



To: Green Team

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

For: Meeting: March 1, 2022

Date: February 23, 2022

Re: Environmental Efficiencies Quarter 1 Report

SUMMARY:

The report for the Environmental Department summarizes how key performance measures were accomplished as of February 24, 2022, compared to the previous year over year (YOY) and provides a summary of department highlights for the year and department focuses 2022.

SECTION V: ENVIRONMENTAL EFFICIENCIES

2021 OVERVIEW

1. Environmental Policy and Regional Collaboration
 - a. In 2021, staff attended **5** monthly Telluride Ecology Commission meetings, the Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) Virtual Board Retreat and has contributed to the Sneffels Energy Board's regional climate action plan that was issued in October 2021.
 - b. After **8 committee meetings**, and **35 subcommittee meetings** in 2021, staff assisted restructuring the Green Team into a community advisory board with quarterly meetings and no subcommittees. With the hiring of the Town's Environmental Efficiencies and Grant Coordinator, staff now works with members to develop the department's annual narrative focusing on attainable goals that ultimately reduce TMV's greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Zero waste by 2030
 - a. Farm to Community initiative served **85 families (171 people)** a weekly CSA share for 14 consecutive weeks from June 9 through September 15 accumulating to **13,035 pounds** of local produce distributed. The average daily distribution **increased 16%** from 799 pounds in 2020 to 931 in 2021.
 - b. Community Clean-Up Day occurred on Saturday, August 21, in Sunset Plaza. A total of **59.95 pounds** of trash was removed from the environment.
 - c. Recycling
 - i. Mountain Village **residential recycling** is tracking to be around **27%** for 2021. Plastics made up 18% of the recycled materials. This surpasses the 2020 Colorado statewide recycling and composting rate of 15% and the statewide plastic containers and packaging rate of 9% recycling. The Town's residents have avoided **472.75 metric tons CO2e** in 2021 to date.
 - ii. Mountain Village **commercial recycling** is tracking to be around **16%** for 2021. Plastics made up 17.9% of the recycled materials. This surpasses the 2020 Colorado statewide recycling and composting rate of 15% and the statewide plastic containers and packaging rate of 9% recycling. The Town's commercial properties have avoided **601.93 metric tons CO2e** in 2021 to date.
 - iii. Terracycle **disposable mask recycling bins** are located at all gondola stations and the Village Market to divert disposable masks from ending up in landfills, the environment, and the community.
 - d. Composting



- May 2019 has avoided **15,202kg** of greenhouse gas emissions to date. The Tesla Supercharger stations opened for public use in November 2021.
- ii. Tesla will be providing **two Level II charging stations** with **J1772 ports** for installation in Heritage Parking Garage.
 - iii. The Town was awarded the **Charge Ahead Colorado** grant in November 2021 for two Level II electric vehicle charging stations. One charging station will be installed in Meadows Parking Lot and one station will be installed in Heritage Parking Garage in 2022.
4. Water Conservation and Water Loss Prevention
- a. **Smart Irrigation Controls Incentive** has **5** participants to date. Public Works and the Environmental Efficiencies Departments are collaborating to create a **database** for yearly water use and water use reductions associated with **smart irrigation controls**.
 - b. Staff applied for the **Engagement & Innovation Grant** funding for community education and outreach on the Smart Irrigation Controls Incentive Program and for **irrigation audits**. The intent of the irrigation audits is to identify inefficiencies (leaks, unintentional bends, etc.) in existing irrigation systems to inform home and property managers how to effectively upgrade or repair their systems.
 - c. San Miguel Watershed Coalition (SMWC)
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Staff has met with SMWC to discuss partnership opportunities, including **beaver awareness and education** for the community, and developing an **integrated climate hydrologic model** of the watershed. These discussions are ongoing.
 - d. Water Conservation Advisory Board
 - i. The Environmental and Public Works Departments formed 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 dedicated **350-man hours** to conducting **noxious weed control** activities for both Town-owned and private properties in 2021.
6. Wildfire Mitigation and Education
- a. Cedar Shake initiative has awarded approximately **\$96,197** in fee waivers as of November 2021.
 - b. Defensible Space initiative has awarded **\$104,937.50** in reimbursements to date.
7. Department Environmental Goals
- a. Staff has met with all Town departments to understand their environmental goals and identify opportunities for advancement.
 - b. Staff is evaluating the potential for Mountain Village to become certified to the **Mountain IDEAL Standard**, formally recognized by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). Staff have had conversations with the Town of Breckenridge, the Town of Vail, and Walking Mountains Science Center to understand the certification process, auditing process, and costs. The standard is in the process of being revised. Staff are monitoring this revision and are continuing to review the **pros and cons of certification** and its alignment with the Town's Climate Action Plan.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

