# TOWN OF MOUNTAIN VILLAGE GREEN TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022, 2:00 PM TO BE HELD AS A HYBRID MEETING IN-PERSON TOWN HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM LOG-IN INFORMATION BELOW

Item	Time	Min	Presenter	Туре		
1.	2:00		Prohaska		Call to Order	
2.	2:00	5	Prohaska	Public Comment	Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items	
3.	2:05	20	Kirn	Informational	Quarter 1, 2022 Environmental Efficiencies Staff Report	
4.	2:25	15	Kirn	Informational	2022 Sustainability Budget	
5.	2:40	20	Kirn	Informational	Emissions Modeling by Lotus	
6.	3:00	10	Kirn	Informational	HB21-1162 Management of Plastic Products	
7.	3:10	10	Kirn	Informational	VCA Compost Program	
8.	3:20	10	Prohaska	Informational	Other Business	
9.	3:30		Prohaska		Adjourn	

#### **Zoom Information:**

**Topic: Green Team Committee Meeting** 

Time: Dec. 7, 2021 02:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82281048927?pwd=N0VMV1pBYlpuNENuZVg0Yjk0MjNvdz09

Meeting ID: 822 8104 8927 | Passcode: 543501

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## AGENDA ITEM #3 COMMUNICATIONS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT JANUARY 2022 – BIANNUAL DEPARTMENT REPORT

To: Green Team

From: Zoe Dohnal, Business Development and Sustainability Director

Lauren Kirn, Environmental Efficiencies and Grant Coordinator

For: Meeting: March 1, 2022

Date: February 23, 2022

Re: Environmental Efficiencies Quarter 1 Report

#### SUMMARY:

The report for the Environmental Department summarizes how key performance measures were accomplished as of February 24, 2022, compared to the previous year over year (YOY) and provides a summary of department highlights for the year and department focuses 2022.

### SECTION V: ENVIRONMENTAL EFFICIENCIES 2021 OVERVIEW

- 1. Environmental Policy and Regional Collaboration
  - a. In 2021, staff attended **5** monthly Telluride Ecology Commission meetings, the Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) Virtual Board Retreat and has contributed to the Sneffels Energy Board's regional climate action plan that was issued in October 2021.
  - b. After **8 committee meetings**, and **35 subcommittee meetings** in 2021, staff assisted restructuring the Green Team into a community advisory board with quarterly meetings and no subcommittees. With the hiring of the Town's Environmental Efficiencies and Grant Coordinator, staff now works with members to develop the department's annual narrative focusing on attainable goals that ultimately reduce TMV's greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2. Zero waste by 2030
  - a. Farm to Community initiative served **85 families (171 people)** a weekly CSA share for 14 consecutive weeks from June 9 through September 15 accumulating to **13,035 pounds** of local produce distributed. The average daily distribution **increased 16%** from 799 pounds in 2020 to 931 in 2021.
  - b. Community Clean-Up Day occurred on Saturday, August 21, in Sunset Plaza. A total of **59.95 pounds** of trash was removed from the environment.
  - c. Recycling
    - i. Mountain Village residential recycling is tracking to be around 27% for 2021. Plastics made up 18% of the recycled materials. This surpasses the 2020 Colorado statewide recycling and composting rate of 15% and the statewide plastic containers and packaging rate of 9% recycling. The Town's residents have avoided 472.75 metric tons CO2e in 2021 to date.
    - ii. Mountain Village commercial recycling is tracking to be around 16% for 2021. Plastics made up 17.9% of the recycled materials. This surpasses the 2020 Colorado statewide recycling and composting rate of 15% and the statewide plastic containers and packaging rate of 9% recycling. The Town's commercial properties have avoided 601.93 metric tons CO2e in 2021 to date.
    - iii. Terracycle **disposable mask recycling bins** are located at all gondola stations and the Village Market to divert disposable masks from ending up in landfills, the environment, and the community.
  - d. Composting



