Northwest Colorado Council of Governments **eNews** July 2025





Local Action. Lasting Impact.

Colorado communities know that meaningful action on climate change begins at home. As former Mayor of Glenwood Springs, I saw this firsthand when the Grizzly Creek Fire in 2020, followed by a 500-year storm in 2021, devastated our city's watershed and shut down I-70 for weeks. These back-to-back disasters didn't just affect Glenwood—they rippled across the state, disrupting travel, commerce, and livelihoods. And they are becoming more frequent as climate-driven extreme weather accelerates.

In response, local communities must be at the forefront of climate resilience, but they can't do it alone. That's why a new state program is arriving at just the right time.

On June 16, the Colorado Energy Office launched the Local Implementation, Mitigation, and Policy Action (Local IMPACT) Accelerator, a bold new initiative designed to help local governments lead on climate. The program will distribute \$50 million in grants to support communities in adopting policies that reduce emissions, improve air quality, and strengthen local resilience.



Eligible projects must go beyond current state requirements and fall into one of four focus areas:

- Buildings (e.g. energy efficiency)
- Transportation
- Land Use
- Waste Reduction & Diversion

Importantly, the program features low matching fund requirements—just 5% for most communities, and 0% for qualifying low-income or Tribal governments. This creates a more level playing field, especially for rural and under-resourced municipalities.

As a Regional Grant Navigator, I've seen too many communities miss out on climate funding due to complex applications or high match requirements. This program is different—it lowers barriers and empowers local leaders to act.

The potential is enormous. Local governments could:

- Develop building codes that boost energy efficiency and lower utility bills
- Expand EV infrastructure and smart transit policies
- Promote compact, climate-friendly housing
- Launch new waste diversion strategies that reduce landfill impact and support circular economies
 This funding reinforces what many of us already know: Colorado's strength lies in local leadership. When

communities are given tools and autonomy, they develop smart, place-based solutions that make a real difference—for their residents and the planet.

Applications for the first round of Local IMPACT funding are open through August 1. Learn more at energyoffice.colorado.gov or reach out to me for help navigating the process.

Jonathan Godes

Grants Navigator, NWCCOG jgodes@nwccog.org

Help Shape the Future of Aging in Eagle County

Eagle County is developing an Aging Well Roadmap to guide programs, services, and policies that support older adults from 2026 to 2029—and they want to hear from YOU.

Join a Community Conversation to share your thoughts on what helps or hinders aging well in your community. Your input will directly influence how Eagle County plans for the future of aging.

Registration requested: https://shorturl.at/fppnp. Spanish interpretation available.

Let your voice be heard and help shape a community where we can all age well!





Power Up the Grill: Energy Team Celebration



In June, the Energy Program team gathered for our much-anticipated Annual BBQ and Training Week—a time to connect, celebrate our successes, and continue building the knowledge and skills that power our work.

This year's training lineup was robust. Staff received instruction from the Colorado Energy Office on the proper use of federal funds and the technical ins and outs of ASHRAE fan installation. We also leveled up on critical safety standards, with sessions covering OSHA 10 & 30, asbestos and lead safety, and the

BPI Building Science Principles certification.

Throughout the week, we welcomed several valued partners who joined us to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of the past year. Special thanks to Eagle County, Walking Mountains Science Center, Energy Smart Colorado, and Energy Outreach Colorado for taking the time to celebrate with our team.

We were also fortunate to have Klint from the Colorado Retirement Association (CRA) on-site, offering one-on-one consultations with field staff. These personalized sessions helped empower employees to make informed decisions about their financial futures and set a strong foundation for long-term retirement success.

To round out the week, Jon and Becky presented updates on the new HR platform.

It was a week of growth, recognition, and team building. We're grateful to everyone who helped make it possible—and we're already looking forward to next year!

Teamwork and Trail Time

On July 8th, NWCCOG staff (and a few of the office pups) traded desks for dirt trails during our monthly staff meeting with a refreshing hike around Lower Cataract Lake. The scenic loop gave us a chance to connect, breathe in the alpine air, and soak up some of the best views Summit County has to offer. From wildflowers to waterfalls, the hike was a muchneeded reminder of why we love living and working in the

mountains. Thanks to the Wellness and Culture Committee (Elaina, Amanda, Erin, Moira, and Dana) for organizing. Here's to more meetings that come with fresh air and incredible views!



Upcoming Board Meetings

Thursday, August 7, 2025 - TBD Steamboat Area

Full Council & EDD Board Meeting, Facility Tours Afterwards TBD

Primary Agenda Items: Approve May meeting minutes, Review/Approve 2024 Audit and Final 2024

Financials, approve 2026 dues, discussion re: Annual Planning Meeting Agenda; EDD Board meeting

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments | P.O. Box 2308 249 Warren Ave. | Silverthorne, CO 80498 US

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