

Creating Climate Solutions Here at Home

**IT'S HARD TO NOT READ A
NEWSPAPER, WATCH THE
NEWS – OR EVEN LOOK
OUT THE WINDOW – AND
NOT FEEL A GROWING
SENSE OF URGENCY
ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.**

Yet the solutions are within our grasp, and we stand at the brink of great opportunities. CLEER is leading efforts to seize those opportunities and build a clean energy economy in which our region prospers while doing its part to curb emissions. Since 2008, CLEER has brought diverse people and communities together to speed the transition, building on areas of common ground: taking care of where we live, strengthening and diversifying the economy, and helping more people tap the benefits of clean energy.

Through CLEER's work to make clean energy solutions more accessible to all, our region is providing an inspiring model of the kind of progress needed to tackle the climate crisis and create a more equitable and resilient society. With your help, we will continue to spur the action that's needed on the most urgent transformation of our time.

CLEER's Impact: By the Numbers

Figures are totals since 2008, attributable to projects in which CLEER has been involved.



14.9 MEGAWATTS
SOLAR INSTALLED



177 PLUGS
EV CHARGING STATIONS
INSTALLED



1,950 PROJECTS
ENERGY-EFFICIENT
BUILDING UPGRADES



\$53 MILLION
LOCAL INVESTMENT
STIMULATED

This is What the Clean Energy Transition Looks Like

CLEER FOCUSES ON BRINGING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARD CLEAN ENERGY GOALS. WE'RE EXCITED TO SHARE THESE STORIES FROM 2021.

CLEAN POWER



SENDING SOLAR THROUGH THE ROOF

As a new program for Garfield Clean Energy, CLEER spearheaded a three-month solar group-buy campaign. Solarize Garfield County helped 110 residents install nearly a megawatt of homegrown power. Keys to success: bulk-buy discounts, extra rebates for households that wouldn't otherwise qualify, informational webinars and energy coaching.



MAPPING OUT SOLAR + STORAGE ACTION

To meet clean energy targets, CLEER led a multi-partner team to develop a groundbreaking regional solar-plus-storage study and action plan. The plan lays out how our region can produce far greater local solar energy, and by ramping up renewables, harness economic and resiliency benefits. A new mapping tool of solar potential will help ramp up local solar development.



CMC CAMPUSES TO GO 100% RENEWABLE

Colorado Mountain College's Spring Valley, Aspen and Edwards campuses will soon enjoy 100% renewable energy, thanks to a 4.5-megawatt solar project. CLEER helped CMC and Holy Cross Energy create an innovative financing structure to meet the goals of both organizations, which could serve as a model for other large energy users in Holy Cross territory.

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



A NET-ZERO HOME FOR THE REST OF US

CLEER helps residents navigate energy-efficiency measures, rebates, contractors and financing. Many opt for upgrades that produce instant savings – lighting, insulation, efficient appliances. Others, like Rifle resident Lisa Jones, go all the way. Jones' net-zero home will recoup its modest extra cost in nine years and keep monthly expenses low (and fixed) in retirement.



PARTNERING ON AFFORDABLE, EFFICIENT HOUSING

Cutting energy costs makes housing more affordable. CLEER is partnering with Habitat for Humanity Roaring Fork Valley to make its planned Wapiti Commons development in Rifle as energy-efficient as possible, with off-site solar to offset any emissions. CLEER is also helping a multi-family project in Silt cut energy costs – part of CLEER's "green for all" approach.



HELPING A COMMUNITY GET TO ZERO EMISSIONS

CLEER helps individual communities and organizations create pathways to reach zero emissions, and has been working with Carbondale on innovative climate solutions for over a decade. This year we helped the town adopt a climate-friendly commercial building code, incorporate climate into its Comprehensive Plan and map out net-zero emissions steps.

TRANSPORTATION

THROWING CARBON UNDER THE BUS

Imagine a future of quiet, zero-emissions vehicles. CLEER advanced this vision in 2021 with demo events to help fleet managers from around the region check out the latest all-electric shuttle buses and commercial vehicles. CLEER also runs the Colorado Clean Diesel Program to spur adoption of electric technologies – from bucket trucks to snow groomers – and partners with the Colorado GoEV Cities campaign to encourage local governments to electrify their fleets.



CHARGING AHEAD ON EV INFRASTRUCTURE

A big part of Colorado's climate action plan is replacing nearly a million gas-burning vehicles with electric ones by 2030. As one of four partners in the state's Charge Ahead program, CLEER targets the 14-county region of northwest Colorado and is helping businesses, tourist facilities and local governments install EV charging stations (such as this one recently installed in Gypsum). Western Colorado has one of the most advanced rural charging infrastructure systems in the country thanks to CLEER's multi-year work.



