



Garfield Clean Energy Collaborative 2019 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 benefiting from contracts and sales.

The 2019 strategic plan builds on and provides an update to the 2016 GCE Strategic Plan and the 2017/2018 Xcel Energy Partners in Energy Garfield Energy Action Plan with actionable and measurable 2019 steps.

Accomplishments 2009 through 2017

Private sector

- 1,006 households and 277 businesses invested in energy efficiency upgrades: over \$2 million in savings to date
- \$487,000 loaned from the Residential Revolving Loan Fund; 49 loans

Government sector

- 34 government energy efficiency building upgrades
- 9 local government partners using ongoing energy consultations for energy efficiency
- 90 buildings tracking energy savings on the Building Energy Navigator and using energy management strategies

Renewable energy sector

- 32 solar arrays on government buildings generating 4.6 megawatts
- 3 Community solar gardens generating 5.5 megawatts

Transportation sector

- 26 (45 plugs) electric vehicle charging stations
- 34 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) transit buses, 2 Traveler vans and CNG fueling station based at RFTA's Glenwood Maintenance Facility
- 2 CNG stations

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 \$32 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 Clean Energy Collaborative (GCE) will be a national leader in using energy efficiency, renewable energy, and alternative fuels to build a strong, resilient, and diverse economy.

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, for the purpose of building a stronger, more resilient economy benefitting citizens of Garfield County.

Goals

Collaborating with local governments, utilities, non-profit organizations, and businesses, GCE's overarching goals will be to:

Goal No. 1: Achieve 20% energy efficiency over the 2015 baseline by 2030, 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 between 35% and 50% of our energy from renewable sources by 2030 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, to achieve our mission.

Garfield Clean Energy 2019 Goals and Strategies

Focus Area 1 – Commercial – Agricultural – Industrial

The commercial, industrial, and agricultural sector accounts for the largest portion of energy use in the county, and therefore presents the largest opportunity for savings. Increases in energy efficiency in this sector will also result in significant economic benefits and is key to reaching overall GCE targets. 2019 goals and strategies build on programs to date that have engaged commercial, agricultural and industrial energy users.

2019 Goals:

1. Recruit 50 businesses with committed projects from the following sectors:
 - 3 Oil and Gas
 - 3 Cannabis
 - 3 Agricultural
2. Provide coaching services to at least 80 businesses

3. Contact the following entities to recruit a representative to be part of ongoing GCE coordination and present to GCE
 - Holy Cross Energy
 - Xcel Energy
 - Glenwood Electric

Strategies:

- Continue to provide outreach and education to this sector on opportunities for reducing energy costs
- Continue implementing a marketing / public relations campaign
- Find or develop a financing option for small businesses, potentially converting the Residential Revolving Loan Fund
- Provide trainings and workshops for commercial businesses and contractors, including focused workshops on agricultural opportunities

Focus Area 2 – Residential – Market Based and Low Income

Residential energy use accounts for 34 percent of county-wide electricity use and 64 percent of county-wide natural gas use. Helping households cut energy expenses is especially important in a region that faces affordable housing challenges, giving families more disposable income for other important priorities.

2019 Goals

1. Engage in 150 coaching encounters
2. Complete 120 residential projects
3. Facilitate 3 outreach programs or events
4. Complete 40 household projects in the CARE program
5. Complete 3 multifamily projects

Strategies:

- Target Multi-Family Units for coaching
- Target HOAs for coaching and outreach to their residents
- Check in with Senior Housing facilities across the county for additional projects and assistance
- Continue the congregation outreach
- Secure interns in the summer for outreach at farmers markets and other events in all the communities (if funding for interns can be secured)

Focus Area 3 – Government and Public Institutions

Maximizing energy savings and tapping energy innovations for public facilities demonstrates efficient use of tax-payer funds, ensures local governments are leading by example on resource efficiency, and is an important part of regional economic resilience.

2019 Goals

1. Make 10 new non-GCE contacts

2. Contract 3 new non-GCE member projects
3. Recruit 1 new GCE member from this sector
4. Present a GCE overview at 1 City Council meeting per municipality
5. Meet with the City or Town manager for each municipality
6. Strive for 100% of building and expansion projects to be evaluated by CLEER staff
7. Provide the means for all GCE partners to access their energy data
8. Identify ways to streamline energy use tracking by giving CLEER access to their utility bills
9. Encourage all GCE partners to utilize the Energy Navigator and document the results
10. Provide energy assessments to 50% of GCE members

Strategies:

- Continue with Energy Management and Tracking
- Expand GCE's presence within:
 - Post Offices
 - Schools / School Districts
 - Libraries
 - Fire Districts
 - Recreation Districts
 - The Colorado River District
 - CDOT
 - Hospitals
 - Metro Districts
- Reach out to new build opportunities via Buildings and Planning & Zoning Departments
- Host interest specific Round Table or Focus Groups
 - Building and Planning Departments
 - Commercial contractors such as Safebuilt and Hall Ryan Construction
 - Facilities Managers

Focus Area 4 – Transportation

GCE has focused on a 3-pronged approach to reach GCE petroleum dependence goals: work for providing cleaner fuels, encourage purchase of cleaner vehicles, and encourage active transportation and transit. 2019 goals and strategies build on CNG and electric vehicle successes to date and continue to encourage use of and access to trails, safe routes and transit.

2019 Goals

1. Facilitate progress on CNG station construction
2. Add 6 Recharging Stations – 1 in each municipality
3. Continue the Ride Garfield County Program - bike to work and school days, special events, commuter challenges.
4. Provide LOVA Trail and other warranted trails support
5. Increase the local ownership of electric vehicles

Strategies

- Target transportation and transit expansion opportunities between Parachute and Rifle
- Create a bulk installation plan and grant application for charging stations across the county
- Continue participation with Electric Vehicle promotions
- Monitor number and condition of Recharging Stations across the county considering:
 - FMLD Grants
 - VW award monies
 - Upgrading existing stations
 - Holy Cross, RFTA, Glenwood Electric participation

Focus Area 5 – Renewable Energy

Energy efficiency in the built environment is key to any long-term goals; however, energy efficiency alone will only take the county so far. As the county population continues to increase and demand for energy necessarily follows that pattern, it becomes more important to look toward generating renewable energy in order to have a more robust and resilient community and economy. Taking the long view about energy implies an understanding of need, capacity, innovation, and policy that removes barriers and encourages investment and participation in renewable energy throughout the county.

2019 Goals

- Continue to facilitate the growth of solar throughout the county.
- Organize at least one workshop for local governments to provide info on renewable options for governments.
- Work with each jurisdiction to achieve SolSmart certification (the County and all municipalities)
- Identify 3 micro-hydro projects in Garfield County and lay the groundwork to pursue.
- Implement a community solar bulk buy program increasing renewables on homes

Strategies:

- Continue to build the regional partnerships and collaboration to meet renewable energy targets with maximum local economic benefits and job training; continue to build on region's participation with National Renewable Energy Lab's Solar Energy Innovation Network
- Continue to work for implementation of additional innovative renewable projects such as Micro Hydro and renewable technologies presented at 2017 GCE Clean Energy Innovation workshop
- Provide information to local governments with renewable financing options and coaching for local governments
- Promote financing programs for businesses and residents to increase installation of renewables

- Generate marketing and outreach stories promoting renewable energy options in Garfield County