

2021 IMPACT REPORT



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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME

Climate Action, Together → 5
2020 Climate Action Plan Update → 7
2020 Eagle County Energy Inventory → 8

KEY METRICS

 Buildings → 10
 Transportation → 11
 Energy Supply → 12
 Materials Management → 13
 Water → 14
 Natural Climate Solutions → 14

GRATITUDE

Eagle River Valley Community → 16
Collaborative Partners → 17
Organizational Partners → 18

WELCOME

#BeBetterTogether

CLIMATE ACTION, TOGETHER



The opening sentence of our Climate Action Plan reads as follows: “Eagle County is home to world-class outdoor recreation opportunities, stunning and spacious ranches, and tight-knit communities, all among some of the most beautiful landscapes in Colorado.” It is a nice description of our community, but if you live here, you likely know that Eagle County is a very special place whose spirit is hard to capture in words. We’ll try again here. To love and pursue knowing a place such as this is to connect deeply. It is connecting with ourselves, with the natural environment, with each other, and connecting with the hum of daily life that keeps Eagle County vibrant.



CLIMATE ACTION, TOGETHER

The Climate Action Collaborative has grown into a passionate group of local government leaders, business owners, and engaged community members who are connected by a vision of a sustainable future for Eagle County. We know the global climate crisis is an unprecedented problem that is impacting our community right here and now, so protecting our collective future is a top priority. This is why we updated our Climate Action Plan in 2020 with a stronger goal of reducing carbon emissions 50% by 2030. We are diligent in our resolve to continue leading in climate action, not just for our community, but paving the way for communities beyond ours. The climate crisis is an all hands on deck situation. So [connect with us](#), join our conversations, ask us questions, and be a part of our story. Together, we can create a resilient Eagle County.

CLIMATE ACTION COLLABORATIVE BOARD

Eric Heil, Town of Avon
 Sarah Smith Hymes, Town of Avon
 Elyse Hottel, Town of Basalt
 Sara Nadolny, Town of Basalt
 Ellen Bodenheimer, Town of Eagle
 Geoff Grimmer, Town of Eagle
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 Michelle Metteer, Town of Minturn
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 Kristen Bertuglia, Town of Vail
 Kim Langmaid, Town of Vail

CLIMATE ACTION COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Gina McCrackin, Manager
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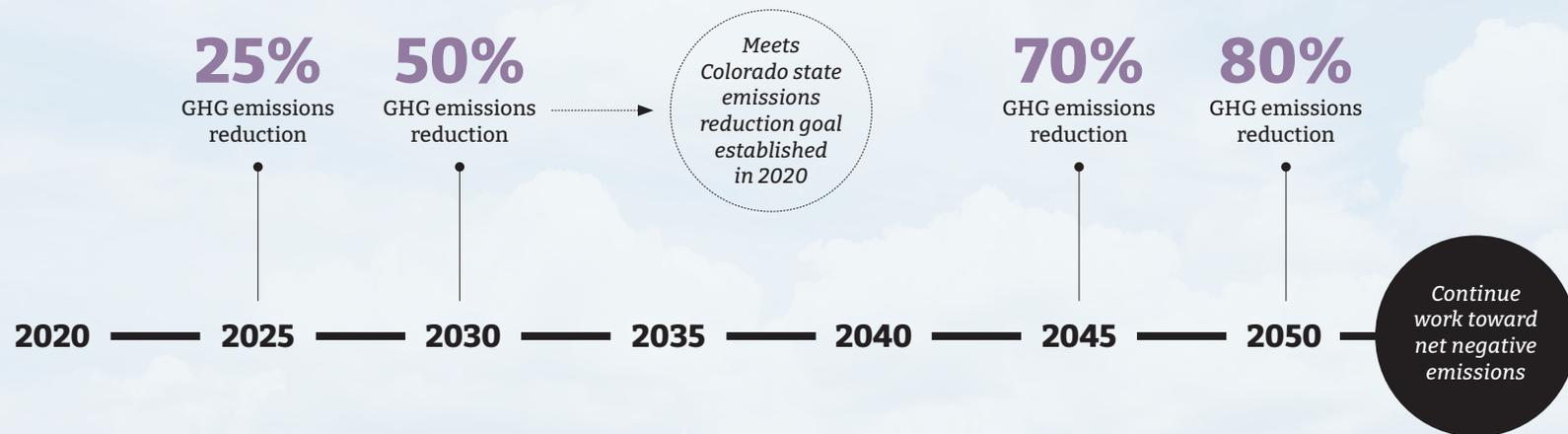
2020 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

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



2020 EAGLE COUNTY ENERGY INVENTORY

Despite the absence of a 2020 Climate Action Collaborative Annual Report, Eagle County conducted a GHG emissions inventory for 2020 in partnership with Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER). This inventory allowed us some insight to our climate action progress.

It should be noted that 2020 was an anomalous year for emissions with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2020, with Eagle County's total GHG emissions decreasing by almost 20% compared with 2019. Given that anomaly, the county's 2019 to 2020 progress looked very different. Analyzing the provided 2021 Annual Report data helps us to better understand the county's energy and emissions trends.

