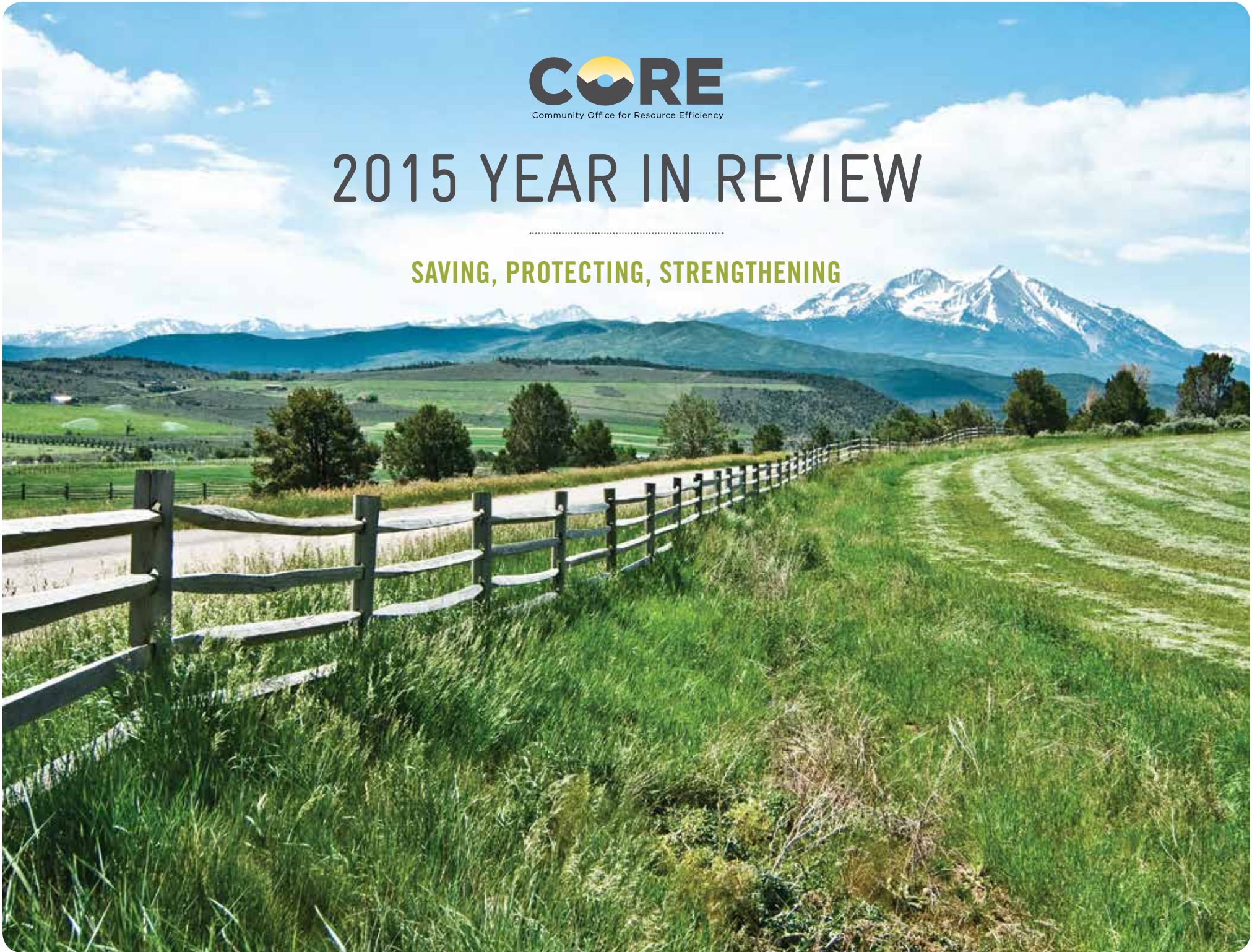




2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

.....

