



**NOTICE OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**TOWN OF OPHIR, CO 81426**

**TUESDAY 7:00 PM, September 17, 2024**

OPHIR TOWN HALL 36 PORPHYRY ST.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 867 0143 8435 Passcode: 373146

+16699006833,,86701438435#,,,,\*373146# US (San Jose)

**AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL for July 23, 2024
4. BUSINESS ITEMS
  - a. Approval/acceptance of 2023 Town of Ophir Financial Audit (if available) (Wyszynski)
5. PRESENTATIONS
  - a. EcoAction Partners- Emma Gerona (30 mins)
  - b. San Miguel Power Association-??? (15 mins)
6. STAFF REPORTS
  - a. Town Manager
    - i. Trivia Night this winter?
    - ii. Application to put Ophir Jailhouse on San Miguel County Historic Register
    - iii. Old Timers Day- Saturday, October 5, 2024
  - b. Other
7. NEW BUSINESS
8. ADJOURN

# **ECOACTION PARTNERS**

## **Town of Ophir**

# **2024 Program Update & 2025 Funding Request**

September 2024

Emma Gerona, Executive Director



Memo

To: John Wontrobski, Ophir Town Manager  
From: Emma Gerona, EcoAction Partners  
Date: September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Re: EcoAction Partners 2025 Funding Request

**Mission Statement:**

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

EcoAction Partners would like to thank the Town of Ophir for your commitment towards lowering Greenhouse Gas emissions and your generous support of our organization in this goal. Ophir has demonstrated unwavering leadership, reducing energy consumption of government operations and leading the way for the community to do the same. EcoAction Partners continues to engage residents in programs that support Ophir’s commitment to strive towards carbon neutrality.

To support the facilitation of our program areas in partnership with the Town of Ophir, we are requesting \$2000. This funding allows EAP to successfully track and analyze regional and Ophir community greenhouse gas emissions and energy use, administer EAP programs throughout Ophir, and SMC provide technical expertise to support staff, support community waste program opportunities including grant application assistance and compost tracking support, and other ongoing support to accomplish regional energy and waste reduction goals.

Looking ahead, we are excited to further our work with the Town of Ophir on emission reduction efforts through our collaborative programs, including facilitation of the Sneffels Energy Board, implementation of the regional Climate Action Plan, CARE IQ Weatherization, Green Business Membership, Student educational programming, and waste reduction programs. We are committed to supporting Ophir in achieving your sustainability goals and continuing to expand these opportunities and programs to historically underserved populations within our communities. We are excited to continue this incredibly important work as we look forward with renewed energy and direction in our mission to reduce energy and waste in our region.

We look forward to continuing our work with Ophir going forward. Thank you very much for your 2024 support, participation in EAP programs, and consideration of EcoAction Partners’ 2025 funding request.



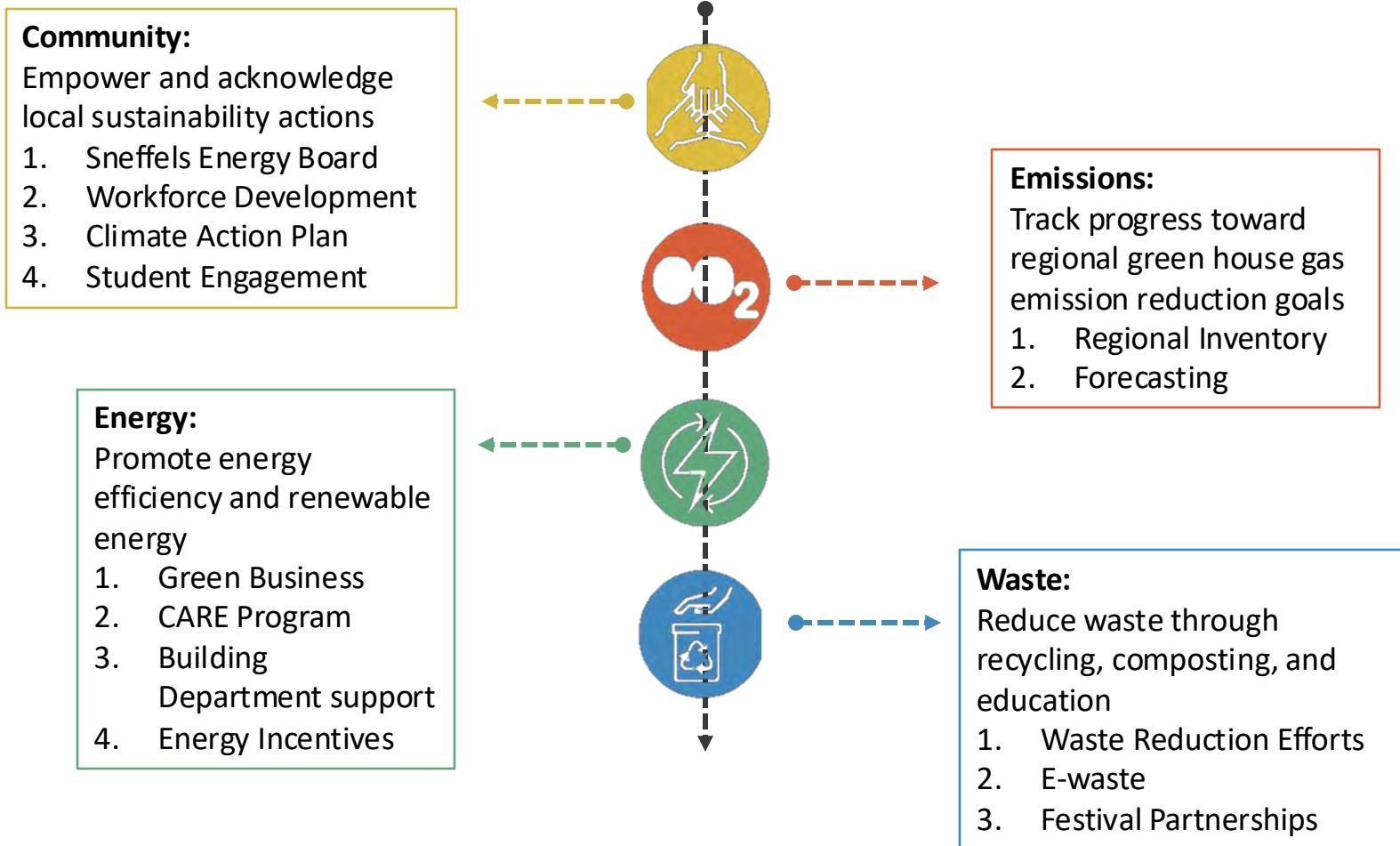
### Mission Statement:

