In this role I will facilitate collaborative partnerships and develop new initiatives outlined in the Climate Action Plan and continue to conduct the annual GHG Inventory. I'm excited to support our government, utility, and community partners through the implementation phase of the Climate Action Plan. This is a really exciting season because we get to guide our community through infrastructure, policy and behavior transitions that will create a more equitable, healthy, resilient and sustainable future. - Kendra ”



“ My affinity for sustainability and conscientious stewardship emerged early in life, inspired by the breathtaking beauty of the natural world. Through education, personal example, and guided by my faith, I seek to ignite change in others. - Paul ”



GHG Emissions - Overview



2020 Greenhouse Gas Inventory

- Residential Buildings (28%)
- Commercial Buildings (17%)
- Transportation (29%)
- Material Production: Food, Fuel, and Waste (26%)

San Miguel and Ouray County Emissions by Sector

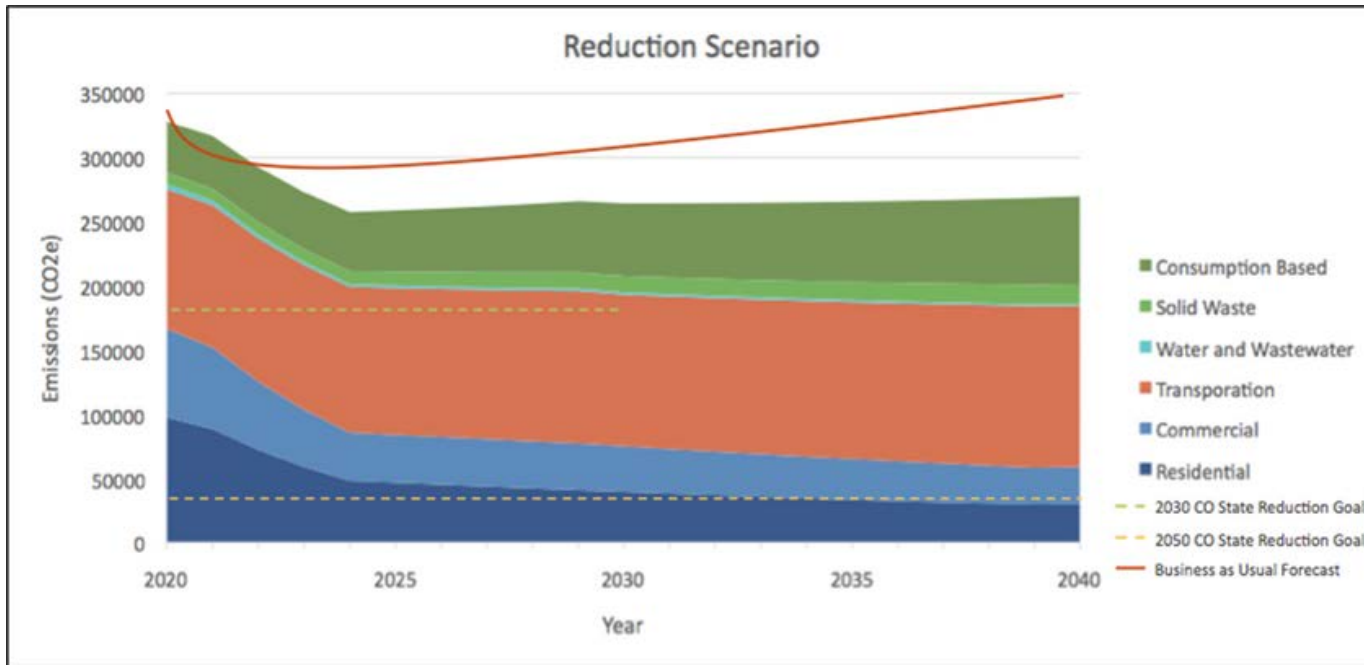
In our 2022 inventory we are seeing similar emissions trends to 2021. The transition to ICLEI's ClearPath software in 2020 has been beneficial by providing us an updated calculation methodology consistent with other communities and additional tools for analysis and forecasting. We are working with ICLEI staff through this transition in order to fully understand and clearly communicate the calculation differences that impact our baseline 2010 calculations and tracking of GHG emission trends. Next year, we will have 3 years of consecutive data in the ClearPath software, and we will report in more detail on the status of our regional emissions.

