

2024

ASPEN SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



This annual report shares key highlights and successes of what the City of Aspen accomplished in climate and sustainability in the past year.

For more information on these wins, please visit aspen.gov/climate.

ENERGY & BUILDINGS

The City of Aspen's electric system uses **100% renewable energy** and maintained a 100% renewable electricity profile since 2015.



Partnered with the Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE), who provided **\$924,936 in grants and rebates** for 110 energy efficiency and electrification projects for community members. This included 57 new heat pump installations!

Benchmarked 36% of all the square footage of buildings in the city, including city-owned, commercial, and large multi-family buildings for the third year of our **Building IQ program**.

Developed a road map for net-zero new construction building and energy codes in partnership with communities across Pitkin, Eagle, and Garfield Counties. This aims to **align building and energy codes regionally** and reduce emissions.

The City of Aspen's **exterior energy budget** for single family residences was also adopted by Pitkin County, significantly reducing snowmelt and other exterior heating uses in the valley.

Provided **60 Garden-in-a-Boxes** to for community members to grow gardens with native, low-water plants.

Issued 309 permits under the **2021 IECC Building and Energy Codes**, with amendments to make building in Aspen more efficient, and to incentivize electrification.



Aspen Utilities offers a new **rate structure for all-electric single-family residences**, incentivizing properties' choice to transition to all-electric homes by offering wider electric tiers.

The Aspen Electric Department won a **microgrid planning grant** for a 2025 study that could lead to further community resilience with the electric system.



Incentivized electrification by offering **expedited permit review** for electric building projects.

Coordinated **23 free irrigation assessments** in a targeted irrigation audit and rebate program.

Required **sub-metering** (tracking how energy is used inside a building) for all new commercial buildings in Aspen.

TRANSPORTATION



Installed 3 electric vehicle (EV) chargers in 2024. This includes two ADA accessible Level 2 EV charging stations at Koch Park and a Level 2 EV charging station located outside the Yellow Brick building alongside Garmisch St.



EV **charging fees reflect the costs needed** to pay for electricity, ongoing maintenance, and eventual station replacement.

In 2024, **five new EVs** were added to the City fleet.



The Streets Department staff attended an **electric vehicle safety training** to better prepare to service current and future EVs.

Supported community **EV charging events** alongside our partners, Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE) and Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER).



Continuing to support **EV charging at multifamily buildings**, which includes work with APCA and involvement in a regional EV cohort focused on increasing support for charging at multifamily residences.

WASTE



A new **Construction and Demolition Debris** Diversion ordinance passed by Council made it illegal for major development projects to throw away their building materials as landfill trash.



Collected over 650 paint cans, 136 lightbulbs, and 70 printer ink cartridges at the first **non-hazardous waste** recycling day.

The City of Aspen **diverted waste from special events** including the annual community picnic, which diverted 92% of it's used materials from the landfill from recycling and composting.

Collected over 1,700 pounds of **plastic bags and film** at City Hall for recycling into new products.



Collected 19,760 pounds of electronics for recycling at the annual **e-waste** recycling day.

As a result of the **organic waste diversion** ordinance, the City increased it's composting rate by 70%.



Recycled 210 cubic tons of Christmas trees at our annual drop-off.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Aspen won the 2024 Mountain Towns "Community of the Year" award for is its vision of electrification that takes full advantage of Aspen Electric's 100% renewable grid, and Holy Cross Energy's projected 100% renewable grid in 2030. Impactful projects include developing a public EV charging infrastructure, building all electric affordable housing, constructing innovative all electric public buildings, championing small town building performance standards, and pursuing progressive and creative energy transition building codes.
- Launched the Commit to Tomorrow campaign to increase awareness around the city's programs and progress on climate and to empower the community with ways to take action and engage.