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

### Introduction

EcoAction Partners has been thrilled to continue our programming in 2024! We are excited to continue empowering our partners to drive climate action through the Climate Action Plan. We have continued to focus on implementation support and community education and outreach. We completed the Regional EV readiness Plan and are supporting SEB members with the electric vehicle transition. We were so excited to launch a new Energy Workforce Development Program to support our communities with growing our green energy workforce. We want to thank the Town of Ophir for your ongoing support of our organization and commitment towards a more sustainable future for our region, and we are excited for another great year of sustainability initiatives!

The following report details EcoAction activities for each of our program areas through August 2024.



## Sneffels Energy Board

**Intro:** The Sneffels Energy Board was created in 2009 to support collaborative efforts in our remote and rural region as we collectively face the changes associated with climate change. The board brings together local leaders to coordinate climate 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, San Juan, and Ouray counties, the towns of Ridgway, Ophir, Norwood, Telluride, Mountain Village, Silverton, the City of Ouray, as well as utility partners San Miguel Power Association, Black Hills Energy, along with key community group representatives. Partners of the board regularly meet to share best practices, design successful regional programs, leverage grant funding, identify new opportunities and analyze progress made to date.

**2024 Update:** At our first meeting in February, we covered an upcoming opportunity from the Elected Leaders Collective, supporting our public servants with mental health tools to combat burnout and pushback as we work against many challenges in the climate sphere. We presented on the new Energy Workforce Development Program and our completed Regional EV Readiness Plan. Gabe Stephens provided a wonderful presentation on the history of local micro-hydro dating back to the Ames plan in 1890! Lastly, we covered updates on the NREL partnership proposal and heard feedback on interests in engaging with their research capabilities.

Our May SEB meeting had an update from SMPA on their rate structure changes and net metering policies. We talked about local renewable energy production goals and obstacles including the possibility for a co-op or regional rebate program and wrapped things up with a conversation on CAP implementation as follow up from our annual check-ins and the ongoing NREL conversation. We will be starting a SEB subcommittee to continue the conversation on needs for successful implementation in July.

The July CAP implementation subcommittee meeting identified deep public engagement as a key need. The prevalence of misinformation and pushback to climate projects has grown in recent years and building trust and community buy-in will be key for the SEB to reach its goals. From this meeting EcoAction submitted a grant to fund staff capacity for a shared *Regional Climate Action Development Director* to bring the SEB partners from the planning stage to implementation of the actions within the CAP. We were thrilled to be fully awarded for this grant and look forward to bringing on this additional capacity.

Our August SEB meeting covered our updated GHG inventory and forecasting with 2020-2023 data. We looked at program opportunities to lower our emissions and reach our 2030 goal of 50% emission reductions. We started an in-depth CAP implementation conversation which will continue at our next meeting, reviewing each of the 1- to 3-year actions in the CAP to discuss what we need to successfully implement the short-term actions in the plan.

Already our meetings have been full of lots of exciting updates and progress on SEB programs and goals. We are so excited to see the ongoing collaboration and discussion from this group as the year progresses.

## Energy Workforce Development Program

**Intro:** EAP has been working with key regional partners including the Telluride Foundation, Region 10, West End Economic Development Committee, SMPA, local solar providers and contractors to support the workforce development that is necessary for our region to reach our beneficial electrification and renewable goals. We are thrilled that the Telluride Foundation has provided funding for stipends for training and education opportunities for students and contractors interested in further education in the beneficial electrification and renewable energy fields.

**2024 Update:** We have been working to identify additional funding to continue to offer and grow this program. We were thrilled to have three program participants and our first program graduate, who is already offering weatherization services, including heat pump installations for our income qualified CARE program and more! Thank you to Fletcher with Stellar Air for your participation in the program and ongoing support for our regional electrification efforts! We also attended youth career fairs in Ridgway and Montrose to share program information with our high school population and were thrilled to see the high interest in this program!

## Climate Action Plan

**Intro:** 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.

**2024 Update:** Late last year we created a new EcoAction staff position, a Climate Action Coordinator, to help guide action within the plan and support out partners as we move towards our emission reduction goals. Our Climate Action Coordinator has led bi-annual in-depth check ins with each of the key stakeholders in the plan to help guide implementation, maintain our tracking tool, and identify areas for support. These were held in May and June, and help EAP continue to keep the implementation tracking tool up to date and understand where we can support our partners in CAP implementation efforts!