353,000

mt-CO2e produced in 2020

Inventory Overview: Since 2010, EcoAction Partners has maintained a Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the region.

- Buildings, at 45%, produce the majority of our GHG emissions. This includes a reduction associated with electricity offset by the purchase of REC's, without which building emissions would produce well over 50% of our region's emissions. Thus, reducing GHG emissions associated with buildings remains our highest priority.
- Transportation related GHG emissions from vehicles and air travel account for 29% of our emissions. Air travel includes the Telluride Airport (TEX) and a percentage of travel through the Montrose Regional Airport (MTJ), as almost 75% of passengers through MTJ are visiting our region.
- Material production, including food, fuel production and waste, account for the remaining 26% of our emissions. As a remote, rural region with a tourist-based economy, tracking these emissions is important to us, as we recognize our responsibility to reduce our overall contribution to global emissions.



This pathway shows that we can significantly reduce GHG emissions associated with building energy use. However, if our population and tourism economy continues to grow at the current pace, we will need to implement creative comprehensive policies and actions to reduce our emissions associated transportation and material consumption to reach our goals.

Though this trajectory will noticeably reduce our emissions associated with grid supplied electricity, it will not bring our region in line with either 2030 or 2050 GHG reduction goals without implementing additional localized reduction strategies.

Tracking Emission Trends

This chart displays the combined effects of both high-level and localized reduction strategies, including but not limited to:

- Tri-state commitment to 50% renewables by 2024 & 100% by 2040
- Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption
- Conversion of residential and commercial spaces from natural gas heating to electric heat pumps or boilers
- Improved building energy codes
- Increased ratio of renewable energy in our energy supply mix

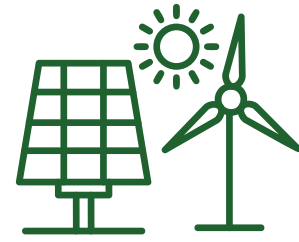
Understanding where our emissions are coming from allows us to target our skills and resources with greater intentionality and efficiency. Our data is a valuable insight that allows us to see progress over time and identify areas where we need to pick up the pace in order to meet our goals. - Kendra Held, Climate Action Coordinator



Microgrids for Community Resiliency

This year EcoAction Partners supported San Miguel Power Association to apply for and receive four Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) MicroGrid for Community Resilience (MCR) planning grants. Given recent significant power outages in several communities SMPA recognized the benefit that could come from added backup power sources and dedicated local solar microgrids to serve the communities in case of future outages and to provide clean locally generated power.

As our communities consider their energy future, EAP and SMPA will continue to work in partnership to leverage unprecedented near-term State and Federal incentives to help explore options to advance community sustainability goals and enhance power reliability.



37%

Renewable Resources
as of 2020



SMPA provides electricity to homes and businesses in our region. Between SMPA owned resources, and our power provider, Tri-State, we currently have 37% renewables in our electricity supply mix. The remaining 63% of our energy supply currently comes from fossil fuels. Since 2010, the renewable resources in our energy supply have increased from 14% to 37%.

Beneficial Electrification is now a key focus in our region. With the percent of renewables in the supply mixture, it is now beneficial (i.e. reduces GHG emissions) to switch to electricity from other fossil fuel sources (i.e. gasoline to electric vehicles, fossil fuel heating to cold climate air source heat pumps). See page 22 for updates on EcoAction's efforts in beneficial electrification in 2023 and what's to come in 2024!



The Board

The Sneffels Energy Board (SEB) was created by EcoAction Partners in 2009 to support collaborative efforts in our remote and rural region as we collectively face the challenges associated with climate change. The board brings together local leaders to coordinate planning, community engagement, project implementation and policy change at the local and state levels.

The Sneffels Energy Board is made up of government and community representatives from San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan counties, the towns of Ridgway, Ophir, Norwood, Telluride, Mountain Village, Silverton, the City of Ouray as well as utility partners, San Miguel Power Association and Black Hills Energy.

Partners of the board meet quarterly to share best practices, design successful regional programs, leverage grant funding, identify new opportunities and analyze progress made to-date.

