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Agenda

New Castle Climate and Environment Commission

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 4:00 PM

Virtual Meetings are subject to internet and technical capabilities.

To join by computer, smart phone or tablet:

<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

Conflicts of Interest

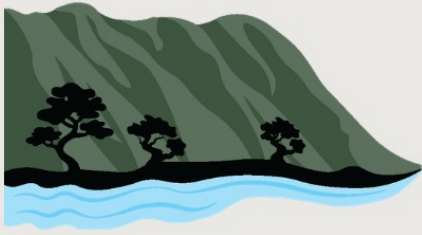
Agenda Changes

Items For Consideration

- A. Discussion to promote Earth Day**
- B. Consider Plastic Reduction Flyer**
- C. Consider Recycling guide updates**
- D. Consider Earth Logistics and Vendors**
- E. Trail Day Discussion**
- F. Update on CEC open seats**
- G. Approval of March 16, 2026 minutes**

Commissioner Comments

Adjourn



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Town of New Castle, CO

EARTH DAY

MEET EXPERTS ON ENERGY, WATER, & FIRE
LEARN TO RECYCLE & LIMIT PLASTICS
IDENTIFY POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY FLOWERS
WIN A FREE TREE & PICK UP FLOWER SEEDS
JOIN FUN AND FREE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS
ENJOY GAMES, TAKE & MAKE, AND PRIZES
DISCOVER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

- GAR CO CLEAN ENERGY
- GAR CO VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
- MIDCOLORADO WATERSHED
- MOUNTAIN WASTE & RECYCLING
- NEW CASTLE LIBRARY
- COLORADO MTN COLLEGE
- STEM GIRLS LEADERSHIP CLUB
- NEW CASTLE TRAILS
- ROARING FORK OUTDOOR VOLUNTEERS
- LIONS CLUB & GARDEN CLUB OF NC

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
BURNING MOUNTAIN
PARK



25 APRIL
2026

CUT PLASTICS IN NEW CASTLE & BECOME A GUARDIAN OF NATURE!

*PLASTICS ARE NOT NATURAL & NOT HEALTHY



10 TIPS

REDUCE

- Carry your own reusable bags, to-go food containers, and utensils
- Buy items packaged with glass, paper, stainless steel, etc., not plastic
- Say “no” to plastic straws and stir sticks in beverages
- Use a refillable beverage bottles made of metal, ceramic, or glass
- Wear natural fibers, avoid synthetic clothing

REUSE & REPURPOSE

- Give plastic bags a second life before throwing them out
- Use plastic bag clasps as dish scrapers
- Be creative about reusing but avoid plastic that breaks down in food

RECYCLE

- Sign up for recycling
- Recycle smart
 - **YES - Plastic milk jug (with caps), Plastic #1-6 (if not labeled do not recycle), detergent bottles, clam shells #1-6 (No PLA)**
 - NO Plastic bags | NO Packing material (bubbles, plastic) | NO Styrofoam | NO Plastic plates, forks, spoons or knives | NO Six pack holders | NO loose caps or lids

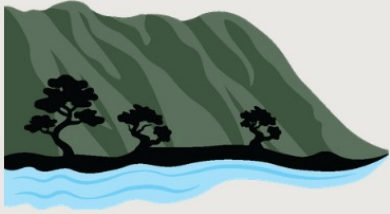
*5 FACTS ABOUT PLASTICS

1. More than 50% of plastics are made for single use, going into landfills after that.
2. Plastics do not biodegrade quickly. It can take hundreds of years for plastic to break down.
3. Most plastics break down into micro-sized bits that are in our soil, water, and air.
4. Some clothes contain tiny plastic fibers, called **microfibers**, which enter our water ways from washing machines when people do their laundry.
5. Microplastics are now in animals and humans and cause health issues.



**CLIMATE &
ENVIRONMENT
COMMISSION**

Town of New Castle, CO



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Town of New Castle, CO

10 TIPS

REDUCE

- CARRY YOUR OWN REUSABLE BAGS, TO-GO FOOD CONTAINERS, & UTENSILS
- BUY ITEMS PACKAGED WITH GLASS, PAPER, STAINLESS STEEL, ETC., NOT PLASTIC
- SAY "NO" TO PLASTIC STRAWS AND STIR STICKS IN BEVERAGES
- USE A REFILLABLE BEVERAGE BOTTLES MADE OF METAL, CERAMIC, OR GLASS
- WEAR NATURAL FIBERS, AVOID SYNTHETIC CLOTHING

REUSE & REPURPOSE

- GIVE PLASTIC BAGS A SECOND LIFE BEFORE THROWING THEM OUT
- USE PLASTIC BAG CLASPS AS DISH SCRAPERS
- BE CREATIVE ABOUT REUSING BUT AVOID PLASTIC THAT BREAKS DOWN IN FOOD

