

Eagle County, Colorado

CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN

*Trust, Community,
Environmental Justice,
Support, Cooperation*

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FUNDED BY



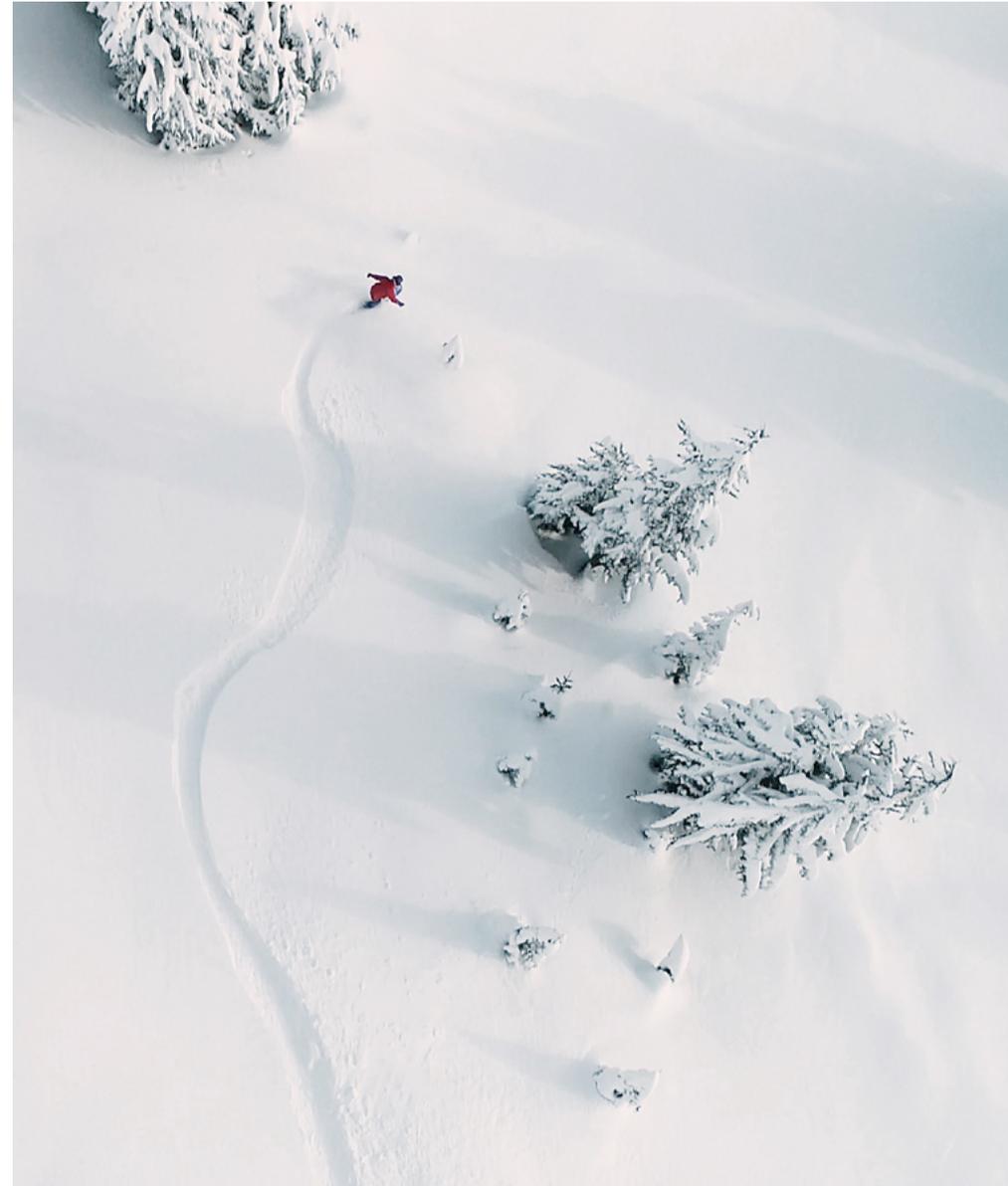
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment

The Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) Environmental Justice Grant Program funds projects working to ensure every community has a healthy environment in which to live, learn, work, and play. These projects help measure, prevent, or reduce pollution in disproportionately impacted communities. Walking Mountains received a grant from CDPHE to create a community-driven engagement plan to increase Latino/a/x involvement in the Eagle County Climate Action Plan, increase knowledge and understanding of climate change impacts, and develop strategies to reduce these impacts within Eagle County's Latino/a/x community. Thank you to the Environmental Justice Advisory Board for the opportunity to do this work.

Walking Mountains

Walking Mountains is a leading environmental education organization that fosters stewardship and builds transformative partnerships across Eagle County, Colorado. They teach people of all ages about our natural world through immersive science-based experiences, groundbreaking sustainability initiatives, captivating programs, and engaging events.