- Compost initiative awarded 14 participants an individual compost unit. In 2021, 1,040.16 pounds of food waste was diverted from the landfill, generating 531.9 pounds of compost as of November.
- ii. A **free composting event** was held from November 1 through November 10 in partnership with the Town of Telluride. A total of **2 tons** of organic waste was diverted from the landfill and **2.93 metric tons of CO2 equivalent** in greenhouse gas emissions was avoided..
- e. Single-Use Plastic Reduction
  - i. The Town recycles **plastic film collected** in a bin outside of the Town Hall entrance. The bin is filled every month. Informational posts and educational materials will be distributed through email newsletters, blog posts, and social media.
- 3. Carbon Neutral by 2050, using 2010 as a benchmark.
  - a. Greenhouse Gas Reporting
    - i. Staff provided Lotus with required data for the 2020 report and were trained on the Excel reporting tool to provide data monthly. This task has now been taken in-house.
    - ii. Mountain Village **municipality reduced** its emissions by **25%** in 2020 vs 2019 (2019 Emissions: 4,383 mt CO2e; 2020 Emissions: 3,266 mt CO2e)
    - iii. Mountain Village **community reduced** its emissions by **9%** in 2020 vs 2019 (2019 Emissions: 74,265 mt CO2e; 2020 Emissions: 67,243 mt CO2e)
    - iv. The **region reduced** its emissions by **12%** between 2018 and 2020. (2018: 350,700 mt CO2e; 2020: 307,586 mt CO2e.)
    - v. Lotus reported that Mountain Village **municipality reduced** its emissions by **28%** between 2010 and 2020, while the **region** has **reduced** its emissions by **20.3%** 2010 and 2020.
  - b. Alternative Energy
    - i. The Town of Mountain Village is a U.S. EPA Green Power Partner. The U.S. EPA's Green Power Partnership requires a minimum of 25% green power usage. The Town uses 38% green power. Mountain Village purchases 1,813,680 kWh/year in green power from SMPA.
    - ii. The 2021 Solar Co-Op Incentive led to **14** contracts being executed for solar installation with Alternative Power Ent; **9** of which are for deed-restricted homes. This equates to a total of 68.8KW of solar capacity under contract to be installed. This is a **37.8%** close rate from the **37 qualifying members** in the Solar Co-Op, which is the second highest close rate in the state. A total of **\$60,000** in incentive funds were awarded. Carbon offset over 25 yrs of 1,517.3 metric tons, or 3,345,073.9 pounds, which is comparable to taking nearly 13.2 cars off the road one year, every year, for 25 years. It is a projected **energy cost savings of \$418,068** over 25 years.
  - c. Open Space
    - i. The Town of Mountain Village is over **50% open space**, which is a significant source of carbon sequestration. Out of the total 2,095.551 acres, Mountain Village has 1,050.3 acres in open space. Staff is working to quantify the emissions avoidance due to this open space.
  - d. Building Incentives
    - i. **Deed-Restricted Workforce Housing incentive** awarded approximately **\$3,665.23** in fee waivers with a valuation of \$262,200 for deed restricted housing as of November 2021.
    - ii. Staff is researching and evaluating opportunities for improved building efficiencies, including retrofits, renewable energy, and net zero construction. Staff have met with other municipalities including the Town of Breckenridge, the Town of Vail, San Miguel County, and San Diego County as well as agencies like the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Energize Colorado, and the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) to discuss initiatives, policies, funding opportunities, projects, and programs.
  - e. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
    - The Town offers one ChargePoint Level II, dual port charging station and eight Tesla
       Supercharger stations in the Gondola Parking Lot. The ChargePoint station that opened in