2023 Accomplishments

- Our regional Climate Action Plan was formally adopted by all jurisdictions in San Miguel and Ouray Counties! We also began engaging San Juan County and the Town of Silverton to incorporate them into the CAP and the SEB, through a \$100,000 Department of Energy HEROx prize awarded to EAP, SMPA, Silverton and SJC. EAP is tracking efforts by our partners as they work to implement actions identified in the CAP.
- Our region was well-represented at the annual Mountain Towns 2030 Summit in Vail, CO. This year a dozen SEB members from the region attended the conference! We also participated in 6 Climate Solutions workshops over the year that focused on all different topics in our regional CAP. Regional representatives both learned and contributed to these valuable discussions.
- We finalized our regional Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan, one of the actions identified in the Climate Action Plan, and a necessary step to open new State and Federal funding channels for our partners. The Plan identifies new infrastructure necessary for our region to transition to 100% EV's and provides information and tools to support implementation of specific actions.
- Renewable Energy and Beneficial Electrification League (REBEL) roundtable discussions continued, at which regional energy experts explore the opportunities, challenges, and steps necessary to accomplish a full transition from fossil fuels to clean energy.





EV Readiness Plan



Highlights from 2023

- EV task force held three meetings with experts and stakeholders from around the region coming together to talk about EV infrastructure
- Co-hosted 2 ride and drive events
- Variety of funding opportunities for EVs and EV infrastructure coming from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to support the adoption of EVs in our region

we are excited to support governments with transitioning their fleets to EVs and implementing more EV infrastructure in the region in 2024!

1

Overview

Implementing an action-oriented readiness plan will guide the region’s future EV infrastructure investments and maximize use of existing EV infrastructure. Preparing for the increased use of EVs through a regional readiness plan will support ongoing greenhouse gas reduction goals, community resiliency and sustainable economic development

2

Survey

51%

of San Miguel and Ouray County Residents will purchase an EV or hybrid in the next 5 years

81%

of tourists would prefer an EV shuttle compared to diesel or gas



vs.



Greatest Barriers to EV Adoption

Insufficient home charging infrastructure 39%

Lack of public charging stations 44%

Initial purchase price 51%

3

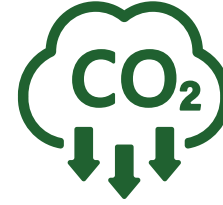
Plan

- ☑ Interview Stakeholders to understand individual jurisdiction plans, needs and gaps
- ☑ Analyze results from EV Community Survey
- ☑ Gather recommendations for future charging locations
- ☑ Create an inventory of EV resources for the public
- ☑ Assess regional EV demand in partnership with San Miguel Power Association



Regional Climate Action Plan

The Regional Climate Action Plan was completed by EcoAction Partners and the Sneffels Energy Board in 2021. The plan is meant to be a working roadmap for climate action across the next decade in San Miguel and Ouray Counties. The plan focuses on 8 key sectors, identifying 21 objectives and 74 actions to support our region in reaching our emissions reduction goals while promoting economic and social sustainability for our communities. Each sector in the CAP explores the greenhouse gas reduction potential, co-benefits (economic, environmental, public health and safety, equity and resiliency), timeline, and key community partners.



50% BY 2030
90% BY 2050

**GHG emissions
reduction goals**



Many of the actions in the CAP are already underway. The following is a list of highlights and accomplishments from 2023:

- All eight SEB governments formally adopted the regional CAP, affirming our regional commitment to implementing environmentally sustainable actions.
- EcoAction developed an implementation tracking tool to act as a central location to track progress toward our goals across all eight governments and other key partners and held worksessions with each government partner to support implementation.
- We hosted ongoing Renewable Energy and Beneficial Electrification League (REBEL) meetings to bring energy experts together to discuss a successful energy transition.
- All eight SEB governments have now adopted the 2018 Building Energy Codes and our Energy Specialist recently sat on the Colorado Energy Code Board. She is working closely with our regional governments to help implement building energy code updates including EV and PV ready amendments.
- EcoAction Partners, SMPA, San Juan County and the Town of Silverton received an award to bring San Juan County into the regional CAP and SEB territory (see page 21 for more details)
- San Miguel County and Bruin both received grants to help implement a county wide compost pick up program! We are supporting them with education and outreach efforts and look forward to curbside compost pickup becoming available in 2024.
- In partnership with SMPA we created a new staff position at EcoAction to bring funding to the region to support the energy related efforts from the CAP.