Equitable education and outreach around the CAP has been a key priority for EcoAction as we take on implementation. We have started a Coffee and Climate Conversation series in partnership with Sheep Mountain Alliance to continue community engagement around the bigger picture climate conversations and ways folks can get involved with the plan and other climate programming that is happening in our region. The theme of the first event was land use, renewable energy and forgotten voices. We were so happy to be joined by alpinist, mountain guide, and climate activist, Kitty Calhoun, who spoke to her experience as an activist and highlight her project fundraising for the Navajo reservation to provide clean energy kits to their households and her film project to bring light to some of the climate injustices happening within the Navajo Nation. Norman Lameman joined us via zoom to speak about his work providing services to his front-line communities who have fallen through the cracks in US and tribal government programs. This work looks like ensuring that all kids have access to internet at home, volunteering to distribute nearly one hundred solar panels and batteries to indigenous people who live in isolated places with no electricity. We were so excited to see 40 people show up to engage in this powerful conversation with Lameman and Calhoun and hear about the incredible work happening in our region on empowering indigenous populations. To celebrate Women's history month the second coffee climate conversation featured local women involved in the climate response, leadership, and community based ecological work. We talked about eco-feminism, ways to get involved in local climate movements, and how to empower those voices that are not always centered in these conversations. We continued these events into quarter two with two events, one titled "From Individual Footprints to Systematic Change" and the second "Engaging in Public Comments". We looked at what it means to make real change happen in our community, region and beyond with conversations on how to engage in the public process, facilitate conversations of hope and spark tangible transformation in the climate sphere. We were thrilled to share these ways that folks can get directly involved in the climate conversation right here at home! In Julye we discussed Eco-Anxiety and Eco-Grief and hope to create a full series of events on this topic next year. Our next topic on September 26<sup>th</sup> will be Food Systems and the Environment.

We hosted an exciting collaborative Earth Day Extravaganza at the Telluride Elementary School with partners from One-to-One, AhHaa, Telluride Fire District, Sheep Mountain Alliance, WPL, CAFI, Pinhead and more! It was so fun to see all our partners come out with various earth day activities for the kids to participate in!

In partnership with Patagonia, Sheep Mountain Alliance, the San Miguel Watershed Coalition, and the Telluride Library we hosted the Patagonia film, The Scale of Hope and brought Molly Kawahata, former Obama White House Climate Advisor and alpinist to speak to her film. The film discusses the systematic change that will be required as we face climate change and how we can create a narrative of hope as we do so.

## Climate Action Plan Cont....

This March we were thrilled to be awarded an EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving grant to address environmental and public health vulnerabilities related to disaster preparedness (wildfire and drought), energy, recreation, and advocacy. This funding will directly bolster access to existing programs that address inequalities around climate vulnerabilities across our region. EcoAction in partnership with Sheep Mountain and CAFI will build regional resiliency through educational programming and outreach initiatives to our underserved residents. We hosted our first in a series of drought and wildfire workshops as part of the grant and were thrilled to hear from West Region Wildfire Council, The SMC office of Emergency Management, Norwood Fire District and SMPA on resiliency and preparedness measures. We are planning a community solar conversation to engage folks in a discussion around local renewable opportunities on August 29<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to continue our work through this grant as we learn to develop more equitable educational materials and climate programming.

In 2023 we were awarded an Office of Clean Energy Development award to bring Silverton and San Juan County into the SEB and CAP. We have been so excited to expand our regional focus bringing these actions and programs into San Juan County. As we move forward with this award in 2024, we will develop a Beneficial Electrification Plan that can be utilized across the region as we face electrical grid transitions and upgrades. We completed their Climate Action Plan appendix in May, and saw it formally adopted by their board of trustees and county commissioners in June! We were excited to continue the outreach efforts in their community with a presentation at their annual business summit and presentations to their governments. Along with this award we have been supporting SMPA on four solar microgrid resiliency planning grants to help plan for solar projects in Rico, Ophir, Ridgway and at the SMPA offices. We are excited to support SMPA with grant applications for construction funding this year and hopefully move forward on some of these cutting-edge resiliency projects that will act as an example for our whole region of creative renewable community projects.

We continue to host Renewable Energy and Beneficial Electrification League (REBEL) meetings with our first meeting of 2024 in February with a dynamic conversation on geothermal potential in our region and the different types of geothermal projects that we might be able to pursue. We heard about SMPA rate changes and Tristate's renewable goals and timing. In July we hosted two more meetings to dive deeper into local geothermal opportunities and the barriers and opportunities for additional local solar production. We look forward to continuing these meetings and dive deeper into solar, geothermal and electrification topics. We have also been working closely with partners to guide the conversation at SMC around their Land Use Code updates related to solar production. We hope to provide the education and guidance to develop codes that are friendly to the right sized community based renewable project that can be utilized across the region as other communities go through updates in coming years.

Earlier this year we completed the Regional EV Readiness Plan, one of the actions identified in the CAP, and a necessary step to open new State and Federal funding channels for our partners. We continue to host EV taskforce meetings where we are supporting partners by connecting projects with funding resources, planning Ride and Drive events, and developing a shovel ready project checklist. We partnered on a Ride and Drive event in Ridgway on August 10<sup>th</sup> and had over 30 EV owners provide vehicles for the event! It was great to engage with existing and potential EV owners on what it looks like to switch to an EV. We are excited to get the word out about the completed plan and will continue to provide community education and engagement opportunities around EV programming and infrastructure planning.

We are moving full steam ahead with CAP implementation and are so excited to see all of the movement on the objectives within the plan. We look forward to continuing to support our partners on these actions and others as the year progresses.

