



TOWN OF MOUNTAIN VILLAGE
455 Mountain Village Blvd. Mountain Village, CO 81435
(970) 369-8236

TO: Green Team

DATE: June 08, 2022

FROM: Lauren Kirn, Environmental Efficiencies and Grant Coordinator
Zoe Dohnal, Business Development and Sustainability Director

RE: Environmental Efficiencies Quarter 2 Report

SUMMARY

The report for the Environmental Department summarizes how key performance measures were accomplished as of May 30, 2022 and provides a summary of department highlights for the year to date and department focuses 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

1. Starting August 16th, 2021, the **Environmental Efficiencies and Grant Coordinator** position has been filled.
2. The Solar Incentive Program had a **37.8% close rate**, the second highest in the state. Solar arrays will provide **68.8KW of solar capacity** on homes in Mountain Village through this program.
3. A total of **9 electric vehicle charging stations** were made available for use within Mountain Village, with 4 more in the pipeline for 2022.
4. The Farm to Community Program served **85 families** and the average daily distribution increased by **16%**.
5. Mountain Village **diverted 2.5 tons of waste** from the landfill through the Compost Incentive Program and November's Free Composting Event.
6. Mountain Village's **recycling rates** for both **residential (27%)** and **commercial (16%)** were higher than the statewide combined recycling and composting rate of 15%.
7. The **Water Conservation Advisory Board** was formed to address long term strategies and measures for water conservation and water loss prevention in Mountain Village.

QUARTER 2 - 2022 OVERVIEW

1. Environmental Policy and Regional Collaboration
 - a. In the second quarter of 2022, Town staff attended **3 of 3 Telluride Ecology Commission** meetings, the **Sneffels Energy Board** quarterly meeting, and the **CC4CA Board Retreat**.
 - b. Town Council approved the San Miguel Watershed Coalition's request for \$10,000 to develop a hydrologic forecasting model of the San Miguel Watershed, pending San Miguel County and Town of Telluride matching commitments.



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- c. Town staff attended the following events: Southwest Water Conservation's 38th Annual Water Seminar, Sustainability Symposium 2022: Roadmap to Decarbonization, Water Law in a Nutshell, Building the Future Now – Climate-Aligned Building Codes and Policies, and Searching for San Juan Permafrost.
2. Zero Waste by 2030
 - a. The **Farm to Community** initiative has **80 households** signed up to date to participate in the 14-week program starting on June 15, 2022.
 - b. Community Clean-Up Day will take place on **August 6, 2022**.
 - c. Recycling
 - i. Mountain Village **residential recycling** is tracking at **27%** for 2022. This is on par with 2021. Plastics made up **7%** of the recycled materials. This surpasses the 2021 Colorado statewide recycling and composting rate of **15%**. The Town's residents have avoided **111 metric tons CO2e** in 2022 to date.
 - ii. Mountain Village commercial recycling is tracking to be around **20%** for 2022. This is a **3% increase** from 2021. Plastics made up about **15%** of the recycled materials. This surpasses the 2021 Colorado statewide recycling and composting rate of **15%** and the statewide plastic containers and packaging rate of **9%** recycling in 2021. The Town's commercial properties have avoided **178.87 metric tons CO2e** in 2022 to date.
 - iii. The Town recycles plastic film collected in a bin outside of the Town Hall entrance and at the VCA Main Office. The bin is filled every month. Informational posts and educational materials will be distributed through email newsletters, blog posts, and social media. The Town started tracking the recycling metric mid-March 2022. The community has recycled **29.43 pounds** of plastic film and packaging in 2022 to date.
 - iv. The Town of Mountain Village **hosted** EcoAction Partners' **Electronic Waste Recycling** event on May 20, 2022. The events in Mountain Village, Norwood, and Telluride diverted a combined **37,910 pounds** of electronic waste.
 - d. Composting
 - i. The Town has contracted with Dirty Sturdy's Mountain Compost to provide weekly composting services to Village Court Apartments for a **one-year pilot program**. Registration for the program is currently **open** and will be accepting applications on a rolling basis. The program has **6 participants** to date since the opening on **June 7**.
 - ii. The Town continues to explore and pursue opportunities for expanding composting options and availability for the region. This includes grant funding, discussions with waste haulers,
 - e. Single-Use Plastic Reduction
 - i. The Town of Mountain Village Town Council unanimously passed the first reading of the **Single-Use Plastics Reduction Ordinance**, which will ban plastic bags and Styrofoam takeout food containers and implement a \$0.20 disposable carryout bag fee at point of sale. The **second reading** is scheduled for Thursday, June 16.
 - ii. The Town will continue collaborating with Telluride and other mountain towns to develop further single-use plastics restrictions in alignment with **HB21-1162**.
3. Carbon Neutral by 2050, using 2010 as a benchmark.