Addressing Environmental Injustice on a local level

This Fall EcoAction Partners received a grant for \$150,000 over three years to be awarded in 2024 from the EPA to address environmental and public health vulnerabilities related to wildfire and drought preparedness, energy, recreation, and advocacy in San Miguel County and Montrose County. This funding will bolster access to programs that address inequalities around these vulnerabilities through education and outreach to underserved residents and and increase public health and climate and environmental resiliency among underserved populations. Through the following goals and partnership with Sheep Mountain Alliance, we hope to address environmental and public health issues in our community.

We plan to address these issues through the following goals over the next 3 years:

- Increase engagement in outdoor programming by immigrant communities
- Increase engagement in climate/energy programming by underserved communities
- Better educate at risk community on wildfire/drought risk and resources
- Reduce barriers to entry for outdoor and climate programming
- More diverse representation/community coalitions.

Growing Together

As a team, we recognize the importance of continuing to educate ourselves on the inequalities that exist in our backyards and the effects this has on ALL of us, including the environment. This Fall, many of us participated in the Transformational Leadership Workshop hosted by the Telluride Foundation. This included a breakout session on environmental justice and conservation lead by Rick Chavolla and Regina Lopez-WhiteSkunk. We acknowledge the life-long journey of creating a better understanding and sense of awareness to the injustices that surround our community and will continue to prioritize educational opportunities that foster allyship and empower us to work together and create action steps forward that benefit EVERYONE in hopes to create and work towards more resilient communities.



It is clear that there are a lot of inequalities in our region, especially in the climate field. There are a lot of resources in our community, but they are not necessarily accessible to those who need them most. Our 10 year Climate Action Plan is designed to focus on intersectional environmentalism rather than simply reducing emissions. I'm looking forward to continuing to work towards community resilience and climate equity in 2024! - *Emma Gerona, Executive Director of EcoAction Partners*



EcoAction in Action

Community outreach and engagement is key to the success of our programming. Reaching our regional emissions reduction goals will not happen without the support of our whole community. Individual actions make a big difference, and we need to step up as a community to prioritize policies and partnerships that move us toward our collective goals. We aim to see community ownership of our programs, and our outreach and engagement efforts help to do just that.

Similar to last year, many of our outreach initiatives this year focused on engagement with the Climate Action Plan. This included CAP workshops, presentations, and informational tabling events for the community.

Throughout 2023 **our outreach efforts connected us with over 1800 people** throughout the region. We are looking forward to broadening our efforts and hosting more happy hours, workshops, educational events and more in 2024!



Environmental Happy Hours



Bluegrass Festival Education Table



Climate Action Plan Outreach Event



Green Business Program

Building a Sustainable Business Community

The Green Business Program is a membership program creating a sustainable business community while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Member businesses get access to a plethora of resources and receive customized support to achieve their sustainability goals. We can support a business by conducting an energy assessment walkthrough and working on a customized action plan tailored to their sustainability goals. We provide members with free materials including smart thermostats and plugs, aerators and more! Green business members have access to our in-house weatherization support for a highly discounted hourly rate for bigger projects including air sealing, installing insulation and more!

EcoAction Partners has welcomed **ten** new Green Business Members to our Green Business Program in 2023. Their energy and commitment to sustainability is helping us gain momentum in fulfilling our regional sustainability goals. We are looking forward to continuing to expand our Green Business Program even more in 2024!



Membership Benefits

- | | |
|--|--|
| Green seal window display | Free weatherization materials |
| Low cost energy assessment | Grant & rebate assistance |
| Roundtable events | Customized sustainability plan |
| Highlight of business throughout community | Access to discounted in house contractor |
| Sustainability resource hub | And much more! |



Membership Highlights

Ah Haa School for the Arts has been a great GB Member to work with in 2023! They have quarterly Sustainability Team meetings where they discuss and implement ways for Ah Haa to be more sustainable. They have implemented composting in their cooking classes, reusable towels in their classrooms, and reduced microplastic pollution from their painting and pottery classes. They are currently creating sustainability guides for specific classes so that instructors and students will have access to sustainability knowledge and practices. Working with such enthusiastic and artistic people has been a pleasure and I'm excited to continue to implement sustainable changes with this business in 2024! -Sean Hart, Energy Programs Coordinator



Wilkinson Public Library

2 ways the library saved their wallet and the Earth this Winter

- 01 HVAC PROGRAMMING SYSTEM
- 02 TOTALLY GREEN MEMBER WITH SMPA

In just 3 months they saved **\$6,393**

With energy savings equivalent to over 8 cars being taken off the road each year!