Walking Mountains received the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment's Environmental Justice Grant to complete this plan. This work is in alignment with Walking Mountains' mission to awaken a sense of wonder and inspire environmental stewardship and sustainability through natural science education.

Walking Mountains believes that equity, inclusion, and cultural relevance are foundational values of a just world and sustainable future. Walking Mountains

acknowledges the disproportionate impact of social and environmental problems on equity-priority communities. Through this plan, Walking Mountains will establish accessible and relevant opportunities for all groups. Thank you to the Walking Mountains staff members for their investment of time and expertise.

Exploremos

Exploremos (formerly EVOM) is a group of local organizations and community members, led by Walking Mountains, striving to provide equal access to outdoor spaces and opportunities for youth and families in the Eagle Valley. Thank you to the Exploremos staff members for their investment of time and expertise.

Please note that many of the testimonials shared in this plan have been translated from Spanish to English.

Why Developing a Climate Equity Plan is Important

 Provides specific community-informed objectives and strategies for the Eagle County Climate Action Collaborative's (CAC) Climate Action Plan, ensuring equity-priority communities benefit from climate action.

 Emphasizes broad community buy-in and inclusion as essential to success.

 Directs investments for a healthier environment to equity-priority community members while achieving emissions reduction goals.

 Builds trust and unites the community around climate action through a focused effort on equity.

 Requires active engagement and participation from local governments, utilities, community organizations, and those with resources to alleviate barriers and achieve equitable outcomes.

 Commits to supporting the diverse Eagle County community with equity-centered, culturally relevant engagement with climate action.

 Prioritizes removing barriers to participation and amplifying the voices of those often unheard or overlooked in climate action efforts.



Investing in a climate equity plan safeguards the environment and the dignity and rights of every individual, ensuring that no one bears the disproportionate burden of environmental harm. It's a commitment to justice, fairness, and a sustainable future for all."

— Markian Feduschak, President, Walking Mountains

Foundational Values

- Trust
- Community
- Environmental Justice
- Support
- Reciprocity

Data Highlights

Engaged 96 respondents through a Spanish-language survey, 62 respondents through an English-language survey, and conducted two focus groups in Spanish with English interpretation.

Housing & Energy

Respondents who always or sometimes use money to pay their energy bill instead of paying for other needs like food, medication, transport, etc:



Transportation

Respondents who take the bus to work or school, with most reliant on driving a personal vehicle:



Waste

Respondents who live in single-family homes, where direct access to common waste diversion methods is most prevalent:



Water

Respondents who believe they do not have reliable access to clean drinking water in their dwellings:



I want to learn more about how to deal with climate change and drought because we really need to take care of it and the earth. If we don't deal with it, the consequences are going to be terrible, and we won't have any water."

— Focus group participant



INTRODUCTION

Climate Equity

The goal of recognizing and addressing the unequal burdens made worse by climate change, while ensuring that all people share the benefits of climate protection efforts. Achieving equity means that all people—regardless of their race, color, gender, age, sexuality, national origin, ability, or income—live in safe, healthy, fair communities.

— *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

Centering Equity in Eagle County's Climate Action Plan

 Climate change is often cited as a threat to Eagle County's economy, particularly the ski and recreation industries, due to higher temperatures impacting snowfall, increasing wildfire risk, and reducing river flows.

 Extreme heat, storms, drought, and wildfires already threaten community resilience.

 County-wide environmental efforts have disproportionately engaged affluent, English-speaking community members, while the most vulnerable, equity-priority communities are left out of planning and implementation efforts.

 The Latino community, over 30% of Eagle County's year-round residents and workforce, is the largest equity-priority group, but has been largely excluded from climate planning and action.

 The Climate Action Collaborative (CAC) lacks representation reflective of the area's demographics, limiting equitable participation and access to resources.

 Intentional and unintentional exclusion of equity-priority communities has resulted in limited access to and ownership of resources, services, and opportunities for meaningful participation.

 While equity-focused programs do exist across Eagle County, the predominant lack of inclusive programs and interventions for climate action has stalled the County's progress toward overall emissions reduction.

 The Climate Equity Plan aims to further environmental justice through a community-driven effort to include priorities and solutions from the County's equity-priority communities, centering equity to build resilience to climate change.

 This plan reinforces foundational values: trust, environmental justice, community, support, and reciprocity to achieve inclusive and resilient climate action.

Foundational Values

The purpose of this plan is to support the diverse people who make up the Eagle County community through inclusive and equity-centered objectives that support culturally relevant engagement with climate action. This plan is a commitment to prioritizing support for those who are often unheard.