RECYCLE

- SIGN UP FOR RECYCLING
- RECYCLE SMART

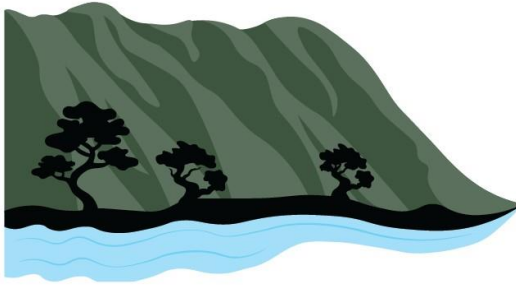
YES - PLASTIC MILK JUG (WITH CAPS), PLASTIC #1-6 (IF NOT LABELED DO NOT RECYCLE), DETERGENT BOTTLES, CLAM SHELLS #1-6 (NO PLA)

NO PLASTIC BAGS | NO PACKING MATERIAL (BUBBLES, PLASTIC) | NO STYROFOAM | NO PLASTIC PLATES, FORKS, SPOONS OR KNIVES | NO SIX PACK HOLDERS | NO LOOSE CAPS OR LIDS



5 FACTS ABOUT PLASTICS

- MORE THAN 50% OF PLASTICS ARE MADE FOR SINGLE USE, GOING INTO LANDFILLS AFTER THAT.
- PLASTICS DO NOT BIODEGRADE QUICKLY. IT CAN TAKE HUNDREDS OF YEARS FOR PLASTIC TO BREAK DOWN
- MOST PLASTICS BREAK DOWN INTO MICRO-SIZED BITS THAT ARE IN OUR SOIL, WATER, AND AIR.
- SOME CLOTHES CONTAIN TINY PLASTIC FIBERS, CALLED MICROFIBERS, WHICH ENTER OUR WATER WAYS FROM WASHING MACHINES WHEN PEOPLE DO THEIR LAUNDRY
- MICROPLASTICS ARE NOW IN ANIMALS AND HUMANS AND CAUSE HEALTH ISSUES.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Town of New Castle, CO

Please Recycle:

Newspapers & newsprint, such as phone books or blue voters' guides

Mixed paper, such as junk mail, office paper, magazines, brown paper bags.

Cardboard, both flattened corrugated cardboard and chipboard, like cereal or tissue boxes

Cans & jars: Please rinse steel or tin cans, glass bottles or jars

Aluminum foil or clean disposable pans

Plastic marked with triangle with number 1 through 7 (triangle with no number is not recyclable); plastic milk jugs; plastic clam shells (1-7); plastic water bottles. (Not plastic plates and tableware)

Miscellaneous: Empty aerosol cans, Detergent bottles

Keep Out of Recycling Bins

Plastic bags

Broken glass, ceramics, pyrex

Pizza boxes

Packing material; styrofoam

Hazardous waste or batteries

Medical waste

CDs & DVDs

Windshield glass

Food; all plant & animal matter

Scrap metal

Electronics

Plastic plates and tableware

Oils, paints, solvents

Shredded paper

Light bulbs

Loose caps and lids

Complete Guide to Recycling

Recycling and composting helps to extend the life of the South Canyon landfill. Glenwood Springs assures us there is room in the landfill, but it doesn't take a lot of imagination to foresee a time when it does fill. New research offers a second reason for reducing landfill waste: buried garbage is broken down by anaerobic bacteria, which produces methane. And methane is a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

Recycling can only work, however, if recyclables can actually be recycled. Certain items in a recycle bin can lead to all that bin's contents going into the trash. Pizza boxes, cans caked with dried food and plastic bags are the biggest culprits, though any of the items on the "Keep Out" list on the reverse are problems as well. All recyclables must be contained within a recycle bin. The exception is corrugated cardboard, which may be flattened and placed beneath the bin.

New Castle's recycling is handled by Mountain Waste and Recycling, and their website, www.mountainwaste.com, includes additional information. Mountain Waste will gladly answer questions about recycling at 970 963-3435.



There are additional ways to reduce garbage sent to the landfill. Food waste and yard waste can be composted. New Castle is served by EverGreen ZeroWaste (evergreenzerowaste.com). And anything that might be used by someone else can be donated to Habitat for Humanity or a thrift store.

When in doubt, leave it out. A single contaminant can send an entire recycling bin to the dump.

Prepared by the New Castle Climate and Environment Commission

**Earth Day – April 25, 2026
11 am – 1 pm
Burning Mountain Park**

Participating Organizations (14 confirmed)

Host - Climate & Environment Commission + Town of New Castle
Colorado Mountain College
Elk Creek Girls STEM Leadership Club
Garfield Clean Energy
Garfield County Libraries
Garfield County Vegetation Management
Glenwood Springs Community Concert Association
Lady Luck Gardenworks & West Canyon Nursery
Lions Club of New Castle
MidColorado Watershed
Mountain Waste and Recycling
New Castle Garden Club
New Castle Trails
Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers
EverGreen ZeroWaste Composting - Maybe, awaiting confirmation

Run of Show

	ACTIVITY	WHO	NOTES
Prior			
	Reminder to wear your t-shirt & wrist band!		