Jagged Edge

4 ways they reduced their carbon footprint and saved money!

- 01 INSTALLED 2200 WATT SOLAR SYSTEM
- 02 REPLACED 100 LIGHT BULBS WITH LED
- 03 USING A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT
- 04 INSULATED BOILER PIPE

Energy savings equivalent to 3 cars being taken off the road each year!



GB Round Table Event in June



Educational Programming & Workshops

"I'm looking forward to expanding EcoAction's educational programming in 2024! Through partnering with other local environmental organizations, library programming and summer programs, I hope to bring creative, hands-on activities relating to climate action, waste, and energy reduction to community members of all ages. -Mollie Theis, Education and Outreach Coordinator



Discovery Tuesdays



EAP joined forces with Sheep Mountain Alliance to host two Discovery Tuesday programs at the Wilkinson Library this summer! These programs had an educational focus of keeping nature wild and reducing our carbon footprints. Looking forward to more educational partnerships in 2024!

Telluride Academy



In addition to Discovery Tuesdays, EAP partnered with the Telluride Academy to join in for a week of summer camp activities! We enjoyed solar oven cookies, playing a new carbon footprint game and even making our own solar ovens out of pizza boxes!

Cooking & Compost



This Summer EAP hosted the first of four compost focused workshops for the community. We kicked things off with a cooking and compost workshop on reducing waste in cooking and how to properly compost. Two lucky winners went home with their very own kitchen compost bins! We are looking forward to hosting three more compost related workshops in 2024.



Cultivating Climate Stewards

Our student educational program was revamped in 2023! Through teacher surveys and next generation science standards research, a new curriculum was built to serve 3rd-5th grade students in the region. Teachers can now choose between different programs such as *biodiversity and climate change* and *renewable energy vs. nonrenewable energy* that are most relevant to what they are teaching in their classroom. EcoAction presents a hands-on, age appropriate lesson meeting students where they are at in their learning and meeting our mission of education on reducing energy and waste and participating in climate action. After the lesson, students have the opportunity to participate in a week-long challenge to reduce their carbon footprints and have chances to win prizes.

We believe in students as agents of change in their schools, households, and communities and are excited to continue to inspire the next generation of climate stewards through educational programming and partnerships with our local school districts.



245

Students presented to



8,581

Actions completed



7,688

Metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions saved



250

Hours spent outside unplugged



1,500

Pieces of litter picked up



Festival composting, recycling, trash (CRT)

EcoAction was thrilled to be back the the Telluride Bluegrass Festival this June. We supported their CRT operations, donations to the local food banks after the festival, and hosted an educational booth at the Harmony Green. We educated festival attendees on regional programming, played a carbon footprint game, and baked solar oven cookies. We saw 50% diversion rates among festival grounds and all campgrounds. These numbers were lower than usual, but extreme weather led to festivarians disposing of more large landfill items such as broken EZ-Up tents which take up a large volume compared to compostable cups for example. Outside of the crazy weather, we upcycled 16.5 lbs. of plastic film, donated 1,471 lbs. of food and 39 gallons of liquid to the local food pantries.

In August we supported the Telluride Jazz Festival. We had 43% diversion rates including the campgrounds which are not monitored. Multiple dumpsters, that were originally intended to contain compost, were contaminated due to a severe lack of volunteers. Due to a lack of specific volume reporting on the compost dumpster, our final numbers are based on an estimated total volume from the single 20 cubic yard gable top dumpster that was utilized for compost pickup. We donated 404 lbs. of food and 5 gallons of liquid to the food pantry.

At Blues and Brews this September we had 60% diversion rates including the campgrounds which has continuously improved over the last few years. Adequate staffing and volunteer coverage was a huge support in this success.



50%

waste diverted from landfill at Telluride Bluegrass

43%

waste diverted from landfill at Jazz Fest

61%

waste diverted from landfill at Blues and Brews



EcoAction staff continue to stay up-to-speed on the best methodologies and programs for community waste reduction and promote existing waste programs that already serve our community through the waste resources page on our website. We continue to support community efforts to promote more sustainable waste habits wherever possible. This year we were able to help out and host a number of key community events to facilitate these efforts!