## Student Engagement

**Intro:** Our student programming works to meet students where they are with their climate education and engage them in hands on sustainability actions. The program works with curriculum options covering biodiversity and climate change, stakeholders and the big decision: renewables vs. non-renewables, climate change and earth's major systems and carbon footprints. We updated the curriculum last year to align with Colorado science standards and build on the previous years program as we work with 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

**2024 Update:** We partnered up with Pinhead recently to talk all about recycling! The Pinhead students were excited to learn more about our local waste streams and demand better recycling opportunities from our local partners! We worked with the students to write letters on homemade paper about why recycling matters! It was a great, hands on, student led course, and we look forward to further partnerships with this great program! We are so excited for other opportunities to work with our students and engage them as agents of change in the climate space!

We continued student outreach with the Earth Day Extravaganza in Telluride with over 50 students participating! We presented our Truth or Dare challenge and climate education to another 56 students who through the challenge spent over 80 hours outside and picked up 200+ pieces of trash! We also helped out at the pinhead Valley Floor Day and plan to continue our student education into the summer with Discovery Tuesday events at the WPL and Telluride Academy partnerships!

We are working with the Ouray School through our Green Business Program to support a student led sustainability club and project in the school. We are so excited to see how this develops and what our students come up with as they learn about various ways to support their school in being more sustainable.





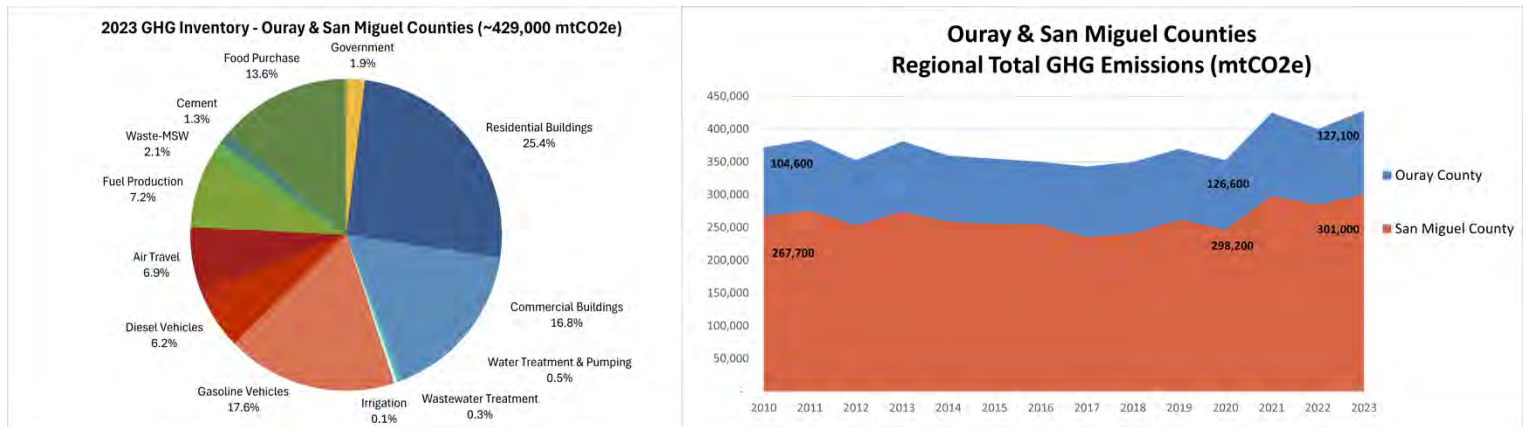
# Emissions

## Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory

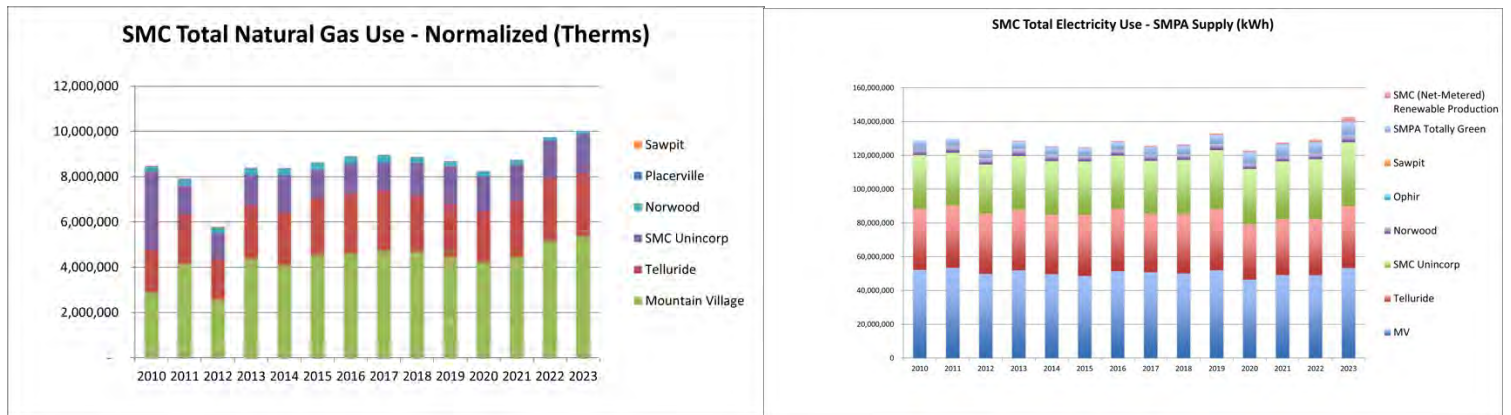
**Intro:** EAP has tracked the region’s greenhouse gas inventory since 2010 with the beginning of the Sneffels Energy Board. We utilize ICLEI’s ClearPath inventory tool to conduct our analysis and forecasting and continue to work closely with ICLEI staff to improve our GHG inventory.

