

# CB Climate Action Plan Community Toolkit

**CB CLIMATE ACTION PLAN  
COMMUNITY TOOLKIT**

*Steps YOU can take to reduce emissions*

-  **BUILDING ENERGY USE & RENEWABLES**
-  **WASTE REDUCTION**
-  **TRANSPORTATION**
-  **LOCAL INITIATIVES**

*Check out the full toolkit at [sustainablecb.org](https://sustainablecb.org)!*

@SustainableCB  

Created by Sustainable CB, [sustainablecb.org](https://sustainablecb.org)



Sustainable Crested Butte created this Toolkit as a way for community members and businesses to actively support and participate in CB Climate Action Plan. We know that moving towards more sustainable practices can be overwhelming, and this Toolkit is here to serve as a resource during your transition towards more sustainable practices in your everyday life. Sustainable CB looks forward to taking steps together as a community to reduce our emissions, and to exemplify how local actions can have global impacts.

**If you have questions, comments, concerns, or resources to add to the Crested Butte Community Toolkit, please email [sustainablecb@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablecb@gmail.com).**

## **1: Building Energy Use & Renewables**

Buildings consume on average more energy than any other feature of town life, meaning they are among the major contributors to climate change. As a community, it is important that we explore ways to improve the energy efficiency of our homes and businesses and also move away from fossil fuels like gas and propane. Contact the Gunnison Valley GV-Heat program to learn how you can make your home more energy efficient. GCEA provides rebates for installing new energy efficient equipment, and many options to purchase your electricity from renewable energy sources.

### **Reduce your energy use**

- + Perform an energy audit on your home and business to identify the retrofits with the most energy-saving gains (<http://gvrha.org/gv-heat/>), and educate yourself on how to reduce your daily electricity usage (Click [HERE](#)).
- + Switch all your lights to LED bulbs.
- + Avoid phantom energy: unplug all unused electronics and small appliances.
- + Seal your windows, and weather strip your doors.
- + Lower your thermostat temperature in the winter, and install a programmable thermostat.
- + Look for the energy star label when buying new appliances for your home or business.
- + Tune up your HVAC system to ensure connections are tightened, parts are properly lubricated and coils are cleaned.

## Building Energy Use & Renewables Continued

### Be water aware

- + Wash clothes in cold or warm water (not hot) and run only full loads.
- + Install low-flow showerheads and fixtures. A low-flow showerhead uses half the gallons per minute!
- + Check your pipes, toilets, and faucets for leaks.
- + Take shorter showers and do not fill up your bathtub all the way.
- + Only run your dishwasher when it is full.
- + Turn off the water when brushing your teeth, shaving, or cleaning vegetables.
- + If you have irrigation, make sure there are no breaks in your lines, that you are only watering as needed, and that your irrigation spray heads are hitting the desired areas.
- + Water lawn as needed. Plant native drought resistant trees, shrubs, and flowers.
- + Click [HERE](#) for Native Shrubs, [HERE](#) for Native Trees, & [HERE](#) for Native Perennials.
- + Mulch around trees, shrubs, and plants to slow the evaporation of moisture.
- + Do not use a hose to clean your driveway, sidewalk, and steps-- utilize a broom.
- + Discourage your children from playing with the hose and sprinklers.

### Purchase renewables

- + Purchase solar energy through GCEA's community solar garden, and/or Green Power program.
- + Click [HERE](#) for more information on GCEA's Green Power Program.
- + Community Solar Garden: Click [HERE](#) for more information.
- + Taylor Hydroelectric Project: Click [HERE](#) for more information.

## 2: Waste Reduction

The average Colorado resident throws away about 8 lbs of trash per day which is more than 1.45 tons per person each year. While the national recycling rate is at 35%, Colorado drags behind at 12%. However, recycling is not a long-term solution. As a community, we need to *reduce* our waste, utilize what we can *reuse*, and *refuse* anything that does not align with our commitment to sustainability and the curtailment of our GHG emissions. Consider these small, yet impactful changes that will reduce your carbon footprint and emissions.

### Say no to single-use waste items

- + Bring your own coffee mug, water bottle, tupperware, and reusable bag when you know you could encounter a single-use item. Say no to single-use straws!
- + Make or utilize reusable produce bags versus plastic bags (sold at Mountain Earth)
- + Didn't bring your own reusable grocery bag? No problem! There are free bags at Clark's and Mountain Earth. Check out Sustainable CB's Boomerang Bag locations as well.
- + Click [HERE](#) for information on Boomerang Bags.
- + Click [HERE](#) for Borrow-a-bag Program.
- + Click [HERE](#) for the T-Shirt Bag Revolution based out of CB.

### Recycle properly

- + Dirty Dozen: What to keep out of the Recycle Bin (Click [HERE](#))
  - + A-Z Recycling Guide (Click [HERE](#))
  - + Recycling Information:
    - Town of CB (Click [HERE](#))
    - Town of Mt. CB: (Click [HERE](#))
    - Gunnison County: (Click [HERE](#))
  - + Click [HERE](#) for more recycling resources.
- Have hard to recycle items?
- + Sustainable CB partners with local businesses and community members to bring those hard to recycle items to Boulder's Eco-Cycle CHARM Facility. Sustainable CB is looking to expand this program in 2020.
  - + Click [HERE](#) to learn about the CHARM Facility in Boulder, CO.

Email [sustainablecb@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablecb@gmail.com) if you frequently travel to Boulder and/or would like to become involved in this program.