Mark Burrows

Three Keys to Achieving Our Net-Zero Goals

OUR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE SET LONG-TERM GOALS FOR ZEROING OUT EMISSIONS AND TRANSITIONING TO CLEAN ENERGY. CLEER'S ROLE IS TO HELP CREATE THE NECESSARY ANNUAL PROGRESS, FOCUSING ON THREE AREAS:

RAMPING UP RENEWABLES



The twin strategies of the clean energy transition are to produce zero-emissions electricity and to electrify buildings and transportation. CLEER is driving efforts to maximize locally sited solar development, rather than relying on electricity imported from large-scale projects elsewhere. This is key to diversifying the regional economy – and to ensuring a “just transition” that cares for displaced workers and maximizes the benefits of clean energy for all.

DECARBONIZING TRANSPORTATION

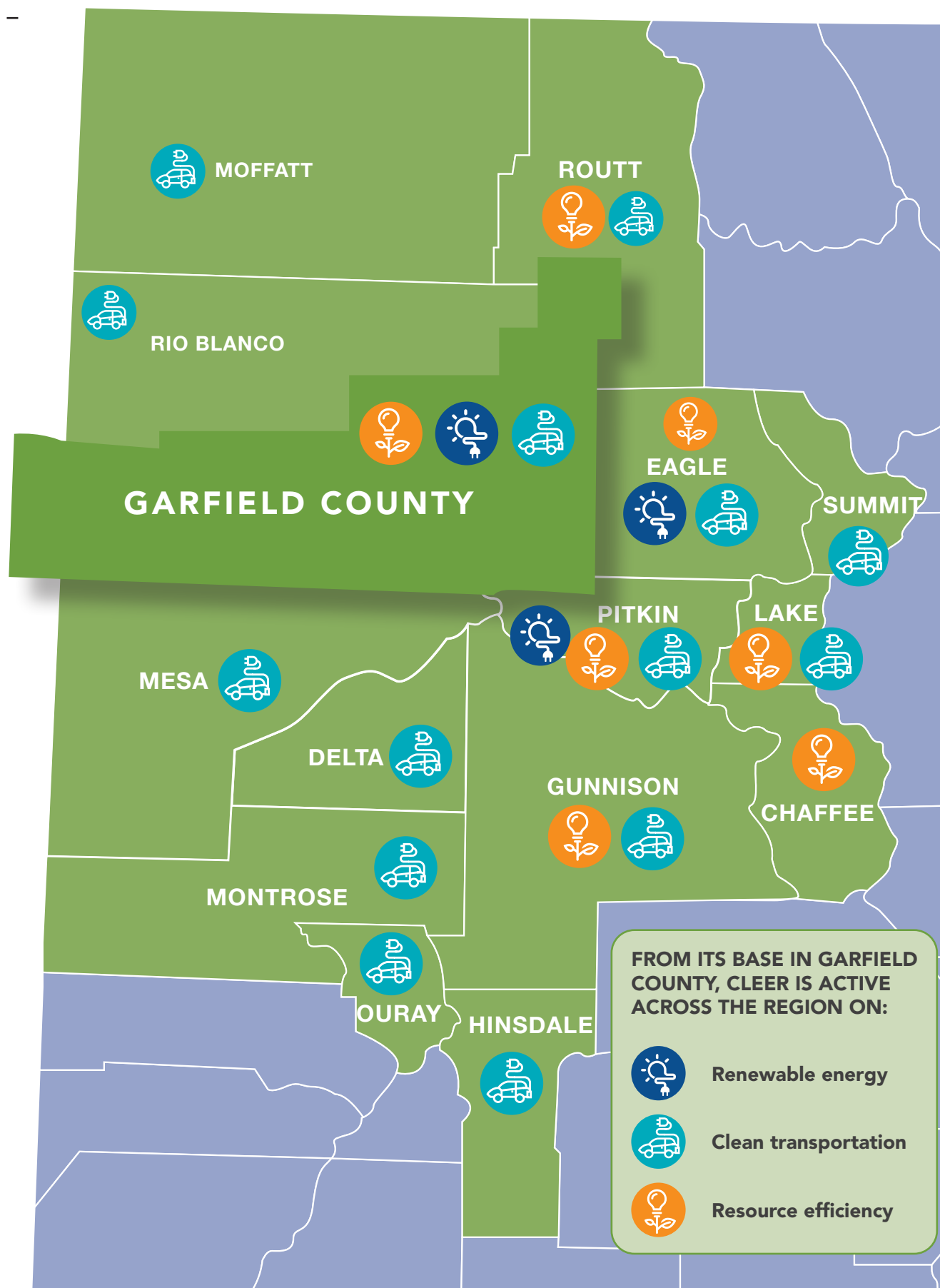


Transportation is now the largest source of emissions in Colorado, and decarbonizing the sector requires urgent, concerted action and an array of tactics at the state, regional and local levels. CLEER helped develop what is now ReCharge Colorado, a state program that helps consumers, fleet managers and transit agencies switch to electric vehicles and provides technical assistance to install electric charging facilities. CLEER provides coaching in 14 counties, and also champions walking, bicycling and transit alternatives.

MAXIMIZING RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



Eliminating emissions from buildings is the other big challenge of the clean energy transition. Building electrification is the long-term solution, but increasing energy efficiency will get us there faster and at much lower cost – plus, it creates jobs and puts money back into the pockets of households and businesses. CLEER developed and manages Garfield Clean Energy's energy-efficiency programs. It also assists municipalities in updating their energy codes and offers professional trainings.



FROM ITS BASE IN GARFIELD COUNTY, CLEER IS ACTIVE ACROSS THE REGION ON:

- Renewable energy
- Clean transportation
- Resource efficiency



CLEER's vision for a clean energy future

- + A more diverse, sustainable economy that harnesses the power of energy innovation
- + Green for all: policies and funding structures that ensure that all households and communities enjoy the benefits of clean energy and that no one is left behind in the transition
- + A more resilient energy system, thanks to a smarter, less centralized grid
- + A healthier environment for us and for future generations
- + A connected, forward-looking region that's doing its part to curb climate change

2022: Scaling Up to Meet the Challenge

IN THE FACE OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY, WE MUST DRAMATICALLY SCALE UP OUR WORK. HERE ARE FOUR STRATEGIC ELEMENTS THAT CLEER HOPES TO EXPAND IN 2022, WITH YOUR SUPPORT.

1

ACCELERATE SOLAR AND STORAGE DEVELOPMENT FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND RESILIENCY