**2024 Update:** We recently completed the 2023 inventory and an update to our baseline inventory to ensure consistent data in the ClearPath tool from 2010 on. 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 now have 3 consecutive years of data in ClearPath and are so excited to see how these updated numbers can help bolster our CAP implementation!

Our 2023 pie chart shows that 43% of our emissions are from buildings, 31% transportation (an increase from 29% in 2020) and 24% from consumption-based emissions with ~429,000 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e across Ouray and San Miguel County. Looking at the last 3-years we have seen a steep increase of our emissions after a relatively steady trend from 2010-2020. We have seen ongoing population and economic growth since COVID which has contributed to this growth.

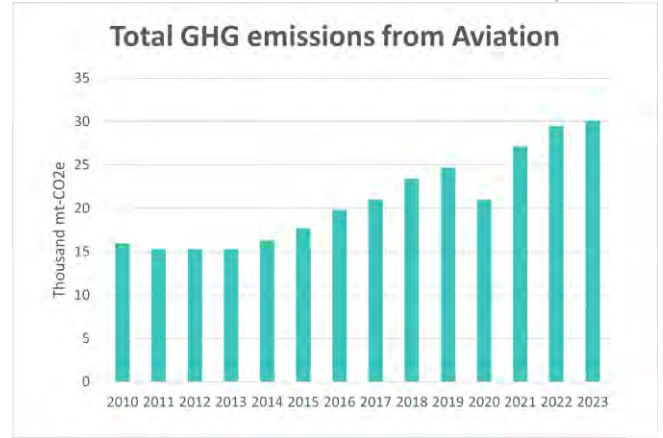
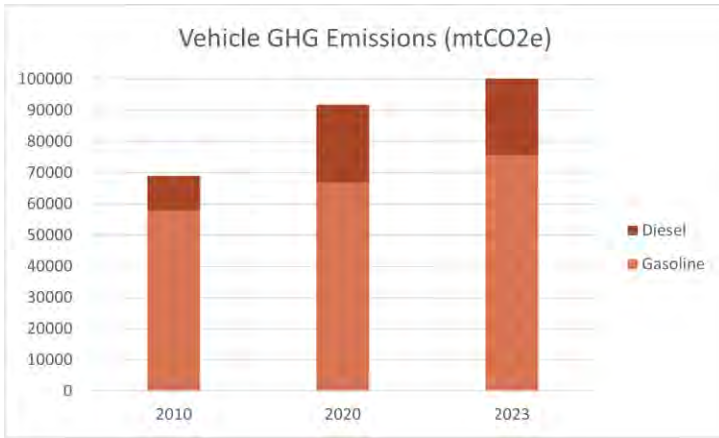


Along with total emissions, we have seen significant growth in electricity use, natural gas, transportation and aviation across the region. We will continue to track these emissions on an annual basis and communicate with our partners as we develop and implement programs to decrease our emissions and move towards our 2030 and 2050 goals of 50% and 90% reductions. We will be presenting on this data in-depth for each of the SEB government partners in August and September.



We are also in the process of developing a SMC government specific inventory, forecast and wedge analysis report. This will be available before the end of the year. We look forward with continuing to support SMC staff with reducing emissions associated with government operations.

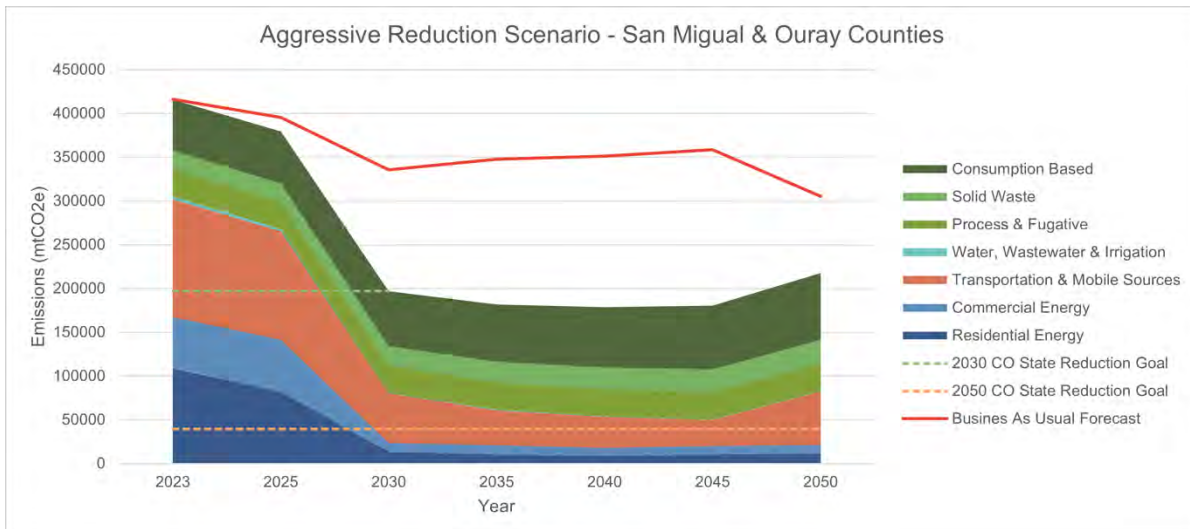
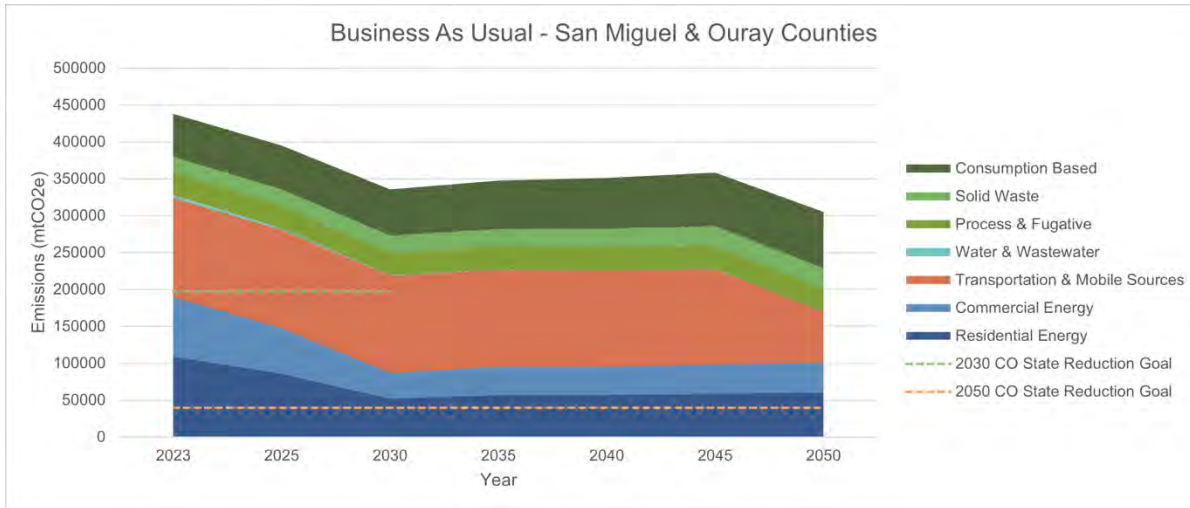