SAVING, PROTECTING, STRENGTHENING





CORE works cooperatively with **BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS, UTILITIES** and **GOVERNMENT ENTITIES** to create measurable improvements in **ENERGY** and **WATER EFFICIENCY** in order to benefit the **ENVIRONMENT** and **DEVELOP A MORE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY.**



Mona Newton helps install a free solar array for an income-qualified resident.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR:

2015 was a year full of growth and reduction. We saw tremendous growth in program participation and helped launch new initiatives, which reduced carbon emissions. These efforts helped **SAVE** energy, **PROTECT** the climate, and **STRENGTHEN** the local economy.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR INCLUDE:

- Distributed \$1.2 million in funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Facilitated 310 Home Energy Assessments, equivalent to assessments 26 out of 31 days of every month.
- 33% increase in rebates for home energy efficiency upgrades.
- 42% increase in rebates for renewable energy projects.
- 16% increase in rebates for commercial energy efficiency upgrades.
- Collaborated with the City of Aspen, Holy Cross Energy and Black Hills Energy—formerly SourceGas—to develop and implement the “Aspen Energy Challenge,” a program designed to help Aspen win the \$5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize.
- Partnered with CLEER and generous donors to open the new Energy Resource Center in Carbondale.

Some might expect that participation in these programs would eventually plateau. Even after 21 years in operation, participation in CORE’s programs is increasing!

Every project that CORE supports reduces the demand for fossil fuels, thereby reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Even though the projects are completed in the Roaring Fork Valley of Colorado, the work we do locally benefits our community, our planet, and the rest of the world.

Thank you to all our partners, sponsors, donors and supporters,

Mona K Newton

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CORE INVESTED \$1.2 MILLION IN PROJECTS, WHICH RESULTED IN:

SAVING ENERGY

Reduced 3,900 MWh of electricity & 312,000 therms of gas*



Solar array on a home in Glenwood Springs that received rebates from CORE.

PROTECTING THE CLIMATE

Avoided nearly 8.3 million pounds of CO₂ emissions, equivalent to:



Avoiding 24 barrels of oil worth of CO₂ each day, or



Taking 342 homes off the grid each year, or



The carbon sequestered from 3,000 acres of forest, each year.



STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY

Spurred \$24 million in total project cost for energy conservation projects



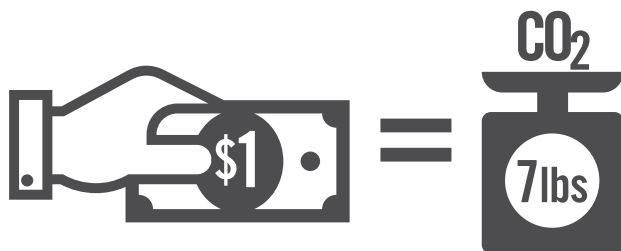
Saving residents \$881,000 dollars on their utility bills annually



Stimulating \$53.5 million in the local economy**



Contractors during a crawl space conversion.



For every dollar CORE invested, 7 pounds of carbon dioxide were avoided.

*Projects that receive rebates from CORE may also receive rebates from the utility provider. Savings data may therefore also be reported by the utility provider.

**Clean energy projects stimulate the local economy by a factor of 2.23 times the project cost due to increased support for local businesses, workforce development, and utility savings.

WASTE DIVERSION

CORE partnered with the City of Aspen to host the 5th annual Waste Free Roaring Fork Cup Challenge, to encourage customers to reduce waste by bringing their own mug.



- 11 coffee shops
- 5 days
- 2,000 coffees served in reusable mugs
- 500 pounds of CO₂ emissions avoided
- Over half the coffee shops served 50% of drinks in reusable mugs



Liz O'Connell and Stacy Keating from the City of Aspen participating in the Cup Challenge.

In 2014, 60% of the shops served only 25% of drinks in reusable mugs.