- May 2019 has avoided **15,202kg** of greenhouse gas emissions to date. The Tesla Supercharger stations opened for public use in November 2021.
- ii. Tesla will be providing two Level II charging stations with J1772 ports for installation in Heritage Parking Garage.
- iii. The Town was awarded the Charge Ahead Colorado grant in November 2021 for two Level II electric vehicle charging stations. One charging station will be installed in Meadows Parking Lot and one station will be installed in Heritage Parking Garage in 2022.
- 4. Water Conservation and Water Loss Prevention
  - a. Smart Irrigation Controls Incentive has 5 participants to date. Public Works and the Environmental Efficiencies Departments are collaborating to create a database for yearly water use and water use reductions associated with smart irrigation controls.
  - b. Staff applied for the **Engagement & Innovation Grant** funding for community education and outreach on the Smart Irrigation Controls Incentive Program and for irrigation audits. The intent of the irrigation audits is to identify inefficiencies (leaks, unintentional bends, etc.) in existing irrigation systems to inform home and property managers how to effectively upgrade or repair their systems.
  - San Miguel Watershed Coalition (SMWC)
    - i. The Town contributes \$10,000 in annual funding to SWMC for water sampling and monitoring to ensure the quality of municipal water, surface water, aquatic species and riparian plant communities within Mountain Village.
    - ii. Staff has met with SMWC to discuss partnership opportunities, including beaver awareness and education for the community, and developing an integrated climate hydrologic model of the watershed. These discussions are ongoing.
  - d. Water Conservation Advisory Board
    - i. The Environmental and Public Works Departments formed a Water Conservation Advisory **Board** to discuss and evaluate water conservation measures, discuss opportunities and challenges, and develop a **long-term strategy** for water conservation.
- 5. Natural Resources Management and Education
  - a. Staff dedicated 350-man hours to conducting noxious weed control activities for both Town-owned and private properties in 2021.
- Wildfire Mitigation and Education 6.
  - a. Cedar Shake initiative has awarded approximately \$96,197 in fee waivers as of November 2021.
  - b. Defensible Space initiative has awarded \$104,937.50 in reimbursements to date.
- 7. Department Environmental Goals
  - a. Staff has met with all Town departments to understand their environmental goals and identify opportunities for advancement.
  - b. Staff is evaluating the potential for Mountain Village to become certified to the Mountain IDEAL Standard, formally recognized by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). Staff have had conversations with the Town of Breckenridge, the Town of Vail, and Walking Mountains Science Center to understand the certification process, auditing process, and costs. The standard is in the process of being revised. Staff are monitoring this revision and are continuing to review the pros and cons of certification and its alignment with the Town's Climate Action Plan.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021**

In early 2021, Town Council approved the new position of Environmental Efficiencies and Grant Coordinator. This is the Town's first full time position dedicated to environmental efficiencies and grants. In summer 2021, Lauren Kirn was hired in this role.

The Town is making great strides in its goals toward zero waste and carbon neutrality. Staff are working collaboratively across departments and local and regional organizations to gather data, track results,

## AGENDA ITEM #3 COMMUNICATIONS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT JANUARY 2022 – BIANNUAL DEPARTMENT REPORT



implement strategies, and engage and educate the public on environmental programs, ordinances, and best practices. Staff also employed new sustainability initiatives and received positive feedback from the community.

