

CLEER

CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY FOR THE REGION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

SCALING UP CLIMATE SOLUTIONS IN WESTERN COLORADO

CLEER is leading efforts to speed the clean energy transition across our region, and demonstrating how other rural and mountain areas can do the same.

Focusing on local solutions, we bring people and communities together, inspire action and create tangible progress. Our work focuses on developing a more prosperous, sustainable economy that delivers the benefits of clean energy to all.

CLEER'S IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

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

25.5 MEGAWATTS
SOLAR INSTALLED



552 PORTS
EV CHARGING STATIONS
INSTALLED



2,200+ PROJECTS
ENERGY-EFFICIENT
BUILDING UPGRADES



\$53 MILLION
LOCAL INVESTMENT
STIMULATED



THIS IS WHAT THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION LOOKS LIKE

CLEER IS EMPOWERING FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO LEAD THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION. WE'RE EXCITED TO SHARE THESE STORIES FROM THE PAST YEAR.

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



REENERGIZE REDUCES ENERGY BURDEN

ReEnergize Garfield County – a program developed by CLEER for Garfield Clean Energy – provides financial aid to help low- and moderate-income households save energy and money. It's clearly filling a need. Since its launch last year, it has made grants to more than 90 homeowners and has referred 90 more for benefits under other state or federal programs.



ENERGY PLAN UPS GARFIELD COUNTY'S GAME

Having spearheaded a new and improved countywide energy action plan last year, we lost no time in launching strategic initiatives to achieve its targets. We've led a process to develop an EV-readiness plan, partnered with local utilities on a residential energy-saving campaign, and secured a state grant to help local communities strengthen their energy codes.



PILOT PROGRAM TESTS HOME ENERGY SCORING

To improve the energy efficiency of Carbondale's housing, this summer we launched a pilot program to test a standardized home-energy scoring system. Response has been exceptional, with over 100 participants. More than just a policy tool for Carbondale, the system offers a model for other communities in our region to meet climate goals.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

CLEER-LED COALITION EXPLORES GEOTHERMAL HEATING AND COOLING AT SCALE

A major geothermal demonstration project is on the drawing board for Carbondale, with the design phase being led by CLEER and funded by a federal grant secured by CLEER. The proposed system, once fully implemented, would provide heating and cooling to a 16-acre section of the town and showcase a clean-energy solution that could be replicated widely in other rural communities.



The project is one of 11 nationwide to receive an initial design grant through the US Department of Energy's Community Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment Initiative, and one of only four recipients located in rural areas.

"This is such an exciting opportunity to showcase a really innovative, impactful clean-energy solution right here in Carbondale. This will enable us to explore another approach to reduce or eliminate our dependence on natural gas for heat," said Carbondale Mayor Ben Bohmfalk. He said the concepts being tested here could be replicated widely and become one of the key tactics to driving down greenhouse gas emissions in other rural communities.

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION



EVENTS GET THE EV SHOW ON THE ROAD

Again this year, we presented the Experience Electric Road Show – a series of expos around the region enabling the EV-curious to learn about EVs with no sales pressure – and joined with partner organizations to present several other "ride-and-drives." Additionally, we helped dozens of businesses and other entities get funding to install EV charging stations.



CLEER DEMONSTRATES LIFE WITHOUT DIESEL

This was a pivotal year for the Colorado Clean Diesel Program, managed by CLEER, as it funded several high-profile projects demonstrating the advantages of replacing diesel heavy equipment with all-electric models. It's an exciting field to be in, as we're priming the pump for the decarbonization of major industrial sectors.



SUMMIT FOSTERS INTEGRATED CLEAN MOBILITY

Merely replacing fossil-fuel vehicles with electric ones won't solve all our transportation problems. To kickstart a visioning process around integrated clean mobility, CLEER organized a summit in September that brought together civic leaders and transportation experts from around the region to focus on actionable solutions.

