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Agenda

New Castle Climate and Environment Commission

Thursday, June 19, 2025, 4:00 PM

Agenda

[Zoom URL: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7096588400](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7096588400)

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

Items For Consideration

- A. Discussion Website Updates with Rochelle Firth**
- B. Discussion of Chamber Summer Block Party Booth**
- C. Discussion of Trail Work Day**
- D. Discussion of Triple-R Grant Applications**
- E. Approval of May15, 2025 Minutes**

Commissioner Comments

Adjourn

Current Website Area

(5 pages + link to Public Works page)

Main Page

<https://www.newcastlecolorado.org/bc/page/climate-and-environment-commission>

- Two videos about wildfire
- List of Commission responsibilities
- List of Commissioners and terms
- How to get involved (contact information)
- Link to pdf of old strategic plan

Climate Action Plan (New Castle Town)

<https://www.newcastlecolorado.org/bc/page/climate-action-plan-introduction>

- Introduction to the New Castle Town Climate action plan
- Links to various climate action plan examples and resources

Environmental Initiatives (New Castle Town)

<https://www.newcastlecolorado.org/bc/page/environmental-initiatives>

- List of New Castle Town Environmental Initiatives (not sure how current this is)

Green Building

<https://www.newcastlecolorado.org/bc/page/green-building>

- Brief statement of New Castle Town adoption of Green Building standards

Idle-free New Castle

<https://www.newcastlecolorado.org/bc/page/idle-free-new-castle>

- For the public - reasons to not idle vehicles with link to supporting document (not sure how current this is)

Stormwater Regulations

<https://www.newcastlecolorado.org/publicworks/page/stormwater-regulations>

- For construction & development - this is a link to the public works section of the website

Proposed Website Area (5 pages)

Main Page

<https://www.newcastlecolorado.org/bc/page/climate-and-environment-commission>

Brief statement - Link to four areas listed below

- What you can do (Your Actions)
- What the town is doing (Town Actions)
- What's up with the CEC? (Commission Actions)
- About the CEC

Your Actions

- Kids Area
 - Some games & activities for kids?
 - Join the Earth Steward Program & Be a Good Neighbor to our Environment
- Buy Local
 - List of businesses by type & contacts
- Energy Efficiency @ Home
 - Building code links
 - Energy Audit links
 - Renewable energy resources (solar?)
- FireWise
 - (links to resources Nancy gathered)
 - Town Evacuation Plan link
 - Link to videos of fire chief?
- Landscaping
 - Invasive plant resources
 - Native plants & xeriscaping & low water use
 - Planting for pollinators
 - Urban Wildland Interface links
- Living with Wildlife
 - Bear Aware link
 - Urban Wildland Interface links
 - Link to report wildlife (Co Parks & Wildlife?)
- Recreate Responsibly
 - Leave no trace
- Waste & Recycling
 - Composting resources
 - Plastic reduction tips - awareness & resources
 - Recycle, Reuse & Upcycle resources
 - Throw Away Responsibly

- What to do to get rid of hard to get rid of things - batteries, paint, electronics, prescription drugs, etc.)
- Water
 - Conserve
 - Keep it clear & clean?

About the Commission

- Commission responsibilities & plan
- List of Commissioners and terms
- How to get involved (contact information)
- Funding - Bag Fee Funds - PDFs - Initial PP Dave developed? Approved Budget, 2024 Report, 2025 Report & updates on initiatives
- Link to pdf of old strategic plan (we will work to update this and get town council approval prior to posting a new one)

Commission Actions

- Bag Fees - Report, Budget, Updates
- Activities - Feb Movie, April Earth Day, Trail clean up, other activities
- Future area for build out

Town Actions

(combine all the existing pages listed below to be on one page)

Climate Action Plan (New Castle Town)

<https://www.newcastlecolorado.org/bc/page/climate-action-plan-introduction>

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Old Section of Colorow Trail Work Day

May 30, 2025 from 9am to 1pm

Overview

Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers received approval from the BLM to perform work on the Old Section of Colorow Trail. CEC reached out to the town of New Castle to loop them in on the plan.

This section of trail had no drains and all the precipitation ran directly down the trail, which over time washed out the middle of the trail. The washed-out sections of trail became deeper than the surrounding trail and held snow and ice during the winter causing hikers to walk around these sections, widening the trail. In order to create a sustainable trail volunteers narrowed sections of the trail in order to protect the surrounding vegetation, built a rock drain above a severely run out section of trail, built several dirt drains, and removed loose rock from the trails.

RFOV understood and supported the importance of including litter pick up. Prior to trail work volunteers walked around Alder Park to pick up litter. There were lots of small pieces of food wrappers and single-use plastic.