#### **2022 OVERVIEW**

- 1. The 2022 Solar Co-Op Incentive launched on January 19 and has six Mountain Village households to date signed up for the co-op. Staff are ramping up marketing and outreach efforts to recruit new Mountain Village members. The goal of the solar co-op is to have 45 members from Mountain Village.
- 2. Mountain Village was awarded the Charge Ahead Grant to install two Level II electric vehicle charging stations; one in the Meadows Parking Lot and one in the Heritage Parking Garage. These charging stations are on order and the RFQ process for an electrical contractor is in process.
- 3. Village Court Apartments will be receiving a rebate of about \$9,400 in Member Dividends from SMPA. This money will be put towards energy-related projects at VCA.
- 4. Disposable mask recycling bins are located at the gondola stations and Village Market to divert these masks from landfills, the community, and the environment. These will be replaced as needed. The mask mandate for San Miguel County ended on February 8 and public transit by the federal government is currently ending on March 18.
- 5. Staff is evaluating additional long-term options for composting services to Mountain Village and the surrounding region. Staff is in discussions with Dirty Sturdy's Mountain Compost about implementing a composting pilot program for Village Court Apartments residents in 2022. Education about composting would be provided through this program.
- 6. Staff will be launching educational campaigns for solar energy, electric vehicles, energy-efficiency rebates, irrigation water conservation and recycling and waste diversion.
- 7. Staff will review Mountain Village's building codes and provide recommendations for incorporating green building measures.
- 8. Staff will attending the Ridgway Ouray Community Council Clean Energy Committee (ROCC CEC) meetings about building energy codes and Net Zero.
- 9. Staff will develop a database for energy and water consumption to establish a baseline and track historical and future performance.
- 10. The Green Living webpage will be updated to include an interactive dashboard showing Mountain Village's climate action goals, indicators, and progress to date.
- 11. Staff will continue to evaluate current incentive programs for efficiency, participation, and impact.
- 12. Mountain Village is monitoring state and federal legislation, programs, and funding opportunities for environmental sustainability.

#### **LOOKING FORWARD 2022**

In 2021, the federal government and the State of Colorado issued goals and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which are in alignment with Mountain Village's Climate Action Plan. With this harmonization of environmental goals, staff are working to develop and find funding for long term solutions for composting, energy-efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation. Our team is working cross-departmentally to develop databases, evaluate current programs, and educate the community on efforts involving water use, energy use, waste diversion, and wildfire mitigation. With buildings as largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the community, staff will be reviewing Mountain Village's building codes and providing recommendations for incorporating green building measures.

In summer 2021, Colorado passed HB21-1162 which prohibits the use or distribution of specific types of plastic products and materials by January 2024. Our team is analyzing this bill and its implications for Mountain Village. Staff will provide recommendations for our response to the new legislation based on community needs and an understanding of other mountain town's actions.

#### **GREEN TEAM BUDGET**

KEY: (red = new line items; stikethrough = removed line item; orange: reintroducing line item)

Budget Line Item	Green Team Workplan	Adopted 2022 Total	Work Plan Allocation 2022	2021 Budget	Work Plan Allocation 2021
Environmental Efficiencies Expense	Plastic Film Recycling Bins Disposable Mask Recycling Bins	\$3,815.00	\$0.00	\$2,420.00	\$2,129.40
Environmental Efficiencies Green Lights <sup>1</sup>	Green Lighte	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Environmental Efficiencies Incentives	Solar Energy Incentive (Solar Co-op - SUN) November 2021 Composting Event	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$14,839.80
Farm to Community Initiative	Farm to Community	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Environmental Efficiencies Consulting <sup>2</sup>	Consulting Services	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,395.00	\$687.75
Environmental Efficiencies Education/Communication	General Communication and Education	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,840.55
Environmental Efficiencies MV Clean Up Day	Mountain Village Clean Up Day	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$2,629.40
Environmental Efficiencies Dues and Fees	CC4CA Dues and Fees (EAP) Sneffles Energy Board Dues and Fees	\$4,850.00	\$0.00	\$3,785.00	\$2,000.00
	Allocated Budget Total Budget	\$111,065.00	\$80,000.00	\$110,000.00	\$85,126.90
	* New programs may be funded through the energy mitigation fund	, ,, <u>-</u>	-\$80,000.00	,	,
Incentive programs outside the Environmental Efficiencies Budget					
Solar Rebate	\$75,000 total with TMVOA match <sup>3</sup>	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	
Cedar Shake Rebate Defensible Space Heat Trace Incentive Smart Irrigation Controls	\$100,000 total with TMVOA match \$50,000 total with TMVOA match	\$50,000.00 \$25,000.00		\$50,000.00 \$25,000.00 \$0.00 \$3,839.80	
REMP FUNDS Total Budget	None available for 2022, currently all funds are allocated	\$125,000.00		\$0.00 \$128,839.80	

#### NOTE

- 1. The Green Light Program funds have been reallocated to the general Environmental Efficiencies Expense budget line item.
- 2. With a dedicated staff member, the Town will do the GHG inventory in-house and produce a comparison report every three years. Because of this, the line item has been generalized to environmental third party consulting.
- 3. The Solar Rebate does not include the S.U.N. costs.