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 UTILIZES THE FOLLOWING KEY STRATEGIES TO ENSURE RAPID PROGRESS:

RAMPING UP RENEWABLES



Solar energy can provide much of the electricity to power for our buildings and transportation, while geothermal holds the promise of replacing fossil-fueled heating and cooling. CLEER is driving efforts to maximize locally sited solar development, rather than relying on electricity imported from large-scale projects elsewhere, and is seeking to demonstrate the feasibility of large-scale geothermal in our climate. Such efforts are 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

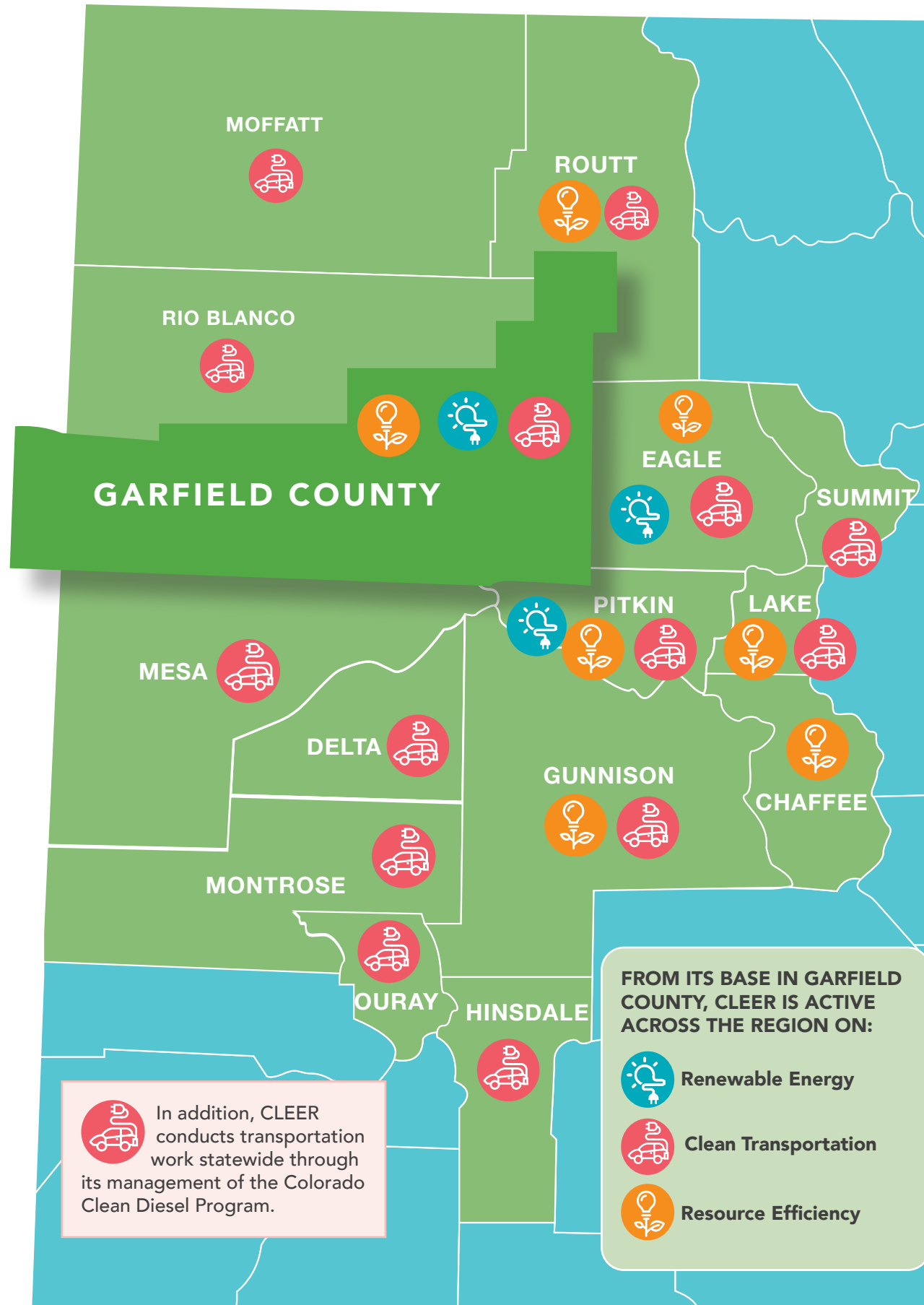


Transportation is one of the largest sources of emissions in our region, and decarbonizing this sector requires urgent, concerted action and an array of tactics at the state, regional and local levels. CLEER helped develop what is now ReCharge Colorado, a state program that helps consumers, fleet managers 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 along with policies to reduce traffic growth.