**READ THE
2020 ENERGY
INVENTORY REPORT**



KEY RESULTS

2021 COUNTY-WIDE METRICS

The Climate Action Plan in Action



BUILDINGS

2021 RESULTS

808

rebates awarded by Energy Smart Colorado and Holy Cross Energy

153

Energy Smart Colorado home energy assessments completed

839

LED bulbs swapped

41,179

pounds of CO2 saved from LED swaps

658

all-electric commercial buildings in Eagle County, a 7.5% increase since 2020

8,638

all-electric homes in Eagle County, an 18.2% increase since 2020

.31%

of new residential and commercial buildings serviced by all-electric equipment

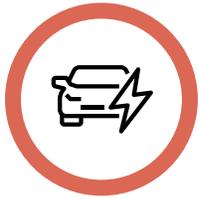
55

buildings benchmarked, a 5.8% increase since 2020

2022 PRIORITIES

- ✓ Strive for consistent 2021 IECC building code and supportive amendment adoption to make the built environment as sustainable and efficient as possible.
- ✓ Case study research and development on beneficial electrification and building sustainability improvements.
- ✓ Expand outreach to contractors on beneficial electrification.
- ✓ Pass a comprehensive building benchmarking program to collect data on and increase building energy efficiency.





TRANSPORTATION

2021 RESULTS

417

light duty EVs registered in Eagle County, a 27.5% increase since 2020

123

Level 2 chargers in Eagle County, a 412.5% increase since 2020

41

Level 3 chargers in Eagle County, a 355.55% increase since 2020

2022 PRIORITIES

- ✓ Form an Electric Vehicle (EV) Task Force to create and implement an Eagle County EV infrastructure Plan.
- ✓ Establish a Regional Transportation Authority to increase public transit convenience and ridership.
- ✓ Develop a green commuting partnership with Sole Power & Trends with Benefits to promote and maximize multimodal transportation potential.





ENERGY SUPPLY

2021 RESULTS

52%

of renewable energy is on the Holy Cross electric grid, an 8% increase since 2020

1,541

participants in the [PuRE Program](#), a 5.04% increase since 2020

3.98%

participation rate out of 38,709 accounts

1,631

participants in [Peak Time Payback](#), an 84.5% increase since 2020

4.21%

participation rate out of 38,709 accounts

2022 PRIORITIES

- ✓ Launch and implement a successful [Solarize](#) campaign to maximize onsite solar energy potential in our community.
- ✓ Progress county-wide electrification efforts.
- ✓ Research and develop case studies for renewable energy battery storage and promotion.
- ✓ Execute actions from the tri-county [Solar + Storage Study and Action Plan](#) for Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin counties, increasing partner capacity beyond our jurisdictional boundaries.

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

2021 RESULTS

11%

increase in organic
waste diverted
from landfill

8%

decrease in diversion
of recoverable
construction waste

2022 PRIORITIES

Promote and increase the diversion of:

- ✓ Yard waste via collection days and encouraging responsible disposal.
- ✓ Food waste via expanding county-wide compost collection and increasing awareness of emissions related to organics decomposing in the landfill.
- ✓ Construction and demolition waste via encouraging responsible diversion practices with contractors.





WATER + NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

The Water and Natural Climate Solutions Working Groups were conceived in 2021, so we don't have present data to share just yet. However, we do have big goals...

WATER 2022 PRIORITIES

- ✓ Reduce outdoor water use through incentives and educational materials.
- ✓ Establish water-wise landscaping standards in land use policies.
- ✓ Synthesize fire safety and water efficiency messaging.

NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS 2022 PRIORITIES

- ✓ Conduct a carbon sequestration inventory to establish a baseline for land use and carbon sources and sinks.
- ✓ Implement a Good Traveler carbon offset program for the Eagle County Regional Airport.



GRATITUDE

Our Most Sincere Thanks

THANK YOU

EAGLE RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY



The Climate Action Collaborative is always looking to educate the public about our message and important work in creative, inspiring ways. We want our community members to feel like they have agency in addressing the impacts of climate change. Despite the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, we are grateful to report we were still able to host 30 safe, successful community 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
- ◆ Alpine Bank
- ◆ Aspen Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE)
- ◆ Black Hills Energy
- ◆ Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER)
- ◆ Colorado Mountain College
- ◆ Cordillera Metro District
- ◆ Eagle County Schools
- ◆ Eagle County Solid Waste and Recycling
- ◆ Eagle River Watershed Council
- ◆ Eagle Valley Land Trust
- ◆ ECO Trails
- ◆ ECO Transit
- ◆ Encore Electric
- ◆ EverGreen Zero Waste
- ◆ Green Business Certification Inc.
- ◆ The Ground Up
- ◆ Lotus Engineering and Sustainability
- ◆ Mountain Organic Landscaping
- ◆ Mountain Youth
- ◆ North 39 Energy
- ◆ Partners Environmental Consulting
- ◆ Schneider Electric
- ◆ Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)
- ◆ Sunsense Solar
- ◆ Town of Gypsum
- ◆ Turntide Technologies
- ◆ U.S. Green Building Council
- ◆ Vail Resorts
- ◆ Vail Valley Foundation
- ◆ Vail Valley Partnership
- ◆ Zehren and Associates





CLIMATE
ACTION
COLLABORATIVE

CONNECT WITH US

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walking mountains 
sustainability