9:00	Pick up 5 tables, 10 chairs from Community Center (side door), Bring to Park		Someone with truck or van
9:00	Put trash bags in trash cans, check port-o-potty for cleanliness	Sharon	
9:00 - 11:00	Breakfast at River Center (Volunteer Appreciation	Option for All	
9:15	Distribute Maps for all CEC members	Sharon	
9:15	Help unload tables; Bruce's CEC stuff; other?		
9:15:	Hang banner, set up CEC tent & table materials		Sharon has table banners, badges, etc., Bruce has tent
9:30	Set up CEC exhibit		
9:30 - 11:00	Welcome & Check-in exhibitors - Use map (TBA)		
9:30 - 11:00	Traffic Control -- direct exhibitors to park, unload, move on		Unload in front of park, then move. Some may need help.
9:30	Distribute tables to those who requested them (2 for CEC) – (TBA)		
10:00	White Board - add content		
10:00	White board - draw map of event layout & exhibitors?		
10:00	Help exhibitors as needed		

10:45	Last minute check in with exhibitors		
11:00	Event starts - ENJOY!		
11:00 - 2:00	Photos of Event for Social Media & Newsletter		
11:00 - 2:00	Booth Shift - Focus – Plastic reduction & badges, recycling guide, town materials, etc.		Need a clipboard & sheet for those who want to sign up for the weekly enewsletter; desk copy of evacuation plan
	Encourage people to "buy local" by checking out downtown stores, restaurants, shops		
11:00 - 2:00	Plastic Reduction & Badges, Bingo Game?		
2:00	Gather tables, clean, return to Community Center		
2:00	Pack up CEC tent, swag, etc.		Sharon can take home and store
2:00	Gather trash bags from trash cans, dispose as appropriate	Sharon	
3:00	Celebration @ Drifters or Duck Blind?	Option for All	

New Castle Climate & Environment Commission Minutes

March 19, 2026

Attendees: Chair Sharon Morris, Commissioner Bruce Leland, Commissioner Ryan Deyarmond, Commissioner Julia Koch, and Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Reusable Dishes Purchase

Recreation Center Director Kelley Cox requested that the Commission purchase additional reusable plates, cups, and utensils for use at Town of New Castle events. The estimated cost is approximately \$1,200.

Motion: Commissioner Leland moved to approve the request using plastic bag fee funds. Commissioner Deyarmond seconded. Motion approved unanimously

Business Grant Update

No grant applications were received, and the deadline has passed. The Commission agreed to remove the deadline and keep the grant open.

Action: Commissioner Deyarmond will contact the Chamber to promote the business grant at the next Chamber After Hours event.

Community Recycle Guide

Commissioner Leland created a recycling guide, which will be printed and distributed at Earth Day. He will also ensure it is in an upcoming town newsletter.

Plastic Reduction Campaign

The new "Guardians of Nature" badges will serve as the core of the Commission's plastic reduction campaign, accompanied by a flyer with tips on reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Earth Day

Chair Morris created a flyer for the event. Eleven organizations have committed to participate. Chair Morris has developed a run of show and a vendor map and will recruit volunteers for specific tasks. Commissioner Barnes suggested incorporating a bingo card game with a prize and grand prize winner. The River Center is providing breakfast to Earth Day volunteers.

Action: Commissioner Barnes and Chair Morris will work on a grand prize idea. Chair Morris will ask Dave Reynolds for a staff representative at the Earth Day event to talk about water conservation rules.

Trail Clean-Up Day

Commissioner Koch confirmed that no financial contribution is required for the trail clean-up day.

Clean-Up Day Funding Consideration

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds asked the CEC to consider contributing funds to the town's clean-up day. The Commission will defer the decision on funding until the remaining balance of the plastic bag fee fund is determined.

Approval of February 19th Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Leland moved to approve. Chair Morris seconded. Motion carried.

April 16th Meeting

Chair Morris will be absent. Vice-Chair Candreia will preside over the meeting. The April meeting will be the last meeting for both Commissioner Leland and Commissioner Candreia.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Leland discussed the Silt RAFTA proposal and expressed opposition. He also made Michelle Huster an administrator of the Commission's Facebook account. New water conservation rules have been implemented, including additional restrictions for raw water users.

Commissioner Leland reminded the Commission of the importance of removing flammable materials from around homes for wildfire prevention and noted that new construction must use nonflammable materials.

Commissioner Deyarmond shared a potential connection with a muralist for the Commission's pollinator mural.

Commissioner Barnes discussed a potential wildfire programming grant opportunity.

Chair Morris reminded the Commission of upcoming vacancies and requested recommendations for new members.

Future Agenda Items

The Commission will discuss ideas for a pollinator mural, summer outreach at the town's community markets, and finalize Earth Day logistics at the May meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Commission Chair Sharon Morris

DRAFT