Trust

Building bridges and taking action to establish trust with equity-priority communities, many who speak Spanish, acknowledging that many have immigrated here from other countries to better support their families.



Environmental Justice

Committing to including equity-priority communities, changing programs and policies to include those whom institutions have historically left out, otherwise we cannot achieve our goals of a 50% emissions reduction by 2030 and 80% reduction by 2050.



Community

Prioritizing collective success and equitable, culturally relevant sustainability advancements to mitigate climate change effectively.



Support

Engaging equity-priority communities with culturally relevant, equity-centered actions, prioritizing support for those who are often left behind or unheard.



Reciprocity

Demonstrating how elevating equity-priority communities can benefit the entire County and foster shared community resilience.





ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The following is a summary of the key insights gleaned from survey data categorized by each sector of this plan.

Foundation of Engagement

Building trusting relationships with equity-priority community members guided this plan's engagement process.

Bilingual Outreach

Walking Mountains hired a Bilingual Sustainability Coordinator to engage Spanish-speaking populations through the Mobile Intercultural Resource Alliance (MIRA) Bus and The Community Market.

Community-Centered Approach

Established trust to solicit the authentic feedback we received in the surveys and focus groups specific to this plan.

Survey Insights

Timeline

An anonymous survey was conducted March 13–April 7, 2024, with 96 Spanish-language and 62 English-language respondents. Demographics such as race, age, income, and housing status informed this plan.

Focus Areas

Buildings & Energy, Transportation, Waste, and Water.

Incentives

Respondents received grocery store gift cards. Those sharing emails will receive a copy of the final plan.



Survey Findings & Gaps

Indigenous Communities

Minimal input highlights the need for intentional engagement with regional Indigenous groups in the future. This plan recognizes the historical exclusion of Indigenous peoples as a result of colonization and displacement. Future efforts should involve regional Indigenous communities. Indigenous voices remain critical to climate action and land stewardship work.

Other Underrepresented Groups

Limited responses from respondents who identify as Black, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Future engagement should ensure that these communities are included.

Age Groups

Lacked responses from youth and residents aged 70 and over. These groups should be prioritized in future efforts.

Future Focus

- **Address Exclusions**
Increase outreach to Indigenous, Black, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities.
- **Engage All Ages**
Develop strategies to involve youth and senior populations.
- **Tackle Inequalities**
Address financial barriers to ensure equitable participation in climate mitigation strategies.

“

I would like to learn more about this topic and be more environmentally conscious.”

— Survey respondent

Survey Findings & Gaps *(continued)*

Income Disparities

Respondents who reported household income over \$80,000. Highlights systemic income disparities affecting climate action participation.



Housing Disparities

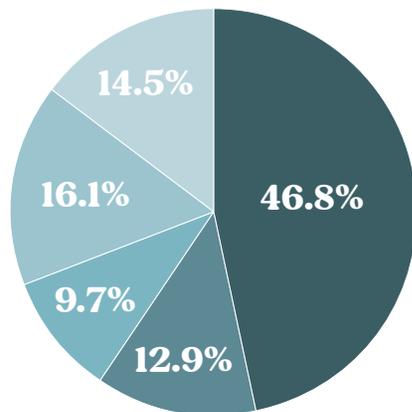
Respondents who are renters. Highlights greater challenges renters face in accessing and affording sustainability strategies.



My landlord will not allow energy-saving modifications. They're not interested in updating the rental to be more efficient."

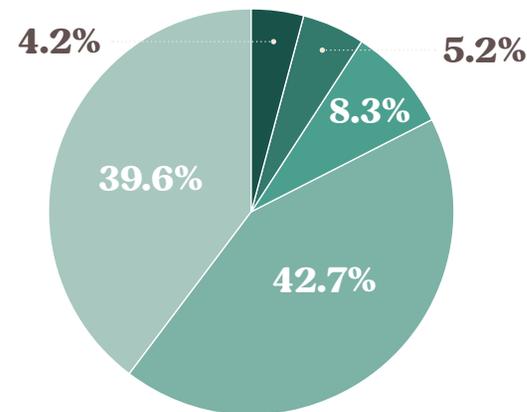
— Survey respondent

Annual Household Income Levels



English-language respondents

- \$100,001+
- \$80,001-\$100,000
- \$60,001-\$80,000
- \$30,001-\$60,000
- \$0-\$30,000



Spanish-language respondents

- \$100,001+
- \$80,001-\$100,000
- \$60,001-\$80,000
- \$30,001-\$60,000
- \$0-\$30,000

Housing & Energy



Access Barriers

Both Spanish-language and English-language survey respondents indicated energy-saving programs were inaccessible. Barriers included:

 Lack of awareness about the existence of the programs.

 Uncertainty about how to complete the application process or determine eligibility.