**Town of Mountain Village** 455 Mountain Village Blvd. Mountain Village, CO 81435 (970)369-8236

TO: Green Team

FROM: Lauren Kirn, Environmental Efficiencies and Grant Coordinator

Zoe Dohnal, Director of Operations

DATE: February 22, 2022

RE: Lotus: Modeling Incentive Program and Environmental Initiatives' Emissions

#### **Summary**

The Town of Mountain Village requested that Lotus Engineering & Sustainability model the impacts of existing incentive programs and potential environmental initiatives on greenhouse gas emissions within Mountain Village. Lotus is modeling the impacts of these in terms of emissions reduction potential. The models will forecast emissions impacts through 2030, 2040, and 2050. A few programs and initiatives include a waste diversion component (e.g., composting), so Lotus is also modeling the impacts of these on the Town's waste stream. Cost will also be included in the models to inform optimal funding of these efforts in relation to impact. The results of the models will be used to prioritize programs and initiatives and develop interim goals based on impact, resiliency, and cost. Lotus is currently finalizing the models and will deliver them to the Town of Mountain Village in early to mid-April.

#### Attachments:

Exhibit A - Lotus Modeling: Impacts of TMV Programs and Initiatives

#### **Modeling**

The incentive programs and environmental initiatives are broken into four categories: 1) buildings, 2) water, 3) waste, 4) energy. The existing incentive programs being modeled are the Smart Building Program, the Smart Irrigation Controls, Farm to Community, and the Solar Incentive Program. Town of Mountain Village is considering additional incentive programs for commercial and residential buildings and electric vehicles, which are included in the assessment. These programs would target energy efficiency retrofits and a decreased reliance on non-renewable energy sources. Lotus is also modeling waste-related measures including the impact of a community compost bin and an ordinance banning single-use plastics. Furthermore, Lotus is modeling the impacts of the Farm to Community Program in terms of reduction in vehicle miles driven due to local food sourcing, the Smart Irrigation Controls Program in terms of water use reduction, and a potential e-bike program in terms of emissions reduction. The models will show the impacts of these programs

and initiatives on greenhouse gas emissions through 2030, 2040, 2050 and, as applicable, the impacts on waste streams through 2030 and 2040 and water use impact through 2030 and 2040. Additionally, the models will include a cost analysis showing the relationship between funding and program impact. This information will be used to identify the most impactful greenhouse gas reduction efforts, the required cost per effort to achieve meaningful impacts, and the projected impacts and costs over time. The results will also be used to establish interim goals for each effective initiative and program and to prioritize the implementation and funding of the efforts.

#### Results

Lotus is finalizing the requested impact models and will be reviewing them internally for quality control. Town of Mountain Village will receive the results in early to mid-April.

