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Roaring Fork Transportation Authority
Garfield County | Colorado Mountain College

Memo to: Mayor Gordon and the New Castle Town Council
From: Garfield Clean Energy Collaborative Board
Date: Sept. 5, 2014
Re: **2015 Budget Request**

In 2015, the Garfield Clean Energy Collaborative will mark its fourth year as Colorado's first intergovernmental clean energy authority, and its sixth year as a countywide partnership.

We greatly appreciate the Town of New Castle's active involvement and investment in GCE. Moreover, New Castle sets a strong example with its investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Garfield Clean Energy is currently making plans for a vital year of services for 2015 to help households, businesses and local governments save energy and money through energy efficiency, renewable energy and petroleum independence.

Joining together as a county, we have been able to create programs and services that help create a more resilient and diversified economy. Since GCE started as an intergovernmental partnership in 2009 (the authority was established in 2012), it has helped 262 businesses, 294 households and 55 government buildings make energy upgrades that are saving more than \$754,000 per year. GCE is also working to increase the use of Colorado-produced electricity and natural gas as transportation fuels.

As a countywide joint effort GCE and CLEER have harnessed significant outside funding, including two grants in 2014 from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment. One of these grants is funding energy efficiency rebates for the people of western Garfield County, the other will fund upgrades for low-income households countywide.

To continue this track record of regional collaboration and success, GCE is requesting that its 10 member governments include funding for the Garfield Clean Energy Collaborative in their 2015 budgets at the same or slightly higher levels than 2014. For the Town of New Castle, this amount would be \$15,500.

A summary of the planned 2015 services of Garfield Clean Energy is on the following page.

The proposed Garfield Clean Energy 2015 scope of work would cover these programs and services. The level of activity will depend on the final totals in the 2015 budget.

- Free energy coaching for households and businesses throughout Garfield County, with associated marketing of programs, community outreach and case studies.
- **New: Deep energy efficiency retrofit program for low-income** households.
- Residential Revolving Loan Fund financing for energy and safety upgrades.
- **New: Use of Green MLS** listings and trainings for real estate professionals to drive building efficiency upgrades at point of sale.
- Annual event for contractors: energy incentives workshop and energy technology trade show.
- Active Energy Management consultations with member governments.
- **New: ENERGY STAR benchmarking** of member government buildings.
- Energy data management for 100 facilities on the Garfield Building Energy Navigator.
- **New: Affiliate memberships** for other governmental entities and organizations to support the county wide clean energy effort and take advantage of GCE services.
- Active transportation programs for schools and the broader community.
- Technical assistance and outreach for electric vehicles and public charging stations.
- Hosting the Western Slope CNG Collaborative to provide advocacy and technical assistance for broader adoption of CNG vehicles and public fueling infrastructure.
- Technical assistance for renewable energy installations, including micro-hydro for farm and ranch settings.
- Sponsorship of “Solar Rollers” teams at high schools throughout Garfield County.
- The Garfield Clean Energy website, media releases and social media to support programs and inform the public.
- Facility manager trainings and fact sheets on energy technologies.
- **New: Garfield County Energy Inventory**, updating the 2009 inventory with 2014 energy usage data to measure progress and quantify energy savings needed to reach the 2020 goals.
- Support for the GCE board’s monthly meetings, including strategic planning, grant-writing, quarterly reports, budgeting and accounting, and annual energy reports for member governments.
- State level policy work related to clean energy.