If the Cup Challenge continued throughout the year, we could:



REDUCE over 35,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions

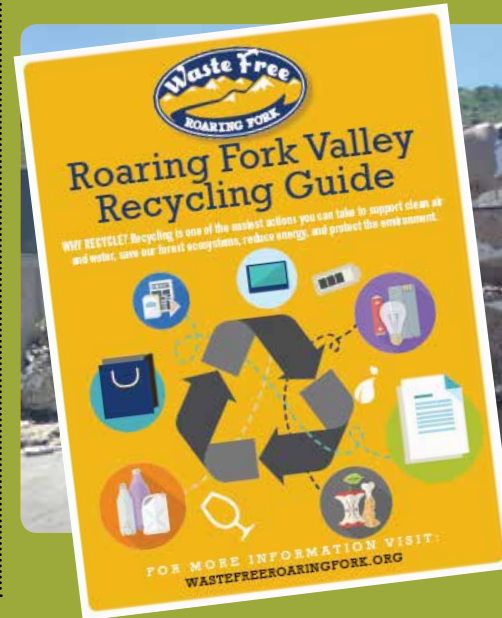


SAVE over 50 trees



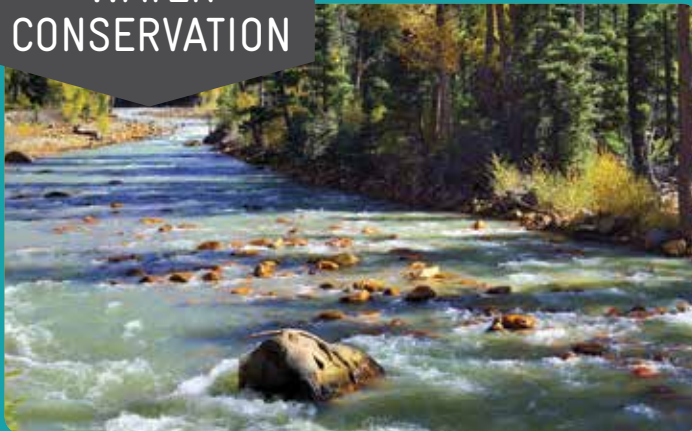
AVOID generating one ton of waste

CORE collaborated with The Town of Carbondale to produce the “Roaring Fork Valley Recycling Guide,” translated into Spanish and distributed at locations throughout the valley.



Pitkin County Landfill

WATER CONSERVATION



POLICIES

Assisted with the completion of the “Water Conservation Plan for the Roaring Fork Valley.” In 2016, CORE will help towns begin implementing this plan.

WATER SAVING MEASURES



60 faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads were installed during Home Energy Assessments.



CASE STUDY: Yang Family

The Yang Family received a free Home Energy Assessment as part of an Aspen Energy Challenge promotion. Using an infrared camera, the Energy Analyst detected cold air seeping into the house in numerous places. They identified top priorities including air sealing, LED lighting and pipe wrap for the water heater.

CORE WORKS WITH INDIVIDUALS

CORE and partnering utility companies subsidize the cost of the Home Energy Assessment, so this \$400 value is available for only \$100. We facilitate the scheduling of assessments and CORE Energy Advisors follow up with participants to review report recommendations.

HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENTS



310 home energy assessments
were completed
[equivalent to 26 each month]



278 quick-fixes were
installed

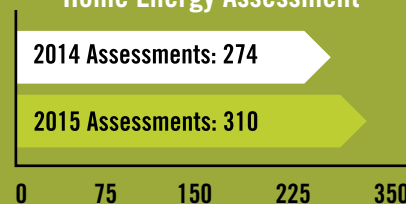


63 safety threats were
identified [such as carbon
monoxide leaks]



Charles Cady, a Home Energy Analyst, shows a homeowner infrared images of her home, demonstrating leaks.