#### **Lotus Modeling: Impacts of TMV Programs and Initiatives**

#	Category	Program/Initiative	Modeling	Notes
1	Buildings	Commercial building energy audits and associated upgrades	Emissions impact through 2030, 2040, 2050	
2	Buildings	Residential building energy audits and associated upgrades	Emissions impact through 2030, 2040, 2050	
3	Buildings	Smart Building Program	Emissions impact through 2030, 2040, 2050.	
4	Water	Smart Irrigation Incentive Program	Water use impact/reduction through 2030, 2040	
5 Waste	Community Compost Bin	Emissions impact through 2030, 2040, 2050	Waste and emissions impacts of one community compost bin (4 tons). Assumes the bin would be emptied every other month for the first 6 months of 2022 and every month for the remainder of 2022 and beyond.	
	Community Compost Bin	Waste impact through 2030, 2040		
6	Waste	Single-Use Plastic Ban	Waste impacts through 2030, 2040	Waste stream impacts of implementing a local single-use plastics ban.
7	Energy	Farm-to-Community Program	Emissions impact modeled through 2030, 2040, 2050.	Emissions impact from food delivery due to reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
8	Energy	Solar Energy Incentive Program	Emissions impacts through 2030, 2040, 2050.	Emissions impact of homes using on-site renewable energy by solar arrays installed through the solar co-op.
9	Energy	Transition to electric vehicles for municipal light duty fleet		Emissions impact and cost of switching to EVs.
10	Energy	Incentivize local businesses to transition fleets to electric vehicles	Emissions and costs of incentives modeled to 2030, 2040, 2050.	Emissions impact and cost of switching to EVs.
11	Energy	Additional EV charging stations	Emissions modeled to 2030, 2040, 2050.	Emissions impact of increasing the proportion of EVs in town, VMT reductions
12	Energy	E-bike program within Mountain Village	Emissions modeled to 2030, 2040, 2050	Emissions impact of increasing the proportion of EVs in town, VMT reductions
13	Energy	Transition to 100% recycled paper in municipal operations	Emissions modeled through 2030, 2040, 2050	Currently the Town uses paper with 30% recycled post- consumer content



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TO: Green Team

FROM: Lauren Kirn, Environmental Efficiencies and Grant Coordinator

Zoe Dohnal, Director of Operations

DATE: February 23, 2022

RE: HB21-1162 Management of Plastic Products

#### **Summary**

The State of Colorado passed House Bill 21-1162 Management of Plastic Products in July 2021. Under this bill, qualifying stores and retail food establishments will be prohibited from distributing specific single-use plastic products including carryout bags, food containers, and Styrofoam. It goes into effect on January 1, 2024. Per the language in the bill, most stores and retail food establishments in Mountain Village are exempt from these requirements and restrictions. However, the bill also retracts a current law prohibiting local governments from requiring or banning the use or sale of specific plastics. Therefore, local governments, like the Town of Mountain Village, will be permitted to enact, implement, or enforce resolutions or ordinances to put additional plastic restrictions or bans in place on or after July 1, 2024. In consideration of this, Town staff are meeting with representatives of other mountain towns to discuss the impacts of the bill, current efforts, and potential future legislation and initiatives concerning single-use plastics. Staff will be developing a memo with a comparison of strategies and recommended actions for Town Council's review.

#### **HB21-1162**

House Bill 21-1162 was developed to reduce the State's reliance on and consumption of plastic. The bill focuses specifically on phasing out single-use plastic carryout bags and food-related polystyrene products. Stores and retail food establishments will be prohibited from distributing single-use plastic carryout bags and retail food establishments will be prohibited from distributing expanded polystyrene products (e.g., Styrofoam) for ready-to-eat food containers. A grace period is offered to businesses, so they may distribute stock purchased before January 1, 2024, until June 1, 2024. Recycled paper carryout bags are intended to replace single-use plastic carryout bags and may be provided at point of sale for a fee of 10-cents or higher. Beginning on April 1, 2024, 60% of the bag fee is required to be given to the local municipality on a quarterly basis. If qualifying businesses do not comply with any of the rules, the act authorizes local governments to impose a civil penalty against said business of up to \$500 for a second violation or up to \$1,000 for a third or subsequent violation. The bill includes exemptions for pharmacies, dry cleaners, farmers, roadside

markets, bulk items, and small stores. These entities will be allowed to continue to provide single-use plastic carry out bags. Additionally, plastics used to prevent contamination are permitted and include, but are not limited to, packaging and bags for meat, seafood, plants, and frozen foods. The definition of a small store is one that operates solely in Colorado and has 3 or fewer locations. Town staff are analyzing the number of small stores within Mountain Village to understand the full list of exempted stores.