Ecology Commission Trash Bash



EAP joined forces with the Ecology Commission for the first annual Trash Bash event in May. Over 60 volunteers collected over 520 lbs. of trash from the town of Telluride!

Electronic Waste Recycling



We held Electronic Waste Recycling events both in the Spring and in the Fall. These events took place in Mountain Village, Telluride, and Norwood. Between the Spring and Fall, 39,677 lbs. of electronic waste was collected to be repurposed and diverted from landfills!

EAP Waste Sort Study



EcoAction partnered with the EPA this winter to conduct a study in order to better understand what is being thrown away by our visiting community and how educational interventions can make a difference! The study found that over 60% of what was found could have been diverted from the landfill to be recycled or composted.



How it works

The Telluride Green Grant program gives non-profits, businesses, and residents within the Telluride community an opportunity to fund capital projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. EAP administers the program on behalf of the Town. Green Grants are funded using monies from the Telluride Energy Mitigation Program (TEMP), a program that requires mitigation of energy used by exterior energy systems installed on new construction projects such as driveway snowmelt systems, heated garages, and exterior pools and spas. If energy used by these systems is not mitigated through on-site renewable energy, then a fee in-lieu of mitigation is required to allow the Town to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions on behalf of the project.

Accumulative accomplishments from 2019 into 2024



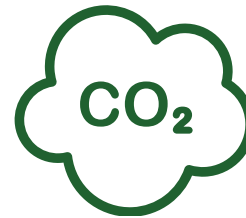
35

Grant awardees



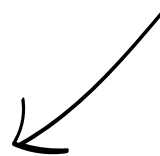
\$316,000

funding awarded



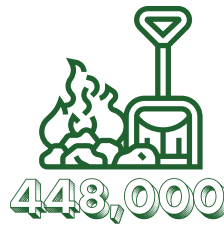
400

Metric tons of CO2 reduced since 2019



6,600

the amount of carbon sequestered by more than 6,600 tree seedlings over 10 years



448,000

This equates to over 448,000 pounds of coal burned



Examples of projects:

- compost/waste diversion projects
- replacing old windows
- door replacements
- boiler replacements
- And more!

If you have any ideas for creative projects that reduce GHG emissions in Telluride reach out to us in 2024!





The CARE program in partnership with Energy Outreach Colorado, SMPA and Black Hills Energy provides free energy assessments and thousands of dollars in cost effective energy efficiency improvements such as weatherization, insulation, energy efficient appliances, and a new furnace or water heater, all at no cost to the participant. The program covers low and middle-income residents with up to 80% of the area median income.

In 2023, our CARE Program served 35 homes across the region. We were excited to be moving forward with installing new heat pump appliances that replace old inefficient heating systems. These units can save a homeowner on average up to \$500 annually on their utility bill.



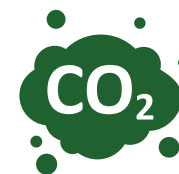
\$129,400

In weatherization upgrades



35

Homes serviced



34

Metric tons of estimated annual CO2 savings

In most cases, we find it's the small things that make the biggest difference. We are so happy to be working with some of the best contractors in our area who provide services like appliance installations, air sealing, and insulation. I am so excited to jump into 2024 with this program and continue to make a difference in the community. *-Jay Saxon Energy Auditor*





1

Overview

This year EcoAction Partners joined forces with San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), the Town of Silvertown, and San Juan County, to form the Silvertown Team GOLD (Goal Of Less Dependence). The team's mission is to bring Silvertown energy security, resiliency, and modernization through the implementation of clean energy technologies.

2

Plan

- Community Resilience Planning
- Regional Climate Action Plan
- Beneficial Electrification Plan
- Town Electrical Resilience Planning

3

Looking Ahead

Over the next year Team GOLD will work through Phase One of the project which emphasizes planning. EcoAction Partners will work to incorporate Silvertown and San Juan County into the regional Climate Action Plan, establishing community-specific priorities for Silvertown and expanding current implementation of the regional EV Readiness Plan and other programs and projects focused on by the Sneffels Energy Board. EcoAction will also develop a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for San Juan County, which will help with action prioritization and implementation tracking. The team will focus on beneficial electrification actions in hopes of developing a replicable model for small mountain town, community-wide energy efficiency and electrification efforts. These community-focused actions aim to benefit Silvertown through decreased utility use, a modernized energy supply, and improvements to the Town's health and resiliency.