In early 2021, Town Council approved the new position of Environmental Efficiencies and Grant Coordinator. This is the Town's first full time position dedicated to environmental efficiencies and grants. In summer 2021, Lauren Kirn was hired in this role.

The Town is making great strides in its goals toward zero waste and carbon neutrality. Staff are working collaboratively across departments and local and regional organizations to gather data, track results,



implement strategies, and engage and educate the public on environmental programs, ordinances, and best practices. Staff also employed new sustainability initiatives and received positive feedback from the community.

2022 OVERVIEW

1. The 2022 Solar Co-Op Incentive launched on January 19 and has six Mountain Village households to date signed up for the co-op. Staff are ramping up marketing and outreach efforts to recruit new Mountain Village members. The goal of the solar co-op is to have 45 members from Mountain Village.
2. Mountain Village was awarded the Charge Ahead Grant to install two Level II electric vehicle charging stations; one in the Meadows Parking Lot and one in the Heritage Parking Garage. These charging stations are on order and the RFQ process for an electrical contractor is in process.
3. Village Court Apartments will be receiving a rebate of about \$9,400 in Member Dividends from SMPA. This money will be put towards energy-related projects at VCA.
4. Disposable mask recycling bins are located at the gondola stations and Village Market to divert these masks from landfills, the community, and the environment. These will be replaced as needed. The mask mandate for San Miguel County ended on February 8 and public transit by the federal government is currently ending on March 18.
5. Staff is evaluating additional long-term options for composting services to Mountain Village and the surrounding region. Staff is in discussions with Dirty Sturdy's Mountain Compost about implementing a composting pilot program for Village Court Apartments residents in 2022. Education about composting would be provided through this program.
6. Staff will be launching educational campaigns for solar energy, electric vehicles, energy-efficiency rebates, irrigation water conservation and recycling and waste diversion.
7. Staff will review Mountain Village's building codes and provide recommendations for incorporating green building measures.
8. Staff will attending the Ridgway Ouray Community Council Clean Energy Committee (ROCC CEC) meetings about building energy codes and Net Zero.
9. Staff will develop a database for energy and water consumption to establish a baseline and track historical and future performance.
10. The Green Living webpage will be updated to include an interactive dashboard showing Mountain Village's climate action goals, indicators, and progress to date.
11. Staff will continue to evaluate current incentive programs for efficiency, participation, and impact.
12. Mountain Village is monitoring state and federal legislation, programs, and funding opportunities for environmental sustainability.

LOOKING FORWARD 2022

In 2021, the federal government and the State of Colorado issued goals and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which are in alignment with Mountain Village's Climate Action Plan. With this harmonization of environmental goals, staff are working to develop and find funding for long term solutions for composting, energy-efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation. Our team is working cross-departmentally to develop databases, evaluate current programs, and educate the community on efforts involving water use, energy use, waste diversion, and wildfire mitigation. With buildings as largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the community, staff will be reviewing Mountain Village's building codes and providing recommendations for incorporating green building measures.

In summer 2021, Colorado passed HB21-1162 which prohibits the use or distribution of specific types of plastic products and materials by January 2024. Our team is analyzing this bill and its implications for Mountain Village. Staff will provide recommendations for our response to the new legislation based on community needs and an understanding of other mountain town's actions.