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Town of New Castle
450 W. Main Street
PO Box 90
New Castle, CO 81647

Administration Department
Phone: (970) 984-2311
Fax: (970) 984-2716
www.newcastlecolorado.org

Agenda

New Castle Climate and Environment Commission Virtual Meeting
Thursday, April 15, 2021, 6:30 PM

Due to concerns related to COVID-19, this meeting will be open to the public as a virtual meeting only.

[To join by computer, smart phone or tablet click HERE](#)

If you prefer to telephone in:
Please call: 1-346-248-7799
Meeting ID: 709 658 8400

Follow the prompts as directed. Be sure to set your phone to mute until called on.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Meeting Notice

Conflicts of Interest

Citizen Comments on Items NOT on the Agenda

Items for Consideration

- A. Update: Cub Scout Tree Planting in Alder Park on April 30, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.**
- B. Update: Solarize Garfield County**
- C. Discussion: Report to Town Council for the April 20, 2021 Council Meeting**
- D. Discussion: Community Education on Wildfires, Fire Mitigation, Evacuation Plans and Water Conservation**
- E. Consider Agenda Items for the May 21, 2021 Meeting**
- F. Consider Approval of the March 18, 2021 Minutes**

Adjourn

Climate and Environment Commission Plan for Future Actions

History of the Climate Action Plan

On April 3, 2007, Mayor Frank Breslin signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as the Town Council fully committed to developing and implementing strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Action Advisory Commission, later named the Climate and Environment Commission (CEC), was created to help the town pursue the goals of this agreement. The goals included inventorying greenhouse gas emissions in city operations; adopting land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space; promote greener transportation options, such as bicycle trails and incentives for public transit or carpooling; making energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, upgrades to water and wastewater treatment facilities, and purchases of vehicles and equipment; promoting tree planting for shading and carbon dioxide absorption; educating the public, schools, businesses, and the community about reducing greenhouse gasses.

Over the next thirteen years, the town made strides in addressing these goals, by installing roof-top solar on municipal buildings, installing electric vehicle charging stations, adopting efficient building codes, planting trees, gaining efficiencies at wastewater and water treatment facilities, and more. In 2020, the CEC decided to update and build upon these goals, as shown in the next section.

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GOALS

In 2020, the CEC determined that the most important long-term goals were to:

1. Advise the council and educate the community about environmental issues as well as climate change and its effects.
2. Provide guidance on individual and community activities that serve to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment.
3. Advise and assist the town and community in transitioning to a more renewable and energy efficient future.
4. Advise the town in planning for and mitigating climate change impacts.

FOUR KEY STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS

1. Leading by example. Municipal government will continue to make its buildings and operations a model of energy efficiency and renewable energy while reducing energy costs.
2. Strengthening communication and education efforts of the CEC. The CEC should provide accurate and helpful information regarding climate change and environmental protection to stakeholders.
3. Networking with local and regional partners to remove barriers, to provide incentives for wiser energy use, and to increase local renewable energy supplies. The Town will work with Xcel Energy, Garfield Clean Energy (GCE), the Roaring Fork Transit Authority (RFTA), the Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE), the Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER), the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), Colorado Mountain College (CMC), and others to accelerate the transition to a clean energy future, offering programs to households and businesses that combine financing, technical assistance, and education.

4. Collaborating to acquire funding. The CEC and the Town Council will collaborate to seek funding to carry out environmental protection and climate mitigation goals.

MEASURABLE ACTION STEPS TO MEET THE LONG-TERM GOALS

1. Providing educational programs and outreach

- a. Create and implement educational programs for the public

Measurement of progress: Development of an educational program about climate change and environmental protection that can be shared with community groups

- b. Serve as a resource for individuals seeking more information about the topics of climate change, environmental protection, energy conservation.

2. Creating opportunities for individual and collective action

- a. Explore opportunities for planting of appropriate tree and vegetation species, with guidance on use of water-saving mulches and soil amendments

Measurement of progress: Providing list of native trees and vegetation, as well soil amendments, irrigation techniques, and proper planting procedures to reduce water consumption

Measurement of progress: Encouraging and helping the town plant trees/vegetation

Measurement of progress: Networking with the Garden Club and other organizations

- b. Fine-tune use of water and other environmental resources by town and community

Measurement of progress: Communicate with residents regarding most effective and efficient watering strategies through the CEC website and other communication avenues including building permits

Measurement of progress: Work with the town in monitoring irrigation in parks and other spaces

3. Transitioning to a more renewable and energy efficient future

- a. Encouraging energy efficiency activities and audits by homeowners

Measurement of progress: Encourage homeowners to have an energy audit and inform homeowners of free or low-cost energy audits

Measurement of progress: Connect and coordinate with regional partners such as GCE, CLEER, CORE and inform the public through various communication avenues, including the CEC website

- b. Encouraging energy efficiency audits by businesses

Measurement of progress: Encourage business owners to have an energy audit and inform business owners of access to free or low-cost energy audits, incentives, and rebates

