How energy efficiency, clean transportation and local power create measurable economic benefits:

- Diversify the economy
- Create and expand new business opportunities
- Lower energy costs for families, businesses, and governments, freeing up funds for other priorities
- Grow the local economy
- Create new jobs
- Lower business operating expenses
- Create competitive advantages
- Stabilize energy costs

Garfield Clean Energy Targets (adopted 2023)

1. Energy savings in the built environment: 12% by 2030 over a 2019 baseline.

2. Carbon-free electricity: 100% by 2030.

3. Clean mobility: 15% of all registered vehicles zero-emissions electric by 2030.

4. Greenhouse gas emissions: 100% reduction in emissions from electricity, and 10% reduction in emissions relating to natural gas use, by 2030.

5. Economic development and jobs: Accelerate and harness the economic benefits of the above, and address any economic impacts of the transition.

Main images on this page and on cover courtesy of Ryan Mackley, Align Multimedia.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

The benefits to Garfield County's economy from energy efficiency, local renewable energy and alternative transportation fuels have been made possible by:

- State-local partnerships
- Ongoing multiple sources of investment and funding, including state and federal funding
- Countywide collaborative framework
- Public sector/private sector partnerships
- Local, regional and state leadership and vision

GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERS:
Parachute, Rifle, Silt, New Castle, Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Garfield County, Roaring Fork Transportation Authority, Colorado Mountain College, Holy Cross Energy, Garfield County Libraries.

OTHER PARTNERS:
CLEER, Energy Outreach Colorado, Xcel Energy, Glenwood Springs Municipal Electric, New Energy Technology, Aspen Skiing Company Environment Foundation, CORE, Alpine Bank, Energy Smart Colorado, Roaring Fork School District, and all the many participating contractors and Garfield residents.

STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES:
Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Colorado Energy Office

Department of Energy/Better Buildings Grants

FOR MORE INFORMATION

GCE: GarfieldCleanEnergy.org

CLEER: CleanEnergyEconomy.net

CLEER Offices: 970-704-9200

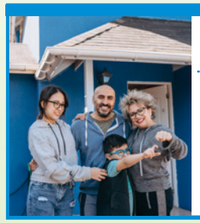
Garfield Clean Energy

Economic growth through energy efficiency, local power and clean transportation

resilience
security
family
new
jobs
economy
future
ENERGY
partnerships
opportunity
BUSINESS
savings
independence
innovation
diversification

ENERGY INNOVATIONS CREATE COUNTYWIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JUST A FEW EXAMPLES



SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES

Launched in 2022, ReEnergize Garfield County has provided financial aid and individual coaching to help 125 low- to moderate-income households make energy-saving and money-saving home improvements.

DOUBLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

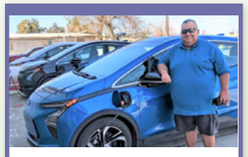
GCE helps make housing affordable to live in as well as to build. Habitat for Humanity's Wapiti Commons project in Rifle is a case in point.

COMMUNITY-SCALE SOLAR

Garfield County is a solar leader, with GCE playing a key role in projects such as this one in Silt and another at Colorado Mountain College's Spring Valley campus.

LOCAL POWER FOR BUSINESS

Glenwood Springs Subaru replaced parking lot lights with dimmable LEDs and installed a 96-kW solar array, cutting electric bills by 44%.



ELECTRIFYING TRANSPORTATION

Garfield County now boasts over 100 electric vehicle charging ports, thanks in large part to GCE/CLEER's efforts to help site owners access funding.

BATTLEMENT MESA WATER PLANT

Mesa Metro District installed a 435-kW solar array for its water treatment plant, providing all its electricity.

SENDING SOLAR THROUGH THE ROOF

Solarize Garfield County exceeded all expectations in 2021, generating $2.8 million in rooftop solar and battery investment, adding 850 kW of renewable energy to the grid and helping county residents bank $270,000 in rebates.

BETTER BOTTOM LINES

GCE has helped more than 400 businesses with technical advice and incentives to achieve rapid payback through energy-saving projects.

HITTING THE ROAD WITH ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The Plug It In event series promotes the adoption of EVs in Garfield County and the wider region through in-person demos, educational presentations and webinars.

PROJECTS SPUR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Clean energy projects have stimulated demand for nearly 400 local contractors and suppliers since 2010, aided by GCE's contractor expos and trainings.

ACCESSIBLE MOBILITY

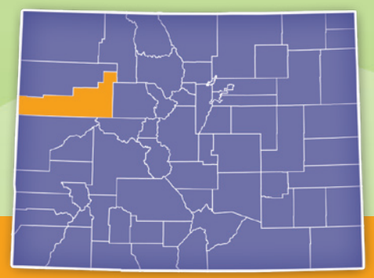
The eBikeThere program, launched in partnership with CLEER, helps reduce vehicle travel and pollution by making e-bikes more affordable to county residents.

100% SOLAR HIGH SCHOOL

Through a student initiative, Roaring Fork High School in Carbondale invested in efficiency, then installed a 379-kW solar array to power 100% of annual electric use.

ADVANCED ENERGY MANAGEMENT (AEM)

CLEER's Advanced Energy Management platform tracks energy use in 90 commercial and institutional buildings countywide, enabling facility managers to minimize energy use and emissions.



GARFIELD COUNTY COLORADO
POPULATION 60,000

x 64 counties = more resilient statewide economy and achieving statewide goals

BY THE NUMBERS

Energy efficiency, local power, and clean transportation add up to measurable economic and environmental benefits.

CUMULATIVE RESULTS 2010-2023:
(except where noted)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Households

1,737 Household projects
$730,000 Energy cost savings
$7.8 million Investment stimulated

Commercial

417 Business, church & nonprofit projects
$1.3 million Energy cost savings
$6.0 million Investment stimulated

Government

51 Government facility energy efficiency upgrades
$3.2 million Investment stimulated
90 buildings Using AEM data to cut costs
$183,000 Energy cost savings

LOCAL POWER

4.8 MW Installed capacity in government & institutional buildings (2022 estimate)

19.6 MW Installed capacity in community solar gardens (2022 estimate)

3.5 MW Installed capacity in residences & businesses (2022 estimate)

TOTAL of all government and solar gardens produces enough power for 5,990 average homes

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

120 Public EV charging ports (**48** of them fast-chargers)
900 Electric vehicles (EV) and **350** plug-in hybrids registered countywide (2024)
8 RFTA fleet electric buses

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

398 Participating contractors and distributors
$2.6 million Energy cost savings
$40.3 million stimulated including all energy efficiency, solar and clean transportation infrastructure projects

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

43,660 metric tons of carbon avoided from energy efficiency projects alone – equivalent to emissions from 3,970 homes or 7,800 vehicles

Updated Oct 2024