 Limited time available to complete the application.

Renters felt particularly excluded from energy-saving programs

Respondents who stated they do not participate in energy-saving activities for their home *all* identified as renters.

Home Cooling

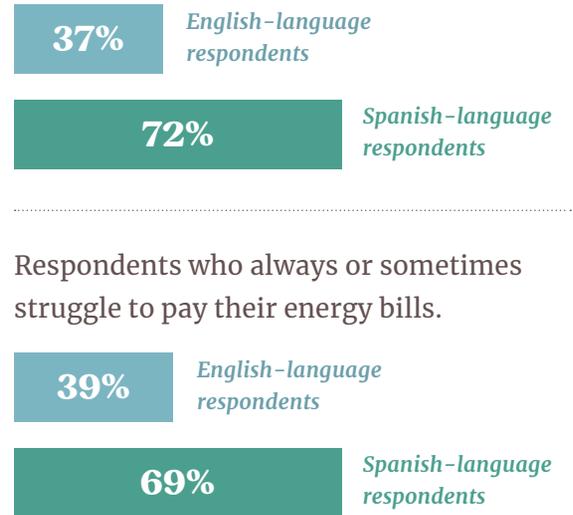
- **Increasing Challenge**
Cooling is now a greater public health concern than heating.
- **Historical Perspective**
Home cooling units were not commonly needed in Eagle County in the past.
- **Emerging Issue**
Warmer summers are making cooling essential, but many homes lack adequate cooling options.
- **Health Risks**
The absence of cooling creates discomfort and poses health risks during the summer.

LED Light Bulbs

Most respondents are aware of and are using LED light bulbs.

Financial Stress Related to Energy Bills

Respondents who always or sometimes use money they would have used to pay for other needs (food, medicine, etc.) to pay their energy bill instead.



Transportation



Vehicle Dependence

Most respondents rely on personal vehicles for work and school.

Commuting

Spanish-speaking respondents generally spend more time commuting, often due to living farther from work or needing to travel around Eagle County for their jobs.

Public Transit

Usage to get to work or school is low but higher among Spanish-language respondents (17%) compared to English-language respondents (8%).

Water



Home Type

Eagle County residents who live in modular or manufactured homes and apartments are more likely to perceive that they do not have access to clean drinking water. Respondents who live in these housing types often cited aesthetic issues, such as color, taste, and smell, as problems in their communities.

Language Equity

A higher percentage of Spanish-language survey respondents live in modular or manufactured homes and apartments, compared to English-language respondents, making this a key equity issue.

Waste

There is a disparity in access to recycling and composting between Spanish-language survey respondents and English-language survey respondents. The equity implications here are reflected in the type and cost of dwelling in which respondents live. Living in an apartment or modular/manufactured home means you are less likely to have the option of recycling at your residence.

Recycling

Respondents who have a personal recycle bin and take it to the curb.



Respondents who do not recycle.



Compost

Respondents who have a compost bin at home and take it to the curb.



Respondents who do not compost.



Residence type

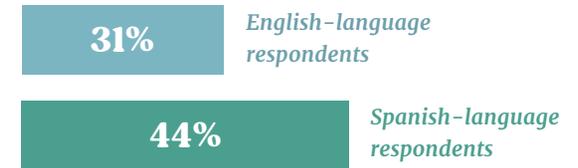
Respondents who live in a single-family home.



Respondents who live in a townhome.



Respondents who live in an apartment.



Respondents who live in a modular or manufactured home.



Key Challenges by Sector

One month after the survey closed, Walking Mountains hosted two focus groups — one in Eagle (13 participants) and one in Avon (11 participants) — to gather qualitative data for the Climate Equity Plan. Hosted in Spanish with English interpretation, participants received dinner, childcare, and a \$50 gift card for their input.

Housing & Energy



- Heating and cooling are expensive and inefficient.
- Difficulties working with landlords on energy issues.
- Lack of awareness about funding programs.

Transportation



- Public transit is expensive, hard to navigate, and doesn't stop where and when needed, especially for families.
- Roads and bus stops are unsafe for pedestrians.
- EV charging is time-consuming and unreliable.

Waste



- Recycling is costly and inaccessible for some, especially in high-density housing.
- Rules for recycling are always changing.
- Lack of compost bins and knowledge about how and what to compost so it doesn't smell.

Water



- Distrust of water due to poor taste and smell.
- Reliance on bottled water or filters adds cost, waste, and time.

Housing Affordability

All engagement efforts indicated that housing affordability challenges exclude many people from climate action. This results in people not living in the towns where they work, using money for housing costs instead of home-efficiency improvements and waste diversion, and the unavailability of sustainability strategies for residents in leased housing.

