

Title: Planting Seeds for Long Term Success: Creating enduring, dedicated funding mechanisms to maximize energy efficiency in rural communities

Competitor Name: Garfield Clean Energy Partnership

Organization name: Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER), and Garfield Clean Energy

Address: 520 S. Third St., Suites 7 and 17 Carbondale, Colorado 81623-2059;

Contact: Morgan Hill, Associate Director, (970) 704-9200 x101, mhill@cleanenergyeconomy.net

Website: cleanenergyeconomy.net

Location of primary benefits: Garfield County, Colorado

- Parachute, CO, 81635, Pop: 1,390
- Silt, CO, 81652, Pop: 3,536
- New Castle, CO, 81647, Pop: 4,923
- Battlement Mesa, CO, 81635/81636, Pop: 5,438
- Carbondale, CO, 81623, Pop: 6,434
- Glenwood Springs, CO, 81601, Pop: 9,963 (2020 Census)
- Rifle, CO, 81650, Pop: 10,437
- Unincorporated Garfield County

Short description of proposed plan, activities, and use of prize funds: Planting Seeds for Long Term Success will work to create enduring, dedicated funding mechanisms to support and maximize energy efficiency in the small rural communities, including disproportionately impacted communities, of Garfield County, Colorado. Our project will explore potential public and private opportunities that can provide a reliable long-term source of funding for energy efficiency programs for households and businesses. Prize funds will be used to convene local and regional stakeholders, national experts, elected officials and business leaders to determine the most viable opportunities and create a path forward. We will then develop and implement a plan to build the community, business and political support for proposed funding mechanisms.

3-minute summary video: <https://youtu.be/YqPcbW6ybGY>

Project members:

Morgan Hill, M.S. - Morgan has worked in the environmental field for over twelve years. She is the associate director at CLEER, and currently oversees the Garfield Clean Energy Collaborative.

Christina Matzl, BPI Building Analyst - Christina recently graduated from Colorado Mountain College. She has worked in the sustainability industry for just over a year and is a certified Building Analyst Professional.

Allyn Harvey - A public relations and communications professional. Allyn served as an elected Trustee for the Town of Carbondale and served on the GCE Board from 2012-16.

Alice Laird - Alice has over 20 years of experience working on rural community energy and economic development issues, including co-founding CORE, the Community Office for Resource Efficiency; Co-founding CLEER, Clean Energy Economy for the Region.

Other partners: Xcel Energy Partners in Energy, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP), Holy Cross Energy, and EnergySmart Colorado