#### **Single-Use Plastic Ban Timeline**

The timeline for plastic ban implementation is as follows:

- January 2023 January 2024: 10-cent fee or higher imposed on recycled paper and singleuse plastic carryout bags at stores
- January 2024: Single-use plastic bags banned at stores apart from unused inventory.
   Existing inventory may be supplied to customers at point of sale until June 1, 2024.

   Polystyrene containers (e.g., Styrofoam) banned at restaurants apart from unused inventory. Existing stock can be used until depleted. Ten-cent fee remains on recycled paper carryout bags and existing stock single-use plastic carryout bags.
- *July 2024*: Local governments are allowed to impose more stringent restrictions and bans on plastic.

#### **Plastic Film Recycling**

For those plastic items that are exempt from the bill's scope but are not recyclable in a standard recycling waste stream, Town staff have made available a recycling bin for plastic packaging and film. This bin is located outside of Town Hall.

#### **Looking Ahead: Implications and Considerations for Mountain Village**

The Town is working to understand the full scope of Mountain Village businesses affected by HB21-1162 and strategies for implementation and enforcement. Additionally, Town staff are evaluating further single-use plastic restrictions and bans to impose in July 2024, including those that expand the scope of qualifying businesses and types of plastics. The Town anticipates using the carryout bag fees to fund additional environmental initiatives.



**Town of Mountain Village** 455 Mountain Village Blvd. Mountain Village, CO 81435 (970)369-8236

TO: Green Team

FROM: Lauren Kirn, Environmental Efficiencies and Grant Coordinator

Zoe Dohnal, Director of Operations

DATE: February 23, 2022

RE: Village Court Apartments Pilot Composting Program

#### **Summary**

The Town of Mountain Village is proposing to implement a pilot composting program at Village Court Apartments (VCA) in partnership with <u>Dirty Sturdy's Mountain Compost</u>. Town staff distributed surveys in January 2022 requesting feedback on a potential composting program to VCA residents through in-person and electronic outreach. Of the survey's respondents, 78.1% were likely to or would absolutely participate in a composting program if made available for VCA residents. The goal of the program is to offer an opportunity to increase food waste diversion and mitigate associated greenhouse gas emissions for Mountain Village. Additionally, as a pilot program it provides the fundamental basis of awareness, engagement, and education within the community on which to expand.

#### **Composting Program**

In assessing the location for a pilot composting program, Village Court Apartments was the optimal choice. VCA houses 32% of Mountain Village's year-round population across 13 buildings. Given the high percentage of full-time residents, a program can be started and cultivated through continual learning and customization of the program to meet residents needs. This will be a more impactful environment to develop the program compared to a location with a high concentration of short-term visitors or seasonal residents as the act of composting and associated education will be more accessible and reinforced more often. This in turn will make the program more resilient as it potentially expands due to the development of a strong foundation.

The pilot composting program would be offered starting in Spring 2022 through Spring 2023. The Town will evaluate the success of the program through metrics collected by Dirty Sturdy's including the weight of collected compostable materials, the amount of contamination, and the number of participants. The structure of program is such that voluntary participants pay an administrative fee of \$35 and receive a 3.5-gallon material collection bucket. These buckets are labeled with acceptable and unacceptable materials. Larger 95-gallon collection carts will be placed strategically throughout VCA's property to allow for communal collection of food waste. Residents will empty

AGENDA ITEM #7

their 3.5-gallon at-home bucket when full into the 95-gallon cart. This larger cart will then be picked up by Dirty Sturdy's on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. The total cost of the pilot program for one year of service is \$22,503. A portion of these costs will be offset by the \$35 administrative fee paid by participants.

#### **Looking Ahead**

If this pilot composting program is successful, as determined by the forementioned metrics, the Town will consider expanding the program to include one or more additional residential areas, restaurants, and businesses, or a year-round compost bin available to the public. The State of Colorado is seeking to improve its solid waste diversion rate through increased recycling and composting. The Town will be seeking and applying for grant funding to support this program as well as other solid waste diversion projects within Mountain Village.