With a solar-plus-storage action plan now in hand, we're ready to tackle the key components that will leverage the greatest impact over time. These include identifying innovative financing approaches to harness greater local benefits; policy work to remove systemic barriers; and joint projects with regional partners to harness economies of scale. The goal is to achieve measurable, significant increases in new renewable energy each year, with maximum local economic and resiliency benefits.



2

WORK FOR A JUST ECONOMIC TRANSITION

To move to 100% renewables without leaving workers and communities behind, there needs to be greater understanding and awareness of the extraction industry's role in the Western Slope economy and local tax bases. Your investment is needed to build on an initial economic transition assessment CLEER completed in 2021, to bring stakeholders together to develop regional and statewide solutions, and to develop policy proposals that can create significant progress on this critical topic.



3

ADVANCE THE WESTERN COLORADO CLEAN ENERGY NETWORK

Spearheaded by CLEER, the newly formed Western Colorado Clean Energy Network is a collaboration of nonprofit and civic organizations, local governments and other partners working together at regional scale to achieve more rapid progress on shared clean energy goals while maximizing economic opportunity. Contributions and grants will help us make clean energy solutions more accessible to multiple communities, develop clean energy leaders, and expand economic transitions work – as well as leverage significant state and federal funding.



4

GREEN FOR ALL: EQUITY AND ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY

CLEER is working to create a permanent fund to spur even greater clean energy activity while reducing the energy burden on Garfield County residents. In 2022, our focus will be helping income-qualified families reduce their energy costs, increase their comfort and address health and safety issues. A Clean Energy Fund will enable us to provide additional incentives to those who need it most. Your investment will help us move this concept forward, and once it is up and running, share it with other rural regions.



Thanks to our supporters and partners

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Gunnison County Electric Association
Roaring Fork School District
Roaring Fork Transportation Authority
Town of Snowmass Village



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HERE'S HOPE ON CLIMATE

Here in our corner of Colorado, we must do our part to slash emissions. Indeed, we must do *more* than our part – because we can, because it’s good for our economy, and because we are in a position to lead by example.

CLEER is leading efforts to ramp up the clean energy transition across our region, and demonstrating how other rural/resort areas can do the same. This newsletter highlights what we’ve been doing this past year and what we aim to do – with your help – to scale up in 2022. **Please join us in this hopeful, positive work.** Together, we can drive the decisive action that will preserve a livable planet for our children and grandchildren.



Emily Kent



Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER) works to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy, increase energy independence, and reduce our contribution to climate change.

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