## Waste Reduction Continued

### Shop local reusable products & at thrift stores

- + Purchase Zero-Waste Materials from Zoetica. <https://www.zoeticalife.com/>
- + Happy Wraps: Reusable & locally made <https://www.facebook.com/my.happy.wraps/>
- + Gunnibags: Bags made with at least 75% recycled material & 10% of all proceeds goes to Gunnison Underdog Rescue. <https://www.gunnibags.com/>
- + St. Mary's Garage: Donation based thrift store. <https://www.stmarysgarage.org/>
- + Six Points: Gunnison based thrift store benefiting adults with disabilities. <https://sixpointsgunnison.org/>

### Eat for a climate stable planet

- + Eat more meat-free, plant-based meals.
- + Buy organic if it is accessible to you. Click [HERE](#) for a list of the most important foods to eat organic.
- + Do not waste food or buy more than you can consume and buy local produce and products whenever possible.
- + Invest in a composting system/services (Click [HERE](#) to learn about composting at home)
- + Grow your own food or support a local CSA
- + Support food brands and companies that use minimal-to-no packaging.

### Consider the impact of your purchases

- + Instead of buying brand new, consider secondhand and refurbished options.
- + Rethink your online purchases:  

*Do I really need this?  
How far is this coming?  
What is the environmental impact?*
- + Support local businesses and artisans to reduce distribution emissions, and to invest in the community versus large corporations.

### Go paperless

- + Switch your bills over to paperless. Unsubscribe to those magazines and junk mail lists (Click [HERE](#))
- + Opt for the emailed receipt or no receipts. (Click [HERE](#) to learn why)
- + Request digital versions at the workplace. Print off materials only if necessary and make sure to at least print double sided.
- + Utilize recycled paper or alternate types of paper (Click [HERE](#))

### 3: Transportation

In Crested Butte, transportation accounts for 21% percent of climate-polluting emissions, and the transportation sector is where GHG emissions are rising the fastest. We can actively and effectively cut these rising emissions by consciously making decisions to take the bus, bike, walk, or drive to your destination with family or friends. If you are in the market for a new vehicle, consider an electric vehicle. Charging stations are available and growing within Crested Butte and regionally. The many ways to reduce your transportation emissions will also make you healthier, happier and save you money!

#### Travel conscientiously

+ Take the bus! The RTA and Mountain Express have consistent routes.

RTA: <http://www.gunnisonvalleyrta.com>

RTA Transit App: <https://transitapp.com/>

Mountain Express: <http://www.mtnexp.org/>

+ Ride a bike and advocate for bike lanes.

+ Switch to an electric or hybrid vehicle and car-share.

+ Fly less! (Click [HERE](#) to learn about the relationship of Air Travel & Climate Change) Offset your emissions if you do fly. Click [HERE](#) to learn more

+ Utilize the Bustang Shuttle to Denver (<https://ridebustang.com/>)

+ Adhere to the Anti-Idling Ordinance in CB (Click [HERE](#) to learn about the Ordinance)

+ Nordic Skiing is an extremely low-impact sport as well as a mode of transportation in the winter. (<https://cbnordic.org/>)

Do you know your emission impact right now? Although greenhouse gases occur naturally, human activity contributes a great deal to greenhouse gas emissions. Your carbon footprint, or your impact on the environment, measures the greenhouse gases that you are responsible for creating. The EPA has created an amazing resource to calculate your carbon footprint, but also to show you how some of the simple actions from this toolkit can help offset and reduce your emissions.

**Calculate your carbon footprint by clicking [HERE!](#)**

## 4: Local Initiatives

There are numerous ways to support the Crested Butte Climate Movement and CAP locally by volunteering, attending Town Council sessions, or taking advantage of the many initiatives that are actively combating climate change in our community.

<b>Volunteer</b>	<b>Act in response to CB's Climate Action Plan</b>
<p>Volunteer for Sustainable CB &amp; other non-profits that share your love for this community and planet!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Sustainable CB: <a href="https://sustainablecb.org/">https://sustainablecb.org/</a></li><li>+ CB Mountain Bike Association: <a href="https://crestedbuttemountainbike.com/">https://crestedbuttemountainbike.com/</a></li><li>+ High Country Conservation Advocates: <a href="https://www.hccacb.org/">https://www.hccacb.org/</a></li><li>+ Coal Creek Watershed Coalition: <a href="http://www.coalcreek.org/">http://www.coalcreek.org/</a></li><li>+ 1% For Open Space: <a href="https://1percentforopenspace.org/">https://1percentforopenspace.org/</a></li><li>+ CB Land Trust: <a href="https://www.cblandtrust.org/">https://www.cblandtrust.org/</a></li><li>+ CB/Mt. CB Chamber of Commerce: <a href="http://www.cbchamber.com/">http://www.cbchamber.com/</a></li><li>+ Mountain Roots Food Project: <a href="http://www.mountainrootsfoodproject.org/">http://www.mountainrootsfoodproject.org/</a></li><li>+ Sustainable Development Strategies Group: <a href="https://www.sdsg.org/">https://www.sdsg.org/</a></li><li>+ Gunnison County Libraries: <a href="https://www.gunnisoncountylibraries.org/">https://www.gunnisoncountylibraries.org/</a></li><li>+ Gunnison Valley Mentors: <a href="http://gunnisonmentors.com/home.aspx">http://gunnisonmentors.com/home.aspx</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Green your business</li><li>+ Host a Waste Free Event: Click <a href="#">HERE</a></li><li>+ Invest in sleep mode technology</li></ul> <p><b>Attend Town Council meetings to advocate for Climate Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ <a href="#">Click for Crested Butte Town Council</a></li><li>+ <a href="#">Click for Mt. Crested Butte Town Council</a></li><li>+ <a href="#">Click for Gunnison Town Council</a></li></ul>