

Annual Clean Energy Committee Report, December 8, 2021

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021:

1. Goal is to have essentially all Ridgway and Ouray government building lights replaced by LEDs this year. Met with Ouray staff and they ordered 240 more tube LEDs for our team to rewire and install later this fall/winter in the Ouray Community Center, fire engine and emergency vehicle bays, city offices and bathrooms – this work was done on November 18-19 with the help of 12 volunteers – thank you!

To date – the CEC and volunteers have installed LED lights in the Town of Ridgway, the City of Ouray, RSD elementary and secondary schools, the Ouray Library and Hot Springs Pool and Gym, and the Box Canon Visitor Center.

Ridgway is essentially done, but we are still working toward that goal. This work should help spend the funds earlier earmarked by ROCC for this project. This will be a huge success story for our communities! We also have worked with Ouray County staff. We expect success down the road w/this.

2. Paul Scharfenberger, the new Ex Dir of the CO Clean Energy Fund, now lives in Ridgway. He has been introduced to local persons and projects that might benefit from his fund – including an upcoming meeting with Susan Lacy, superintendent of RSD, to see how a collaboration of resources can leverage as much renewable energy installation by the district as possible.
3. Provided testimony to a recently enacted SMPA board policy to zero out net metering accounts March 1 of every year: Testified that it would be helpful to N-M accounts to zero out later in the spring (perhaps by March 31) and to consider a buffer account of possibly 500-1500 kWh for unknown circumstances such as weather or additional electrical needs.
4. LED prices keep falling and SMPA offers a 50% rebate up to \$8/bulb for up to 50 bulbs per account. This rebate won't last forever. Please take advantage of it by buying bulbs, save the receipt, and go to <https://www.ecoactionpartners.org/smparebates/#residential-leds>
5. Please go to the SMPA website and sign up for Totally Green Energy if you have not done so. This costs an extra one cent per kWh, raising your power cost by 7%. The Green Fund supports local renewable energy projects, rebates, and low income households and was created in response to a recommendation by our CEC. Sign up at <https://www.smpa.com/content/sign-totally-green>

GOALS FOR 2022:

1. County Master Plan - over the next 8 years taking us to 2030 there will be a tremendous amount of new technologies and advancements that will point us down the pathway to carbon reduction. While there will be legislation coming down from the state, counties are a logical local channel to design their own roadmaps (local 'grass-roots' activism – imagine that!) to cut emissions to be in compliance and beyond with state aspirational and mandated emission caps.

The Clean Energy Committee can be one vehicle collaborating with other in and out of county partners (SMPA/Eco-Action Partners/among others) in designing the roadmap to achieve this goal as part of the county master plan. We would be looking at which sectors of our county produce CO2 that we can have the most impact on reducing. Obviously a multi-year effort.

2. Education - Our efforts need to be around education of the public to continue weaning away from fossil fuels by the use of 'beneficial electrification'. This idea finds root in the concept that as the grid continues to become more 'green' (Tri-State 80% renewables by 2030) that our homes/cars/appliances/etc will all become electrical. It's important that this is done over time so as to continue to make electricity 'reliable and affordable'.