Measurement of progress: Connect and coordinate with regional partners such as GCE, CLEER, CORE regarding effective ways to work with local businesses

c. Communicating with stakeholders regarding incentives for renewable energy, addition of insulations, storm windows, electric vehicles, roof-top solar panels, lighting, air conditioners, and other ways to save costs

Measurement of progress: CEC creates a listing of what is available for assisting in renewable or energy efficient changes and develops a strategy for implementation

Measurement of progress: Communicate information in town newsletter, website, and other appropriate media

4. Planning for and mitigating climate change and environmental impacts

a. Understanding the increased risk of wildfires and how to mitigate and respond

Measurement of progress: Meet with appropriate town and fire officials to learn how to prepare and to improve fire-mitigation/prevention around homes and businesses

Measurement of progress: Communicate and offer guidance to residents. Consult with fire officials on how to best provide information to the community regarding fire dangers and how to minimize fire risk. Offer at least one outreach and educational program.

b. Understanding the increased risk of drought and how to mitigate and respond

Measurement of progress: Meet with appropriate town officials and water conservationists to learn about how to prepare and minimize water usage among the public and the town

Measurement of progress: Communicate and offer guidance for residents.



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**New Castle Climate and Environment Commission Virtual Meeting
Thursday, March 18, 2021, 6:30 PM**

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the public as a virtual meeting only.**

**To join by computer, smart phone or tablet:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7096588400>**

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Call to Order

Commission Chair Denise Scheberle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present	Commission Chair Denise Scheberle
	Commissioner Bruce Leland
	Commissioner Ines Baquero
	Commissioner Tom Elder
	Commissioner Jean Brown
	Commissioner Myrna Candreia
Absent	Commissioner Jeanne Huyser

Also present at the meeting was Parks Manager Charlie Moore.

Meeting Notice

Commission Chair Denise Scheberle verified that the clerk's office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with Resolution TC 2021-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

1 **Citizen Comments on Items NOT on the Agenda**

2 There were no citizen comments.

3
4
5 **Items for Consideration**

6
7 **Consider Possible Activities for Earth Day - April 22 and Arbor Day - April 30**

8 Parks Manager Charlie Moore announced that Cub Scout Pack 221, led by John Harcourt,
9 will plant 1-2 trees at Alder Park by the fishing pond on Arbor Day, Friday, April 30, at 1
10 pm. Manager Moore will talk about Arbor Day and the importance of trees for the
11 environment. The Scouts will also get a lesson in good stewardship. Chair Scheberle and
12 Commissioners Candreia and Elder will also attend. The event will be announced in the
13 town newsletter.

14
15 In other tree news, on April 16, trees will be planted at the east and west entrances to
16 Castle Valley Boulevard as part of the HOA's beautification project. The New Castle Garden
17 Club planted gardens at these sites last year.

18
19 The Commission recognized the service of the late LaRue Wentz, who distributed seedlings
20 on Arbor Day each year.

21
22 The Commission went on to discuss Earth Day (April 22) and whether an event could be
23 organized this year. The theme this year is Restore our Earth, highlighting picking up
24 trash, dog waste and highway trash. People could be encouraged to clean up roadside
25 trash in their neighborhoods.

26
27 Other points raised during the discussion included: getting T shirts; entering a float in the
28 town parade; distributing instructions on "How to Plant a Tree" at the community market;
29 future newsletter articles on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, water conservation, and in May, an
30 article regarding plastic containers.

31
32 **Follow-Up Discussion: Recycling**

33 Commissioner Jean Brown met with City Market Manager Ray Romero. They discussed the
34 use of plastic bags and the number of bags returned for recycling. Mr. Romero is on board
35 with reducing the use of plastic bags or even eliminating them. He also explained that the
36 New Castle City Market is vigorously avoiding food waste. Any unsellable produce is offered
37 to food banks and then to animal shelters. Any food still left is composted.

38
39 Commissioner Myrna Canderia had included information on recycling in the meeting
40 packet. Commissioner Bruce Leland mentioned a Facebook site called Gifting Across the
41 Valley, where items can be offered to others rather than adding to landfill waste.
42 Commissioner Brown mentioned that Colorado may soon outlaw styrofoam.

1 **Update: Solarize Garfield County**

2 Solarize Garfield County had 95 people attend the first webinar, and 9 solar panel
3 installations are already scheduled. The second webinar on 4/1/2021 will discuss battery
4 storage. The commissioners discussed distributing door hangers when they are available,
5 and also which town businesses we could encourage to upgrade to solar.

6
7 **Consider Agenda Items for the April 15, 2021 meeting**

8 We need to remind Town Clerk Melody Harrison to post commission seats to be filled in
9 April.

10
11 In April we could discuss wildfire issues, fire mitigation, evacuation plans and water
12 conservation. How are controlled burns announced to the public?

13
14 **Consider Approval of the February 18, 2021 minutes**

15 **MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner**
16 **Elder seconded and the motion was approved.**

17
18 **MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved that the meeting be adjourned, with a**
19 **second by Commissioner Candreia. The motion passed unanimously.**

20
21 The meeting was adjourned at 7:45

22
23 Respectively submitted,

24
25 _____
26 Chair Denise Scheberle

27
28 _____
29 Secretary Ines Baquero
30