## Regional Greenhouse Gas Forecasting

**Intro:** EcoAction also looks at forecasted emissions to understand how our emissions will change into the future. This data can help inform policy and program decisions as we strive to meet our emission reduction goals. Through the forecasting process we integrate information including population and economic growth and high-level and localized reduction strategies.

**2024 Update:** The Business-as-usual forecast assumes ongoing population growth at the rate we have seen over previous years. It includes reductions from an increasingly renewable energy grid following commitments from Tri-state to have 80% reduction in emissions associated with wholesale energy sales in Colorado by 2030.



The aggressive reduction scenario includes various additional strategies including EV adoption replacing gasoline and Diesel vehicles, beneficial electrification, residential and commercial solar, composting, ongoing efficiency efforts and more. Though this scenario reaches our 2030 goal, additional technological and systematic changes will need to be made to successfully reach our 2050 goal of 90% reduction.



## Green Business Program

**Intro:** 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!

**2024 Update:** Since the start of the new year our staff has focused on re-engaging our current members to ensure they have the resources needed to meet their sustainability goals. This includes one-on-one member check-ins, rebate support, additional educational materials and more. Our team has been hard at work with several businesses across the region to support weatherization upgrades, rebate applications, and project consultation. We have supported an HOA in gathering the necessary resource to apply for a USDA REAP grant to fund a solar project and supported with identifying water efficiency resources. We have supported businesses with receiving hundreds of dollars in rebates for weatherization upgrades through state, BHE, and SMPA rebates. We have supported businesses with adding compost to their operations and ensuring they have adequate education for their staff to shift to the new system. We have developed classroom sustainability guides and student led sustainability projects. We have worked with large hotels on system automation pricing and ROI to implement more efficient temperature and light controls for unused rooms. We continue to work with the statewide Green Business network to share up to date resources for program members.

We have developed a Green Business “playbook” to better engage businesses across the region beyond our membership program. The resource includes information on commercial rebates, common low-hanging-fruit efficiency upgrades, grant opportunities and more. We are excited to broaden our outreach with commercial businesses and want to make sure it is as easy as possible for our business community to engage with climate action. We also started offering energy audits as a fee for service option. This can be instrumental in understanding what actions will have the biggest impact for our businesses in lowering energy use and utility bills.

Our annual Green Business roundtable event was held in June and had the biggest attendance yet with 26 business representatives joining us to talk all things sustainable business. We provided information on EV resources, the TOT single use plastics ban, USDA Rural Energy for America Program Grant support for renewable projects and so much more. We are so grateful for our members, sharing key business practices and collaborating on exciting new green projects.

### Current List of Green Business Members

The following businesses have taken steps to identify, prioritize, and successfully complete energy efficiency improvements, waste reduction practices, and conservation measures.



## Colorado Affordable Residential Energy Program (CARE)

**Intro:** The CARE income qualified weatherization program offers free weatherization and efficiency upgrades for households under 80% of the area median income. The program helps promote a more safe and comfortable living environment for our income qualified residents. We have addressed gas leaks, heating issues, insulation, new refrigerators and more. Participants typically experience a dramatic decrease in their utility bills, which makes a huge difference for folks who are often living paycheck to paycheck. From 2017-2023 we have served 266 homes.

**2024 Update:** So far this year, EcoAction Partners has served 16 homes, has 12 in progress and 7 in queue. In the completed homes we have installed over 223 LED lights, 21 low flow aerators and 6 low flow showerheads. We have replaced 7 refrigerators, installed 3 high efficiency furnaces and 3 heat pump water heaters. We installed 43 storm windows and over 7,250 sq. feet of insulation.