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- a. Greenhouse Gas Reporting
 - i. Staff are gathering the required data for the 2021 municipal and community greenhouse gas inventory reports.
 - ii. Town staff are evaluating greenhouse gas emissions reduction incentive programs to develop **5-to-10-year goals**.
 - b. Alternative Energy
 - i. The Town of Mountain Village is a U.S. EPA Green Power Partner. The U.S. EPA's Green Power Partnership requires a **minimum of 25%** green power usage. The Town uses **38% green power**. Mountain Village purchases **1,813,680 kWh/year in green power** from SMPA.
 - ii. In 2022, the Town partnered with San Miguel County to make affordable solar energy accessible to all San Miguel County residents. The 2022 Solar Co-Op has **89 members**, 3 signed contracts, and 24 proposals to date.
 - c. Open Space
 - i. The Town of Mountain Village is **60% open space**, which is a significant source of carbon sequestration. Out of the total 2,095.551 acres, Mountain Village has **1,103.8 acres** in open space.
 - d. Building Incentives
 - i. Town staff received feedback on the **Smart Building Incentive Program** through a survey sent to the design, engineering, and construction industries. The program is being assessed for efficacy and practicality with this feedback in hand.
 - ii. **Deed-Restricted Workforce Housing incentive** awarded approximately **\$9,790** in fee waivers for deed restricted housing as of June 2022.
 - iii. Staff is researching and evaluating opportunities for improved building efficiencies, including **retrofits, renewable energy, and net zero construction** with the hopes of introducing an **incentive program** in 2023.
 - e. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
 - i. The Town offers one ChargePoint **Level II, dual port charging station** and eight **Tesla Supercharger** stations in the Gondola Parking Lot. The ChargePoint station that opened in May 2019 has avoided 17,052kg of greenhouse gas emissions to date.
 - ii. The Town installed one **Level II electric vehicle charging station** in **Heritage Parking Garage** that is now available for public use. A second charging station is in the process of being installed in **Meadows Parking Lot** over the summer 2022. These EV charging stations are made possible through the Town's **Charge Ahead Colorado** awarded grant.
 - iii. The Town now charges for electricity at EV charging stations. The cost is **\$0.20/kWh**.
4. Water Conservation and Water Loss Prevention
 - a. The Town of Mountain Village is **restricting outdoor water** use during the 2022 summer months, effective June 1.
 - b. The Town was awarded Colorado Water Conservation Board's Engagement & Innovation Grant for community education and outreach on the Smart Irrigation Controls Incentive Program and for irrigation assessments. Residents and business owners will receive a rebate up to \$300 for completing a Town-approved irrigation assessment and associated survey.



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- c. The Town contributes **\$10,000** in annual funding to SWMC for **water sampling and monitoring** to ensure the quality of municipal water, surface water, aquatic species and riparian plant communities within Mountain Village.
- d. Staff has met with SMWC to discuss partnership opportunities, including **beaver awareness and education** for the community.
- e. Water Conservation Advisory Board
 - i. The Environmental and Public Works Departments meet with a **Water Conservation Advisory Board** to discuss and evaluate water conservation measures, discuss opportunities and challenges, and develop a **long-term strategy** for water conservation.
5. Natural Resources Management and Education
 - a. Staff will begin conducting noxious weed control activities for both Town-owned and private properties.
6. Wildfire Mitigation and Education
 - a. Cedar Shake initiative has awarded approximately **\$74,700** in fee waivers to date.
 - b. The Town has hired Rodney Walters as the new **Forester**. Rodney has Master's in Forestry.

LOOKING FORWARD 2022

2022 is an exciting year for the Town of Mountain Village. Town staff are implementing new programs, like the irrigation assessments and VCA Composting Pilot Program. With these new and existing programs, comes associated data and metrics that can be used to inform strategies and actions moving forward. The Single-Use Plastic Reduction Ordinance passed its first Town Council reading and will undergo its second reading on June 16. Additionally, staff are evaluating opportunities to address building inefficiencies, both residentially and commercially. On a larger scale, Town staff will be attending the MT2030 Summit in Breckenridge in September 2022. This Summit focuses on mountain and outdoor communities achieving zero carbon emissions.