



Office of Sustainability, Climate Action & Resilience

Street Address: 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, Colorado 80302
PO Box 471, Boulder, CO 80306 • Tel: 303-441-4565

BOARD MEMO

To: Boulder County Board of County Commissioners
From: Lea Yancey, Senior Sustainability Strategist
Date: December 2, 2021
Re: Selection of 2022 Environmental Sustainability Matching Grant Recipients

The Boulder County Office of Sustainability, Climate Action & Resilience is requesting approval of the 2022 Environmental Sustainability Matching Grants to the following communities in Boulder County: Boulder, Erie, Jamestown, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, Lyons, Nederland and Superior.

Boulder County's Environmental Sustainability Matching Grant Program provides an opportunity for governmental organizations in the county to undertake environmental sustainability priorities within their communities. In addition to supporting local efforts, Boulder County's Environmental Sustainability Matching Grant Program will help the county leverage community resources for a coordinated, county-wide approach to environmental sustainability.

The county's Sustainability Matching Grant Program in 2022 will be funded by the Sustainability Tax revenue. In November 2016, voters approved the Sustainability Tax ballot initiative, to allocate a portion of sales and use tax revenue to fund sustainability infrastructure and programs, including grant funding to cities and towns for sustainability-focused initiatives that will address the priority needs of local communities.

Any incorporated city or town located within Boulder County was eligible to apply for funding proportionate to community population. The municipality must provide a 25 percent match of the dollar amount requested.

The municipalities' proposals meet the eligibility and program requirements.

Environmental sustainability has been an important goal for both the county organization and our community for many years. Boulder County is proud to have so many communities with progressive ideas for sustainability, and the county looks forward to seeing these projects come to fruition.

BUDGET: There are sufficient funds to fund all the grants from the Sustainability Tax. The total funding, if awarded, will be \$441,079 leveraged by a total match of \$172,520.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Staff recommends that the BOCC approve the nine municipalities' Environmental Sustainability Matching Grant proposals in full. Following BOCC approval, Boulder County staff will execute the appropriate contract documentation for each municipality.

The following includes a short description of each municipality's proposed project:

City of Boulder proposed funding of \$152,520 to continue supporting a reusable food takeout container program launched in 2021, in support of a circular economy, efficient use of resources, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Town of Erie proposed funding of \$15,000 to offer water conservation rebates and services to residents, in partnership with Resource Central.

Town of Jamestown proposed funding of \$14,900 to support diversion of waste from the landfill through the continuation of recycling and hard-to-recycle material diversion, and to continue to enhance and expand the community ditch for agricultural purposes.

City of Lafayette proposed funding of \$42,838 to support five projects, including business sustainability by augmenting the incentives provided by Boulder County Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) as well as marketing support for the Green Business program. Grant funding is proposed to support a part-time staff member, purchase electric and handheld tools and native plants for volunteer open space restoration events, offer a community hard-to-recycle event, and organize an electric vehicle and eBike event in partnership with nearby municipalities.

City of Longmont proposed funding of \$137,965 to support the continuation of the climate vulnerability and risk mapping project, partner with Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) to help small businesses transition from styrofoam to sustainable takeout containers, support the climate work of an equity and engagement specialist position, and update the community-wide sustainability plan with support from a consultant.

City of Louisville proposed funding of \$29,856 to continue to support a sustainability specialist to implement the city's Sustainability Action Plan and coordinate the achievement of adopted climate action goals.

Town of Lyons proposed funding of \$15,000 to explore a transition plan for the Lyons community that promotes the use of renewable energy and electrification with the help of a subject matter expert.

Town of Nederland proposed funding of \$15,000 to contract with a sustainability expert for program management, valuable sustainability expertise, and streamlined communication to the town and community, in support of Nederland's sustainability goals.

Town of Superior proposed funding of \$18,000 to support residential solar adoption and radon testing, to organize an electric vehicle and eBike event in partnership with nearby municipalities, and to fund a part-time sustainability intern.