Additionally, according to the Colorado Latino Climate Justice Policy Handbook, Latinos often live in older, smaller (41% less floor area per capita than White individuals), and less energy-efficient homes. They also make up a higher percentage of renters and are more likely to have more than one generation living under one roof. Addressing housing disparities will be imperative to achieving climate goals and is a key component of this plan.

“

Housing our people is the most effective and sustainable environmental action we can take.”

— Survey respondent





CLIMATE EQUITY ACTION ITEMS

For each sector area of the Climate Action Plan for Eagle County Communities, we have identified objectives and strategies to advance climate equity. All strategies were developed to promote the foundational values of this plan, prioritize equity-priority communities, and achieve the goal of 50% emissions reduction by 2030 in an equitable way.

Eagle County Climate Equity Objectives



Housing & Energy

OBJECTIVE EB1:

Improve existing energy efficiency programs and policies to increase participation among low- and middle-income residents.

OBJECTIVE EB2:

Strengthen the power of renters to make and advocate for upgrades to their homes.



Transportation

OBJECTIVE T1:

Promote multimodal connectivity.

OBJECTIVE T2:

Prioritize workforce housing in close proximity to employment centers.

OBJECTIVE T3:

Expand access to transportation electrification.



Waste

OBJECTIVE W1:

Improve waste diversion education and access for residents in high-density housing.

OBJECTIVE W2:

Research and implement policies that require those creating the most waste to pay for it.



Water

OBJECTIVE WA1:

Investigate water quality in mobile home parks in Eagle County.

OBJECTIVE WA2:

Ensure trust in clean water for all Eagle County residents.

OBJECTIVE WA3:

Conserve water in Eagle County.

Housing & Energy



Climate Action Collaborative's Climate Action Plan annual success benchmark:

 **1,641 residential homes electrified**

Home weatherization, energy efficiency, and electrification with a clean energy grid will reduce GHG emissions and support health, comfort, and affordability for Eagle County residents in their homes. Clear and simple programs in Spanish and English that address home energy efficiency and electrification will be key to achieving 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and 80% reduction by 2050. These programs must be inclusive of homeowners and renters, with straightforward incentives for making changes.

“

We have heating and AC now, but we used to live in a basement where technically our utilities were included but the owners would just turn off the heat in the winter to save money. But we were scared to say anything because we didn't want to lose our spot.”

— Focus group participant

“

The cost is too high for me right now. I wish there was up front cost assistance that could be repaid over time in cost savings.”

— Survey respondent

Housing & Energy



OBJECTIVE 1		
Improve existing energy efficiency programs and policies to increase participation among low- and middle-income residents.		
Strategy	Owner(s)	Partners
POLICY: Allocate additional funding for home energy subsidies and/or rebates for low- and middle-income residents, prioritizing weatherization, energy efficiency, and electrification, with specific consideration for indoor air quality.	Black Hills Energy / Holy Cross Energy / Walking Mountains / Xcel Energy	Climate Action Collaborative / Energy Smart Colorado / Local governments
POLICY: Establish landlord specific home energy regulations and incentives. Consider the CAC’s Green Lease Program and City of Boulder’s SmartRegs Program for inspiration.	Local governments	Black Hills Energy / Climate Action Collaborative / Holy Cross Energy / Walking Mountains / Xcel Energy
PROCESS: Conduct robust bilingual outreach specifically for low- and middle-income residents to share resources and incentives for weatherization, energy efficiency, and electrification.	Walking Mountains	Climate Action Collaborative / Energy Smart Colorado / Local places of worship / NWCCOG / The Palmer Fund / YouthPower365 / Eagle Valley Community Foundation
OBJECTIVE 2		
Strengthen the power of renters to make and advocate for upgrades to their homes.		
Strategy	Owner(s)	Partners
POLICY: Create best practices for tenant protections through a ‘Renters Bill of Rights,’ and conduct comprehensive outreach in Spanish and English on the rights and how to exercise them.	Local governments	Climate Action Collaborative / Colorado Legal Services / Housing Eagle County / Local places of worship / Mountain Dreamers / Walking Mountains / YouthPower365 / Eagle Valley Community Foundation

Transportation



Climate Action Collaborative's Climate Action Plan annual success benchmark:

 **Eagle County commuters go car-free two days a week**

Many communities in Eagle County are reliant on single-occupant vehicles to commute to work, school, and errands. Spanish-speaking residents typically have neither opportunities to work from home nor the ability to choose when to use a car. Changing this requires three things: development of affordable housing options near the workplace; implementation of the behavior-change campaign articulated in the 2020 Climate Action Plan update; and more community input about how to increase multi-modal transportation options.

“

There aren't enough buses or bus stops in Eagle. It doesn't work for going to City Market or other places within town because it is very far to walk and takes too long. So obviously I am going to drive.”