Attendance

- 7 people attended the trail day
 - 2 RFOV leaders
 - 2 CEC volunteers
 - 3 community members

Communication

- Outreach: Posters in downtown New Castle, E-mail list from Earth Day, Dirt Demon's Mountain bike team, Facebook, RFOV and RFMBA shared links/posters on their social medial and e-mail lists
 - Please share any additional ideas
- Barriers
 - RFOV community events are not posted on their event calendar
 - QR codes and sign-up link should be provided on all digital outreach
 - Provide longer notice
 - Day after school commenced

Future Trail Work

- RFOV was given a \$250 donation
 - This leaves available funds for an addition trail day this fall
 - RFOV available dates (Friday's highlighted)
 - Sept. 2, **5,12,17**
 - Oct. 7, **8,15,17**

- Fridays are bolded as this is my preference because NC students do not have school on Friday's

RFOV Expertise

- Expertise is in trail work, land restoration, and building native pollinator gardens
- Perform any project land managers reach out to them with
 - They are working on establishing contacts with New Castle land managers in order to continue to organize projects
- For community projects they prefer projects close to the trail heads that include light to moderate work

Food

- Snacks and water were donated

Gear Swap

- Not enough people participated



Triple R Grant Application: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Overview

The Town of New Castle's Climate and Environment Commission (CEC) is offering small grants to support local businesses in launching waste-reduction projects.

Projects should be new, located within New Castle, and sustainable beyond the grant period.

Examples of Eligible Projects

- Subscribing to local composting service (evergreenerowaste.com)
- Starting commercial recycling (mountainwaste.com)
- Shredding and recycling paper
- Using compostable containers (greenpaperproducts.com)

Key Dates

Application Deadline: July 31, 2025

Award Notification: August 31, 2025

Report Due: November 1, 2025

Business Information

Business Name:

Business Address:

Contact Name:

Contact Address (if different):

Phone:

Email:

Triple R Grant Application: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Amount Requested (up to \$800):

Project Description

Describe your proposed project, including your objectives, actions, and estimated impact.

Sustainability Plan

How will you sustain this project after the grant funds are spent?

Project Budget

Provide a breakdown of how the funds will be used.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

New Castle Climate & Environment Commission

Minutes for May 15, 2025

Attendees: Commissioner Bruce Leland, Commissioner Myrna Candreia, Chair Sharon Morris, Commissioner Julia Koch, Commissioner Kendall Bakich, Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

2025 Earth Day Debrief

- Strong vendor turnout and educational focus were well received. Vendors expressed interest in returning.
- 11am-2pm time frame worked well
- High attendance from families and children.
- Event was well-organized
- Suggestion: Add a large poster to the City Market sign next year
- Ideas for 2026:
 - Remind vendors about potential for wind.
 - Invite car dealerships with EV vehicles
 - Incorporate community art project,
 - Provide bilingual promotional materials
 - Add interactive activity: What did you learn? What change will you make?"

Earth Day Date, 2026

- Motion: Commissioner Leland moved to schedule Earth Day for April 25, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Candreia. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Local Shop Grants with Bag Fee Funds

- The commission reviewed the Triple R Grant draft application and provided feedback.
- Timeline:
 - Applications due July 31st
 - Review at August 21st CEC meeting
 - Funds spent by November 1st
- Grant Criteria:
 - Reduction in plastic use
 - Commitment to long-term sustainability
 - Business must be located within town boundaries
- Motion: Commissioner Barnes moved to accept the Triple R grant application with changes. Chair Morris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Summer Events

- CEC will host a booth at the Chamber Block party on June 13th, Burning Mountain Park. Commissioners Leland, Barnes, and Chair Morris will staff the booth.
- Plan to participate in Burning Mountain parade, Sept 13th, 10am.
- Final decisions to be made at the next meeting.

Updates Town Council

- Commissioner Leland shared that a new development near Kathryn Senor Elementary is being reviewed. The town is working to preserve trail access through the property.

Update Tom Elder Tree

- The tree planting ceremony was successful.
- The honorary plaque has arrived and will be installed in the coming weeks.
- A scholarship fund has been established in Tom's name at Coal Ridge High School.

Update Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers Trail Cleanup

- Commissioner Koch met with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers regarding a future trail cleanup project. A previous trail project was completed earlier than scheduled.
- Motion: Commissioner Koch moved to partner with RFOV on a future trail cleanup (date TBD), including a gear share and swap event on May 30 at the West Colorow Trailhead, with a \$500 donation. Seconded by Commissioner Candreia. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes for April

- Motion: Commissioner Bakich moved to accept the April 17th minutes. Commissioner Candreia seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comments

- Chair Morris will send a proposed website revision document for review before the next meeting. She also praised the *New Castles of the World* newsletter and thanked the group for Earth Day photos.
- Commissioner Bakich suggested a presentation from the town planner on environmental measures and sustainable building at a future meeting.
- Commissioner Leland will present at the GEC meeting tomorrow to discuss the new energy code and New Castle's adoption of that code.
- Commissioner Candreia discussed the need for enhanced communication from the Town.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Commission Chair Sharon Morris