Of the work we are doing through the CARE program, Jay Saxton our Energy Auditor shared “This past year, I am reminded of the many people we have helped. However, one couple stands out in my mind whom I feel we have helped the most this year. The approval of their application for the CARE program couldn’t have come at a better time. Megan and Dale had been huddling in their living room to stay warm by their only heat source, a small fireplace. Meanwhile, the rest of their house was freezing. Their situation was getting worse, with pipes bursting and flooding. All of this was due to their outdated non-functioning furnace. With the help of our program, we were able to provide them with a new high-efficiency gas furnace. We were also able to make a drastic improvement in the level of comfort of the home by adding storms to their single-pane windows. Along with that we also insulated the crawl space under the house. As well as adding comfort, we also reduced their energy consumption which in turn saved them money on their bills. What is also so great about this program is that all areas of the home are tested and checked. During that process, we accessed the fact that their water heater was improperly venting and causing an unknown health and safety issue. We were able to address and remedy the situation. It’s successful stories like this that help propel our program and reach the people most in need.” Megan, the CARE client, had this to say, “Thank you so much to EcoAction Partners for the lifesaver of a program! We went through the entire winter pretty chilly with a broken 70’s era furnace and the CARE program got us up to date energy-wise and warm again. They were so kind and helpful throughout the entire process. What a blessing! We would recommend this program to anyone!” Stories like Megan’s drive home the importance of addressing climate action on a holistic level, exploring opportunities to reduce energy use, lower utility bills, and bolster resiliency and health and safety for our community members.

We look forward to continuing this incredibly important program this year. We need to thank Energy Outreach Colorado, SMPA, and BHE for their generous support of this program.



### 2023 Year-End Results

**\$**  
**\$129,400**  
 In weatherization upgrades

**🏠**  
**35**  
 Homes serviced

**CO<sub>2</sub>**  
**34**  
 Metric tons of estimated annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings



## Building Department Support

**Intro:** EcoAction Partners supports our regional partners in code updates as needed. Our Energy Specialist sits on the Colorado Energy Code Board and is helping to drive efficiency, renewable ready and low carbon updates to code requirements at the state level.

**2024 Update:** EcoAction Partners on behalf of our region was awarded a grant from the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) to facilitate a regional cohort across San Miguel, Ouray and San Juan counties to support collaborative discussion and implementation support for the state's building energy code requirements. Regional building code consistency, with varying amendments as appropriate for each jurisdiction, has proven beneficial to our building community and for enforcement over the years, so we aim to support continued communication and collaboration. Per House Bill 22-1362, all jurisdictions across the state are required to update their energy code by July 1, 2026, if any other code updates are implemented. EAP plans to engage [Lotus Engineering & Sustainability](#) to work with us to facilitate the cohort, provide energy code expertise, and support building departments as we work toward adoption of the required codes. Lotus has experience in leading other regional cohorts in Eagle and Boulder counties for this purpose and has also facilitated the state's energy code board through the process of developing the state's model electric ready and solar ready code. EAP also plans to apply for funding for other eligible costs, as seen as necessary and desirable by our partners.

We have also conducted building benchmarking analysis on some TMV and TOT buildings to better understand the impact that efficiency and electrification measures have on our buildings. We conducted a tour of the wastewater treatment plant and the ice rink and entered data for these two buildings along with the Shandoka complex. We are excited to see how this data helps us further our building energy goals with our local governments as key leaders in this effort and hope to expand these efforts across the whole region where they might support building upgrades.

## Energy Incentives

**Intro:** EcoAction Partners has worked to understand the breadth of incentives, rebates and grant programs available to our region from IRA and IIJA funds and other sources. Our staff works hard to stay up to speed on what is available and how to apply to support ease of access for individuals, businesses and governments in the region.

**2024 Update:** We recently hosted an Energy Incentives Information Workshop at the Telluride Library for interested individuals. We walked through a summary of available resources, incentives, tax credits and grants for common efficiency, renewable and beneficial electrification upgrades. We reviewed local, state, and federal application processes, and where to find more information on each of these opportunities. It was a great event to engage with individuals interested in solar, businesses looking at upgrading to EV's and so much more! We look forward to continuing to provide support on identifying and applying for financial resources for our community members.



## Waste Reduction Efforts

**Intro:** EcoAction staff continue to stay up-to-speed on the best methodologies and programs for community composting and promote existing composting programs that already serve our community through the [composting resources](#) page on our website.

**2024 update:** Our staff continues to work closely with Bruin and San Miguel County on their compost grant efforts as Bruin begins to offer curbside compost pickup! We have helped to develop educational materials on what is accepted for the Bruin Program in both Spanish and English. We have also developed an information sheet on all the different compost programs that are available in our community and the differences between each program. In early April we hosted a compost workshop with 18 attendees where we discussed the logistics of joining the Bruin program, other opportunities, challenges and needs for our waste operators and so much more! We were so thrilled to see the incredible attendance for this important event.

Our staff have also updated a regional recycling guide and are working on updating our more in-depth waste guide to share resources on hard to recycle materials. We look forward to sharing these resources with our community members and continuing to encourage smart waste practices.

We have continued to support Ophir with tracking the compost program utilization and your community has composted over 3,085 lbs. of food waste this year.

We are excited to support out waste hauler in growing and expanding their compost offerings to hopefully have curbside compost pickup available across the whole region.

**Bruin Waste Compost Guide**

**To Compost:**

- Food Scraps & More:** Fruits & Veggies (washed, dry, no plastic), Meats & Bones, Dairy (milk, yogurt, butter, cream, cheese), Eggshells, Coffee & Tea (grounds, filters, capsules, and sugar), Household Plants & Flowers, Grains & Legumes.
- Manufactured Products:** Look for Products with this label (BPI Compostable).