— Focus group participant

“

When your whole family is going [the bus] is just not comparable to gas prices at this point. The bus needs to be free to be good.”

— Focus group participant

Transportation

OBJECTIVE 1 Promote multimodal connectivity.		
Strategy	Owner(s)	Partners
PROCESS: Expand the number of bus stops and frequency of routes through active, bilingual engagement in Core Transit’s long-range planning process, and local government transportation planning processes.	Core Transit / Town of Avon / Town of Vail	CDOT (Bustang+Pegasus) / Eagle Valley Community Foundation / Local governments / Local places of worship / Walking Mountains
PROCESS: Evaluate pathways, such as sidewalks and crosswalks, for safety and reliable availability.	Local governments	CDOT / ECO Trails
PROGRAM: Develop a bilingual educational program to promote multimodal transportation options such as public transit, bikes, and scooters.	Walking Mountains / Climate Action Collaborative	Core Transit / Exploremos / Local bike shops / Local governments / Mountain Youth / Shift Bike / Sole Power / YouthPower365
POLICY: Establish county-wide rebates and promote incentives for multimodal transportation options like bikes, ebikes, and scooters.	Local governments / Walking Mountains	Climate Action Collaborative / Local bike shops
PROCESS: Establish additional park-and-ride options informed by equity-centered community engagements.	CDOT / Core Transit	Local governments

Transportation



OBJECTIVE 2 Prioritize workforce housing in close proximity to employment centers.		
Strategy	Owner(s)	Partners
POLICY: Local governments provide development bonuses, such as reduced parking minimums, for workforce housing developments that are close to town and employment centers.	Local governments	Large employers (>500 employees)
PROCESS: Large employers develop workforce housing within 5 miles of their employment centers.	Large employers (>500 employees)	Local governments
OBJECTIVE 3 Expand access to transportation electrification.		
Strategy	Owner(s)	Partners
POLICY: Provide tax incentives to employers who document green commuting to work on behalf of their employees.	State and local government	Climate Action Collaborative / Car share programs / Core Transit / Holy Cross Energy / Local businesses / Shift Bike / Sole Power
PROGRAM: Expand EV charging in multifamily and manufactured housing communities.	Climate Action Collaborative / HOAs / Manufactured home park owners / Property managers	CLEER / Colorado Energy Office / Holy Cross Energy / Local governments / Walking Mountains / Xcel Energy
POLICY: Offer financial assistance for EV chargers in multifamily and manufactured housing communities.	Holy Cross Energy / Local governments / Xcel Energy	Climate Action Collaborative / CLEER / HOAs / Property managers / Manufactured home park owners / Walking Mountains

Waste

Climate Action Collaborative's Climate Action Plan annual success benchmarks:

-  **8% increase in organic waste diverted through recycling and compost**
-  **10% increase in diversion of recoverable construction waste**

While waste diversion has a smaller impact on overall emissions, it is often an entry point into sustainable behavior change because it's a tangible way people can make a difference every day. This was emphasized in our engagement with the community. Eagle County residents really want to make the best decisions with their waste, but many barriers stand in the way such as accessibility, cost, and education.

“

We would love to recycle and compost but there is just not a dumpster where we live in Gypsum.”

— Focus group participant

“

I want to learn more about composting and they should make the information more accessible.”

— Focus group participant

CLIMATE EQUITY ACTION ITEMS



Waste

OBJECTIVE 1		
Improve waste diversion education and access for residents in high-density housing.		
Strategy	Owner(s)	Partners
PROGRAM: Coordinate holistic, bilingual recycling and compost education across the County, specifically engaging with residents in their communities.	Walking Mountains	Climate Action Collaborative / Community gardens / Eagle County Schools / Exploremos / HOAs / Local governments / Property managers / Waste haulers / Eagle Valley Community Foundation
POLICY: Create policies that require convenient and affordable recycling and composting access, specifically for people living in multifamily and modular/manufacturing homes.	Local governments	Climate Action Collaborative / HOAs / Property managers / Waste haulers / Manufactured home park owners / Walking Mountains
POLICY: Establish rental licenses that require all rental unit owners to submit recycling plans as part of the license renewal process. (Such licenses may support other requirements that will further climate equity).	Local governments	Climate Action Collaborative / HOAs / Individual landlords / Waste haulers / Property management companies / Walking Mountains
OBJECTIVE 2		
Research and implement policies that require those creating the most waste to pay for it.		
Strategy	Owner(s)	Partners
PILOT: Pilot a bilingual pay-as-you-throw opt-in program for landfill waste with free recycling.	Climate Action Collaborative / Local governments	Waste haulers / Walking Mountains
POLICY: Establish a county-wide policy to require businesses and municipally-owned properties to participate in recycling programs.	Climate Action Collaborative / Local governments	Local businesses / Waste haulers / Walking Mountains

Water

Proposed success benchmark:

 **100% of Eagle County residents trusting the water coming out of their tap is clean and safe for drinking**

Water continues to be a climate action and resiliency concern. Sustainability of water supply and water quality are the two main concerns. It's noteworthy that some of our participants, namely those that live in mobile home parks, do not trust the water from their tap due to poor taste, smell, and color. Focus group participants consistently cited perceived concerns with water quality.

