

Garfield Clean Energy Collaborative

2016 Strategic Plan

INTRODUCTION

Members of the Collaborative are Garfield County, the Town of Parachute, City of Rifle, Town of Silt, Town of New Castle, City of Glenwood Springs, Town of Carbondale, Roaring Fork Transportation Authority and Colorado Mountain College.

These partners have joined together to use energy efficiency, renewable energy and alternative fuels to build a stronger, more resilient and energy-secure economy. Households, businesses and governments across Garfield County are cutting energy bills, and local businesses are benefitting from contracts and sales.

Garfield Clean Energy Collaborative grew from a previous organization, Garfield New Energy Communities Initiative, which operated as an intergovernmental committee under the authority of Garfield County from 2009 through 2011. Garfield Clean Energy established itself as an independent, intergovernmental authority in 2012.

Accomplishments 2009 through August 2015

Private sector

- 295 businesses and 378 homes invested in upgrades: \$1 million in savings to date.
- One-stop-shop website tallied 88,300 visits, 177,500 page views, 33% return rate.
- \$300,000 Residential Revolving Loan Fund created; 27 active loans, \$134,000 available.

Government sector

- 27 solar arrays on government buildings generating 8.4 gigawatt-hours per year.
- 9 local government partners using ongoing energy consultations for energy efficiency.
- Energy use monitored online for 90 government buildings.

Transportation sector

- 24 CNG transit buses, 2 Traveler vans and CNG fueling station based at RFTA's Glenwood Maintenance Facility.
- 3 CNG stations opening: Parachute in 2013, Glenwood Springs in 2015, Rifle in 2016.
- 7 public electric vehicle charging stations.
- Leadership for alternative fuels infrastructure development in neighboring counties.

Economic development results

- Energy cost savings from all tallied projects: \$1.8 million per year.
- 172 contractor and supplier businesses benefitting from work and product sales.
- Initial DOLA grant funding stimulated \$14 million in private and public investment in clean energy upgrades, equipment and vehicles, benefitting the local economy.



GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY COLLABORATIVE VISION, MISSION AND GOALS

Garfield Clean Energy Vision Statement

Garfield County will be the most energy efficient county in the country.

Garfield Clean Energy Mission Statement

The mission of the Garfield Clean Energy Collaborative is to provide energy efficiency solutions, education and alternative and renewable energy opportunities to all individuals and organizations, in order to build a stronger, more resilient economy benefiting citizens of Garfield County.

Garfield Clean Energy Goals

Goal No. 1: Increase per capita energy efficiency by 20% by 2020, over a baseline 2009, as a means to a stronger, more resilient and energy-secure economy.

Goal No. 2: Reduce petroleum fuel consumption 25% by 2020, over a baseline 2009, as a means to a stronger, more resilient and energy-secure economy.

Goal No. 3: Obtain 35% of our energy from renewable sources by 2020 as a means to a stronger, more resilient and more energy-secure economy.

Goal No. 4: Identify and implement adequate and sustainable funding for Garfield Clean Energy by Dec. 31, 2016, to achieve our mission.

Garfield Clean Energy Strategic Plan Goals and Actions 2016

Goal No. 1: Increase per capita energy efficiency by 20% by 2020, over a baseline 2009, as a means to a stronger, more resilient and energy-secure economy.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Energy efficiency leadership, policies and practices

- Help partner governments establish energy efficiency goals for specified buildings and facilities, along with time frames for improvement.
- GCE members to collaborate on goals they have set for buildings, in order to learn from each other and maintain momentum for energy savings.
- Expand knowledge of what governments in other communities have achieved in energy efficiency.

Energy data management

- Collect and upload building utility data to the Energy Navigator website every month. Use Navigator data to guide actions that achieve gains in energy efficiency.

Benchmarking / ENERGY STAR ratings for buildings and facilities

- Continue efforts started in 2015 to benchmark GCE partner buildings. Present benchmarking reports to the GCE board as they become available.

Active energy management

- Consult with facility managers and use Energy Navigator data to cut 2016 energy use in specified buildings by at least 10% from 2014 use levels.
- Identify each member's highest energy-using building or facility and implement a strategy for achieving efficiency goals.
- Provide recommendations to each member's board and staff for specific efficiency projects. Seek the member board's commitment for funding these projects in the upcoming year's budget and completing the projects.
- Pursue streetlight change-out opportunities across the county.
- Prepare and present customized annual building energy reports for each member's governing board.

Trainings

- Provide trainings or roundtable meetings for facility managers and their staff.
- Provide refresher trainings or webinars for facility managers and decision-makers to take full advantage of Building Energy Navigator data.

Grants and member funding to make improvements

- Assist member governments in seeking funding from grant sources, or create funding sources to make energy improvements.

BUSINESSES AND HOUSEHOLDS

Increase availability of energy rebates and incentives throughout Garfield County

- Seek out external sources of funding and develop internal sources that can be used to supplement utility rebates.
- Seek out sources of funding that can increase rebates in western Garfield County to provide countywide parity in rebate offerings.

Energy advising and education

- Provide energy advising and education services to businesses and households, with the goal for helping each client reduce energy use by at least 20% by carrying out energy efficiency upgrades.