**Do NOT Compost:**

- Stickers & Labels, Plastic Sauce Packets, Tissues & Paper Towels, Rubber & Latex Gloves, Plastic Packaging, Twist Ties & Rubber Bands, Diapers, Cartons, Cans, Bottles, Pet Waste.

For any questions & more information contact Bruin Waste: (970) 864-7531, rob@bruinwaste.com, bruinwastemanagement.com

**Bruin Waste guía de compost**

**COMPOST:**

- deechos de alimentos y más:** frutas y verduras (lavadas, secas, sin plástico), carne y huesos, lácteos (leche, yogur, mantequilla, crema, queso), la cáscara de huevo, café y té (café molido y filtro, café tipo cápsula y pastillas, azúcar y azúcar en polvo), granos y legumbres, plantas y flores domésticas.
- productos manufacturados:** Busque productos con esta etiqueta (BPI Compostable).

**NO SE ACEPTAN:**

- paquetes de salsa de plástico, pegatinas y etiquetas, pañuelos y toallas de papel, guantes de goma y látex, embalaje de plástico, alambres de plástico y ligas, pañales, cartones, latas, botellas, residuos de mascotas.

Para cualquier pregunta y más información contacte con Bruin Waste: (970) 864-7531, rob@bruinwaste.com, bruinwastemanagement.com

**CURBSIDE RECYCLING IN THE SAN JUANS**

**DO** keep everything loose in bin. **DON'T** bag your recycling. **DO** break down cardboard boxes.

**ACCEPTED MATERIALS**

- PLASTIC:** Clean and emptied # 1, 2, and 5.
- PAPERBOARD/ CORRUGATED CARDBOARD:** Clean and emptied non-waxy, corrugated rigid cardboard as well as paperboard. Think cereal, pastry, tissue boxes ect.
- PAPER:** No shredded paper, think magazines, newspaper, office paper, paper bags ect.
- METALS:** Aluminum, tin and steel. Think soda cans, soup cans ect. that are clean and emptied.
- GLASS:** No broken glass, think glass jars or bottles of any color, clean and emptied.

**UNACCEPTED MATERIALS**

- POLYSTYRENE:** No Styrofoam, packaging peanuts, plastic cutlery ect.
- PLASTIC BAGS:** Take plastic bags to Target, Walmart, Safeway, City Market.
- TETRA PAK:** Think cartons that are smooth and glossy with a shiny metallic lining on its inside.
- ALUMINUM FOIL**
- SMALL PLASTICS:** Straws, bottle caps ect.
- STICKY NOTES/ NEON PAPER**

For more information and extended waste guide: [ecoactionpartners.org/crt](http://ecoactionpartners.org/crt), [ecoaction\\_partners](https://www.facebook.com/ecoaction_partners), [zerowaste@ecoactionpartners.org](mailto:zerowaste@ecoactionpartners.org)

EcoAction Partners logo



## SMC E-Waste Clean Up

**Intro:** EcoAction works with San Miguel County and Alpine bank to coordinate bi-annual electronics waste recycling events. This key community event provides a crucial waste stream for hard to recycle materials!

**2024 Update:** EcoAction Partners coordinated the Spring clean-up event for May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We collected 23,806 lbs. of electronic waste (Telluride: 19,690, MV: 4,019, Norwood: 5,080) with over 545 cars dropping off waste (Telluride: 448, MV: 34, Norwood: 63). We helped the county coordinate a contractor for the Hazardous portion of the clean up event, and organized volunteers to help throughout the event. We coordinated with Bruin to bring Green (yard) waste to the clean-up, helping collect additional waste streams and benefitting their compost collection.

The fall event will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and we are exploring the possibility of adding additional collection opportunities to expand the scope and utilization of this event! We look forward to offering electronics recycling again this fall and continuing to expand the clean-up offerings.

## Festival Partnerships (CRT)

**Intro:** EcoAction works with festivals and events to support the goal of 100% composting of organic waste. We support festivals with staff and volunteer training, vendor staff and ordering support, and campground support.

**2024 Update:** EcoAction is working closely with Bluegrass, and SBG productions to best prepare for CRT operations this summer. We are providing guidance and ordering support as we prepare for the Town of Telluride plastics ban to take place this summer. Bluegrass festival was a great success. We helped coordinate over 2000 lbs. of food being donated to local food banks after the festival and collected over 50 lbs. of plastic film to be recycled. EcoAction hosted our educational table at the Harmony Green and had a great time talking to folks about individual climate action, systemic change and as always enjoying solar oven cookies. We are still waiting on final diversion numbers from Bruin.

Jazz festival was successful with the plastic ban being in place and all compostable materials coming from the festival. We are still waiting on diversion numbers from Bruin. We are excited and preparing for Blues and Brews CRT operations this September.



## Wrap Up!

We are so grateful for all of our partners in supporting our programming and efforts in reducing our regional 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 in our community. Our programs are meant to respond to climate change in a way that not only mitigates risk, but creates new opportunities 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 partnership with the Town of Ophir.



## Thank You To Our Partners

Town of Ophir  
San Miguel County  
Ouray County  
Town of Ridgway  
City of Ouray  
Town of Telluride  
Town of Norwood  
Town of Mountain Village  
Town of Silverton  
San Juan County

Environmental Protection Agency  
San Miguel Power Association  
CCAASE  
Colorado Energy Office  
Energy Outreach Colorado  
Black Hills Energy  
Telluride Foundation  
Alpine Bank  
Telluride Bluegrass