Beatriz Soto, Senior Director of Community Engagement for Conservation Colorado, has said "From Protége's research...we know that 1 in 5 Latino households is a mobile home, and the majority of water violations in the state are in counties where there are

higher Latino populations." Perceived poor water quality is an environmental justice problem that warrants immediate solutions. Beyond being a public health concern, perceived poor water quality results in more plastic water bottles and filters entering the waste stream.

“

I drink only from plastic bottles because I don't trust that the water is safe to drink. It is brown and smelly.

— Focus group participant

“

I want a study done to prove that the water is safe and more research because it smells and tastes bad. It is brown.

— Focus group participant

CLIMATE EQUITY ACTION ITEMS



OBJECTIVE 1 Investigate water quality in mobile home parks in Eagle County.		
Strategy	Owner(s)	Partners
PROGRAM: Support the initiation and compliance with HB23-1257 Mobile Home Park Water Quality Act in partnership with CDPHE by assisting with robust community engagement.	Climate Action Collaborative / Walking Mountains	CDPHE / Eagle County Public Health / Mobile home park owners / Public water systems / Eagle County Environmental Health
OBJECTIVE 2 Ensure trust in clean water for all Eagle County residents.		
Strategy	Owner(s)	Partners
POLICY: Local government subsidies for water quality tests, water filters, and/or water delivery.	Local governments	CDPHE / Eagle County Public Health / Public water systems / Eagle County Environmental Health
PROGRAM: Public water systems provide more education and outreach on what to do if customers experience poor water quality with the goal of raising awareness of local and state avenues for investigation and remediation.	Eagle County Environmental Health / Eagle County Public Health / Public water systems	CDPHE / Eagle Valley Community Foundation / Local governments / Walking Mountains
OBJECTIVE 3 Conserve water in Eagle County.		
Strategy	Owner(s)	Partners
PROGRAM: Create a bilingual education campaign around cost savings of outdoor water conservation measures.	Climate Action Collaborative / Walking Mountains	Beyond Lawn / Eagle River Coalition / Public water systems / Eagle County Conservation District

Climate Equity Implementation

As authors of this Climate Equity Plan, Walking Mountains will be a key implementer of the strategies and actions from this plan. Still, it is imperative that local governments and community organizations lead and support this work.

Equity Working Group

 Walking Mountains and the Climate Action Collaborative will convene an Equity Working Group with key leaders and members of equity-priority communities.

 The group will build timelines and delegate responsibilities for implementing climate equity strategies in Eagle County.

 The Equity Working Group will initiate inclusive education and outreach strategies, including:

- Creating a Spanish-language sustainability newsletter.
- Sharing information through the existing Spanish-language website.

Collaboration with Exploremos

 Collaborate intentionally between the Climate Action Collaborative and Exploremos. Supported by Walking Mountains, Exploremos is seen as a separate place for Spanish-speaking community members to engage in outdoor opportunities and education.

 Build trust and open lines of communication between the two groups.

 Expand the reach of the Climate Equity Plan to individuals who may not be aware of or see themselves in the County's Climate Action Plan.

In Conclusion

 Upholding the values of trust, environmental justice, community, support, and reciprocity is essential as organizations and local governments implement the strategies in this plan.

 The conclusion of this plan is the beginning of the work necessary to address inequity and achieve Eagle County's climate goals.

 Community members and leaders should continue to understand historic and ongoing disinvestment of equity-priority communities.

MORE COMMUNITY VOICES

“

The [Exploremos] opportunities are good. I feel like I belong because they are in my language.”

— Focus group participant



“

The cost is too high for me right now. I wish there were upfront cost assistance that could be repaid over time in cost savings. Perhaps through a Green Revolving Fund.”

— Survey respondent

“

I want more opportunities to talk to each other like this to share information via word of mouth.”

— Focus group participant

“

I don't have a lot of time and want to see more on Facebook and social media rather than classes and things in the Vail Daily.”