Marketing & outreach

- Maintain up-to-date lists of energy efficiency rebates, incentives and financing options for commercial and residential customers and post to GCE website.
- Deliver effective marketing and outreach to drive energy efficiency actions by businesses and households that result in at least 20% efficiency savings.
- Host an exciting campaign or challenge to create community awareness of energy efficiency gains and drive action by more households.
- Write and publish relevant success story case studies or fact sheets.

Contractor training and support

- Update efficiency contractors on new or changed rebate offers, financing programs and new efficiency technology and equipment through an annual contractor workshop, and through email messages through the year.

Program reporting and data tracking

- Enter data for all participants to track cumulative countywide energy savings and program effectiveness.
- Report on program results in four quarterly reports and via other communications channels.

Energy Inventory

- Educate the community about results of the 2015 energy inventory to maintain awareness of energy costs and potential for savings through efficiency and spur effective actions.

Goal No. 2: Reduce petroleum fuel consumption by 25% by 2020, over a baseline 2009, as a means to a stronger, more resilient and energy-secure economy.

Active transportation

- Work with strategic community partners to improve infrastructure for bicycle and pedestrian travel.
- Organize the annual Bike and Walk to School Challenge involving schools in all three public school districts in Garfield County; solicit prize money from private sector donors; hold an awards event for winning schools.
- Collaborate with local government entities on Ride Garfield County event to increase bicycling, walking and use of public transit throughout the year by residents of all ages.
- Focus on gaps in trail infrastructure and on developing more trails and safe routes in western Garfield County.

West Slope CNG Network

- Educate the public about the benefits of CNG as a transportation fuel through events and campaigns associated with CNG stations in Parachute, Rifle and Glenwood Springs.
- Assist GCE partners in pursuing DOLA funding for CNG vehicle purchases.

Electric and plug-in vehicles

- Help eligible entities in Garfield County apply for funding assistance to install more EV charging stations.
- Assist GCE partners in pursuing DOLA funding for electric vehicle purchases.

Efficient vehicles & fleets

- Provide energy coaching to GCE partners and to public and private fleet operators to employ best management practices for fleet efficiency.

Marketing/outreach

- Organize an educational event or campaign, or make presentations in support of active transportation, alternative fuels and/or petroleum independence.

Energy Inventory

- Educate the community about results of the 2015 energy inventory to maintain awareness of energy costs and potential for savings through vehicle efficiency and spur effective actions.

Goal No. 3: Obtain 35% of our energy from renewable sources by 2020 as a means to a stronger, more resilient and energy-secure economy.

Local power generation

- Conduct a resource inventory and publish a plan for how Garfield County can achieve Goal No. 3 by developing local renewable energy sources as identified at the April 2015 strategic planning retreat. The inventory and plan should also evaluate the potential for unique energy sources, such as burning coal seams and coal bed methane.
- Seek grant funding to pay for this inventory and plan from a source, such as the Garfield Federal Mineral Lease District.

Policy

- Develop a policy resolution for each member entity to consider adopting aimed at becoming net-zero for electricity consumption in all its buildings and facilities by a date certain.

Technical assistance / project implementation

- Identify optimal locations for new solar installations in the county. Reach out to high-potential property owners to discuss solar options.
- Provide technical support to GCE partners to install enough renewable energy capacity to meet their net-zero policy goals.

Energy data management

- Track and report electrical generation from solar collectors for GCE partner buildings equipped with Building Energy Navigator data loggers.

Financing

- Publicize use of the Residential Revolving Loan Fund to finance residential solar PV and solar thermal installations.

Education

- Organize an educational event, campaign or series of presentations to build knowledge of renewable energy in the community.
- Sponsor at least 1 educational program, such as Solar Rollers, that educates public school students in Garfield County about the science of renewable energy.

Energy Inventory

- Educate the community about results of the 2015 energy inventory to maintain awareness of energy costs and potential for savings through renewable energy.

Goal No. 4: Identify and implement adequate and sustainable funding for Garfield Clean Energy by Dec. 31, 2016, to achieve our mission.

Build upon and implement a funding plan

- Adopt a long-term funding plan.

Evaluate various funding methods and models

Fee for service

Investigate models to charge fees for energy advising customers and for contractors that benefit from GCE programs and services. Identify a means to implement this model.

Severance tax revenues

Consider a policy for GCE partners to dedicate a percentage of annual severance tax revenues, derived from energy development, to fund GCE operations.

Garfield Federal Mineral Lease District

Continue discussions with the Garfield FML District board and staff regarding dedicated funding for Garfield Clean Energy.

Apply for an FMLD grant to assist with funding for projects identified in the GCE Strategic Plan.

Public benefit fee

Determine the process for establishing a fee on energy utility bills. If this concept is viable, seek community support and necessary approvals to levy the fee.

State-level funding options

Continue discussions with state agencies and legislators to identify state-level funding to support community-based clean energy programs. If this concept is viable, seek agency or legislative action to make funds available.

Regional collaboration

- Actively engage with organizations that have similar missions; explore options for regional collaboration or expansion.

Increase availability of energy rebates and incentives throughout Garfield County

- Seek out sources of funding and use GCE revenues to supplement utility rebates and to provide countywide parity in rebate offerings.