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 local economy. CLEER developed and manages Garfield Clean Energy’s energy-efficiency programs, which help homeowners, renters, businesses and local governments save energy and reduce emissions. It also operates an online tool for tracking energy use and solar production in 150 large buildings across the region.



Making systemic change

CLEER doesn't only change light bulbs. We work to change the system in ways that speed our communities' progress toward a clean energy future. A few examples:

AIMING HIGH: By challenging local governments to set ambitious energy and emissions goals, we create leverage to drive faster change.

MEASURING CHANGE: Our rigorous focus on data ensures that those jurisdictions stay on track to meet their long-term goals.

CHANGING THE RULES: We work with local governments to update building energy codes and streamline solar regulations, paving the way for more action.

REMOVING BARRIERS: Our energy coaching services are designed to reduce the biggest barriers to energy efficiency – high costs and a lack of information.

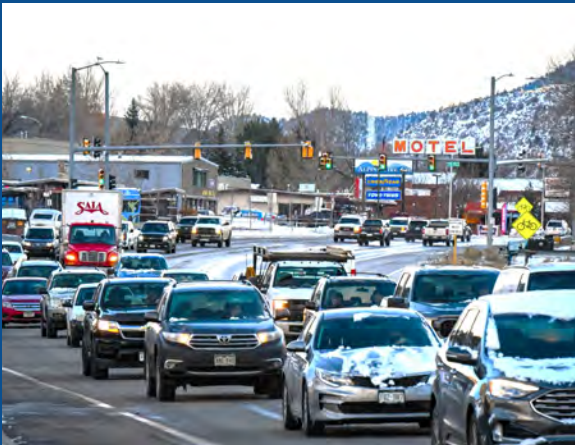
DEMONSTRATING WHAT'S POSSIBLE: Whether it's funding cutting-edge electric heavy equipment or designing a community-scale geothermal project, we use demonstration projects to inspire others.

With your help, here's how we'll scale up in 2024

CLEER'S WORK ADVANCING COMMUNITY-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS IS NEEDED MORE URGENTLY THAN EVER. HERE ARE THREE WAYS YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP.

REPLICATING OUR SUCCESS IN OTHER COMMUNITIES

CLEER receives numerous requests from communities seeking to replicate our successful programs. They are eager to create their own versions of Garfield Clean Energy and ReEnergize, help their government and school buildings better manage energy use, and more quickly decarbonize buildings. With your help, CLEER can offer trainings and technical assistance to help these communities accelerate their own clean energy economic transitions.



ADVANCING INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

There is an urgent need for strategies that help manage growth in vehicle miles traveled while accelerating transportation electrification. CLEER is working to advance integrated, climate-friendly transportation by working with regional and state partners on policy change, increasing regional collaboration and communication on clean mobility solutions, and creating greater access to and understanding of key transportation indicators.

PIONEERING INNOVATIVE CLEAN ENERGY SYSTEMS

In addition to our efforts to improve energy efficiency in individual buildings, CLEER is working to implement larger-scale clean energy systems that will be the foundation for decarbonizing entire neighborhoods. Our Carbondale geothermal project is an example of clean energy technology at a district scale that can transform how we think about providing heating and cooling to buildings and drastically reduce our carbon footprint. Your support is needed to move this from the design phase to innovative implementation.



Thanks to our supporters and partners

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous
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PLEASE JOIN US IN THIS WORK

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.

This newsletter highlights what we’ve been doing this past year and what we aim to do – with your help – to **scale up in 2024**. 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.



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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