— Focus group participant

“

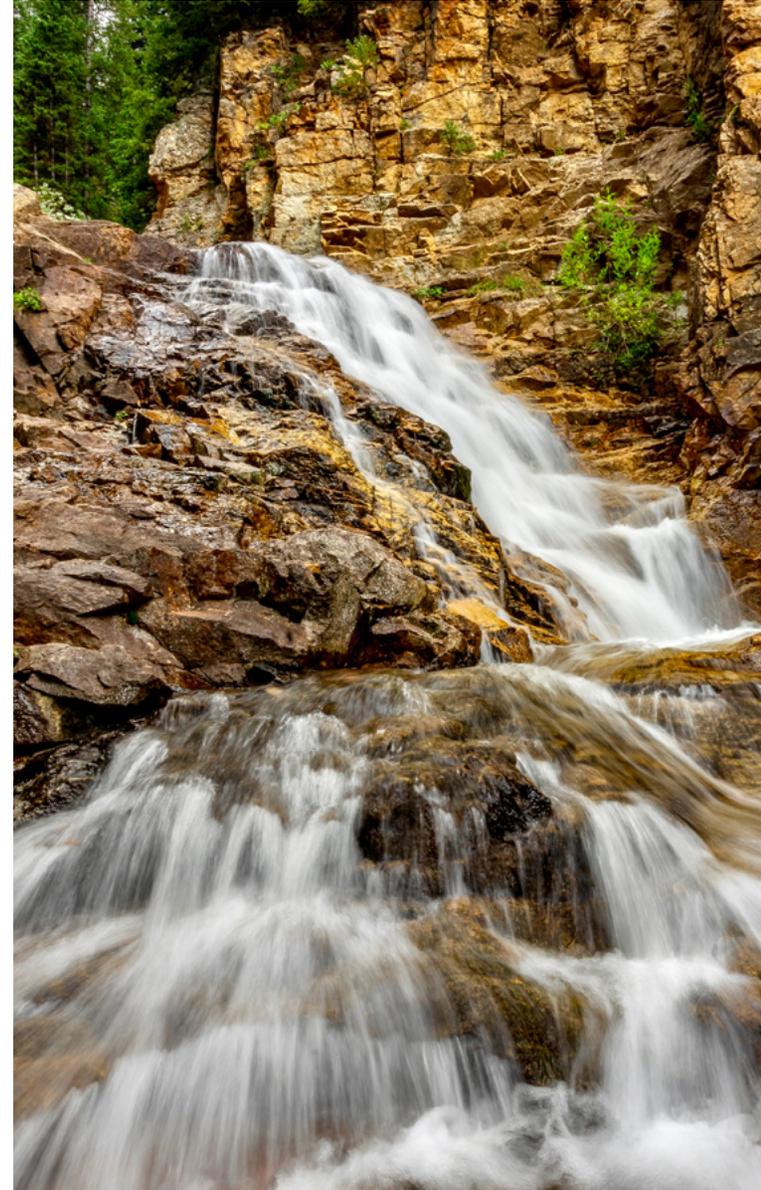
I wish I could live closer to my job. I can't afford to live in the town I work in.”

— Survey respondent



ACRONYMS

CAC	The Climate Action Collaborative for Eagle County Communities
CC4CA	Colorado Communities for Climate Action
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
CLEER	Clean Energy Economy for the Region
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
HOA	Homeowners Association
MIRA Bus	Mobile Intercultural Resource Alliance Bus
NWCCOG	Northwest Colorado Council of Governments



Clean energy

Energy that creates no greenhouse gas emissions when produced. Common forms include solar, wind, water, geothermal, bioenergy and nuclear.

Climate equity

The goal of recognizing and addressing the unequal burdens made worse by climate change, while ensuring that all people share the benefits of climate protection efforts. Achieving equity means that all people — regardless of their race, color, gender, age, sexuality, national origin, ability, or income — live in safe, healthy, fair communities.

—EPA, *United States*

Equity

Ensuring fairness and justice. Distinguished from equality, which means providing the same to all.

Equity-priority community

Communities that are or have been historically underserved.

Environmental justice

An effort to eliminate and prevent environmental harms that disproportionately impact equity-priority communities. Institutionalized discrimination and a lack of economic resources and power have disadvantaged equity-priority communities. These communities are not responsible for the harmful environmental conditions in which they live and work. Environmental justice seeks to meaningfully involve all people — regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability — in decision-making processes and other government activities that affect human health and the environment.

Low- and middle-income

Households or residents who earn up to 160 percent of the area median income.

Multimodal

Incorporating different methods of transportation in one trip including walking, bicycling, riding public transportation systems, and driving.

Pay-as-you-throw

A pricing model for waste disposal that is based on the level of use. Users are charged based on how much waste they dispose of, with recycling often included at no extra cost.



LET'S DO THIS

Through consistent, equitable engagement and the removal of systemic barriers, the objectives and strategies in this plan will lead to a united Eagle County working toward climate equity.



#BeBetterTogether