



Office of Sustainability, Climate Action & Resilience

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BOARD MEMO

To: Boulder County Board of County Commissioners
From: Lea Yancey, Senior Sustainability Strategist
Date: December 1, 2022
Re: Selection of 2023 Environmental Sustainability Matching Grant Recipients

The Boulder County Office of Sustainability, Climate Action & Resilience is requesting approval of the 2023 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 2023 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 \$603,271 leveraged by a total match of \$206,371.

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 \$211,774 to launch a pilot incentive program to support landscaping service providers in adopting electric commercial-grade landscaping equipment, in support of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, toxic chemicals, and noise pollution, and addressing respiratory health issues.

Town of Erie proposed funding of \$25,980 to offer water conservation services to residents, in partnership with Resource Central, and residential water conservation rebates.

Town of Jamestown proposed funding of \$13,062 to support diversion of waste from the landfill through the continuation of recycling and hard-to-recycle material diversion. Grant funding is also requested to continue to repair, improve or expand the community ditch and community vegetable garden for agricultural purposes.

City of Lafayette proposed funding of \$61,437 to support four projects, including updating the communitywide sustainability plan, supporting the communitywide greenhouse gas inventory update, and piloting an electric bike incentive program. Grant funding is also proposed for creating an outdoor workshop area for residents to learn about xeriscape landscaping, wildfire mitigation for homes, and water wise yards.

City of Longmont proposed funding of \$194,233 to support three projects, including addressing resilience to high heat due to climate change through building electrification and natural climate solutions, increasing waste diversion by supporting recycling and composting at Longmont schools and adding recycling bins at key parks locations, and increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy generation at municipal facilities.

City of Louisville proposed funding of \$41,285 to continue to support the sustainability coordinator position to implement the Louisville's Sustainability Action Plan, make progress towards the achievement of adopted climate action goals, and maintain regional partnerships and collaboration.

Town of Lyons proposed funding of \$15,000 to hire a consultant to research approaches to increase the community's use of renewable energy and explore the costs and benefits of potential electric rate restructuring for time of use and/or demand pricing. The work will inform long-term policy recommendations for Lyons and provide direction for communitywide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Town of Nederland proposed funding of \$15,000 to continue 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 \$25,500 to support an innovative and replicable nature-based solution to manage Superior's ponds and water quality without harmful chemical applications, to organize a community sustainability event in partnership with nearby municipalities, and to fund a part-time sustainability fellowship.