Work Force Development Program

EcoAction Partners has partnered with the Telluride Foundation and San Miguel Power Association to create an Energy Workforce Development Program to support the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technology in our region. The Energy Workforce Development Program will serve applicants who would benefit from training opportunities to fill gaps in our existing regional energy workforce. Approved trainings include those on cold climate air source heat pumps, photovoltaics (solar power), home performance, building science, electric vehicle charging, RESNET HERS rater certification and more.

The 2020 Regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory identified that residential and commercial building energy use accounts for 45% of our region's total GHG emissions, due to electricity, natural gas, and propane use. Transitioning our energy sources to cleaner and more local energy sources is one way to reduce our emissions. Other key strategies include increasing energy efficiency in new and existing buildings and electrifying our heating systems, appliances, and vehicles. This transition will not be possible without a well-trained workforce to provide the capacity and technical knowledge to upgrade existing infrastructure. We are looking forward to growing this program in 2024!

Building Benchmarking

Benchmarking refers to measuring and tracking energy use in buildings. This helps building owners and tenants better understand their building's energy performance compared to similar buildings and allows them to identify opportunities to cut energy waste and save money.

Colorado recently implemented large commercial building benchmarking standards. The goal of the state's Building Performance Colorado (BPC) program is to help Colorado building owners understand and track energy use in large buildings and identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution. Efficient energy use in buildings leads to lower utility costs for building owners and tenants, while also reducing harmful air pollution that causes climate change and a variety of health issues.

Beginning in late October EAP started moving forward with the plan to establish benchmarking service for the Town of Mountain Village and focus on a few large building owners in the Town limits. We are excited to continue this program and work with owners to address energy use in 2024!



Thank you to our Partners

Funding Partners:

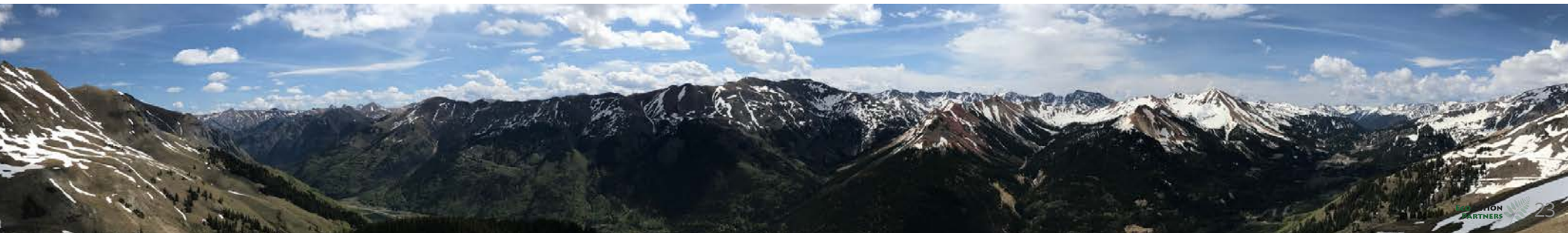
- Alpine Bank
- April Fund
- Black Hills Energy
- Community Coalition for Arts and Special Events
- Energy Outreach Colorado
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Ouray County
- San Miguel County
- San Miguel Power Association
- Telluride Bluegrass
- Telluride Foundation
- Town of Mountain Village
- Town of Ophir
- Town of Ouray
- Town of Ridgway
- Town of Telluride
- U.S. Department of Energy Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations
- West End Pay It Forward Trust

Staff:

Emma Gerona, Executive Director
Kim Wheels, Energy Specialist
Jaqueline Hess, Weatherization Programs Administrator
Tyler Simmons, Zero Waste Coordinator
Sean Heart, Energy Programs Coordinator
Jay Saxton, Weatherization Programs Auditor
Mollie Theis, Education and Outreach Coordinator
Kendra Held, Climate Action Coordinator
Paul Hora, Building Electrification Program Coordinator

Board Members:

Lance Warring, Board President
Patrick Berry, Vice President
Todd Brown, Treasurer
Tobin Brown
Meagan Preece
Kathy Green
Dan Enright



Take Action and Support EAP

1

Educate: Explore the Regional Climate Action Plan to learn about our regional collaborative sustainability efforts.

2

Engage: Join in opportunities to participate in EAP programming and connect with our staff.

3

Give: Donate and support our programming by scanning the QR code.

