

ECOACTION PARTNERS



To: Ouray County Commissioners
From: Kim Wheels, EcoAction Partners
RE: Potential DOLA Planning Grant with Ouray County for regional Climate Action Plan

The Sneffels Energy Board, facilitated by EcoAction Partners, has been working on an update to our regional Climate Action Plan (CAP) since late 2020. Phase 1 is comprised of an “executive level” update, incorporating accomplishments from 10 years of greenhouse gas reduction (GHG) actions, GHG Inventory data, and updating the plan to be comparable to modern community-level Climate Action Plans. We are modeling our final version off of several adopted plans in mountain communities across Colorado. The outcome of this phase will be an accessible, visually-appealing, understandable “final draft” CAP that we will present to governments and across the communities, with the purpose of gathering further input and engagement in plan development and implementation.

Ideally, this regional community outreach and engagement process will provide further input not only the document but will also initiate the process building an engaged citizenry in each community that will inform the process of developing, planning and implementing specific actions and projects that will reduce our GHG emissions. This community outreach process will require additional resources for EcoAction Partners to implement, beyond our budgeted program outreach for 2021.

Therefore, EcoAction Partners, on behalf of the Sneffels Energy Board, is seeking partnership with a regional government that is willing and eligible to apply for a DOLA planning grant. Ouray County would be an ideal partner for this grant application, due to your status as a county government and not having any currently existing planning grant activities with DOLA.

EcoAction Partners proposes to work with Ouray County to apply for a \$20,000 grant, with the required 50% matching funds sourced from EcoAction Partners’ Sneffels Energy Board funding. EcoAction Partners proposes to do all possible grant application activities, minimizing effort and resources necessary by Ouray County staff. During initial conversations with Patrick Rondinelli, our regional DOLA staff representative, we have learned that Ouray County’s budget will need to show these matching funds delineated for this purpose and that EcoAction and Ouray County can work out the details of payment from Ouray County to EcoAction for implementation of the grant activities.

With Ouray County's partnership for this DOLA planning grant, EcoAction Partners believes we will be able to facilitate an effective, engaging outreach and engagement process for our CAP across the region of San Miguel and Ouray Counties. Ouray County's leadership as our partner for this DOLA grant opportunity would provide us with the opportunity to secure the funds necessary to implement this greater outreach process necessary for community-level engagement with the development and implementation of our regional Climate Action Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.