In 2015, 13% more homes received a Home Energy Assessment



RESIDENTIAL REBATES

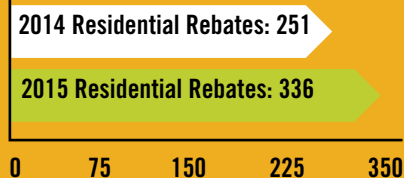
- \$327,400 provided in residential rebates
- 336 rebates were issued to 190 homes
- 71 were for renewable energy systems



This resident received \$240 in rebates from CORE and \$180 in rebates from Holy Cross Energy for an LED upgrade of her home. The upgrade is estimated to save her close to \$300 each year.

PROGRAM GROWTH

In 2015, CORE distributed 33% more residential rebates.



In 2015, CORE continued to offer "Reach," which provides \$2,500 worth of free home energy upgrades to income-qualified residents of Pitkin County.



CORE WORKS WITH BUSINESSES

IN 2015 CORE PROVIDED:

- \$132,800 in rebates to
- 84 businesses
- 5 received rebates for solar energy systems
- 16% increase in participation



Isberian Rug Company upgraded to LED lights in their store and received rebates from CORE.

CASE STUDY:

Durant Parking Garage Lighting Upgrade

The parking garage management company turned to CORE to help them upgrade the lighting in the garage.

Total Project Cost: \$5,138

CORE Rebates: \$1,284

City of Aspen Electric Rebates: \$1,284

REMAINING COST AFTER REBATES: \$2,570

Annual electric savings: 92,330 kWh

ANNUAL UTILITY BILL SAVINGS: \$9,233

RETURN ON INVESTMENT: 300%

Due to the electricity savings, the project will pay for itself after 3 months!



Durant parking garage.

CORE WORKS WITH COMMUNITIES

CORE is comprised of 7 member organizations. In 2015, CORE members achieved the following:

CITY OF ASPEN



Energy:

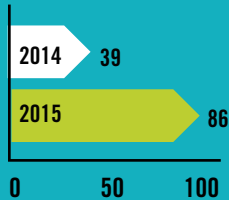
Aspen is one of 50 communities competing for the Georgetown University Energy Prize, a \$5 million prize for the community that reduces the most gas and electricity in the residential and municipal sectors.

CORE worked with The City of Aspen Utilities, Holy Cross Energy and SourceGas to create the “Aspen Energy Challenge.” As of the end of 2015, Aspen was in 3rd place.

In 2015, Aspen became the 3rd city in the US to have 100% of their power from their municipal utility sourced from renewable energy sources.

Community:

In 2015, more than twice as many Aspen residents received a Home Energy Assessment.



PITKIN COUNTY

Policy: Working to adopt the 2015 IECC, which will increase energy efficiency in new buildings by 15%.

Waste: Worked with the City of Aspen to expand the food waste diversion program (SCRAPS) by providing workplaces, restaurants, institutions and HOAs with bear-proof outdoor collection containers. Redstone, Colorado will soon be the first rural community with a compost collection location.

Water: Championed the state’s greywater regulations to allow for the reuse of greywater in unincorporated Pitkin County.

TOWN OF SNOWMASS

Energy: Due to a generous donor, 38 residents received free Home Energy Assessments.

Policy: Town staff and the Environmental Advisory Board updated the 2009 Sustainability Plan and established a baseline for town operations for future energy savings opportunities.

Waste: CORE supported the Town of Snowmass Village Environmental Advisory Board in increasing waste reduction and recycling efforts in Snowmass.

BASALT

Policy: CORE partnered with the Basalt Green Team and helped the Town adopt the Commercial Sustainable Building Code.

CARBONDALE

Energy: CORE and CLEER partnered on projects for the Town of Carbondale, including examining progress on emission reduction goals, and exploring funding options to support those goals as part of an effort called “Clean Energy 2020.”



The Town funded free Home Energy Assessments for 18 new homebuyers, free energy improvements for 18 income-qualified households, and the Town purchased solar energy from the Sunnyside Solar Array in Carbondale to offset emissions.

Community: CORE and CLEER opened the “Energy Resource Center” in the 3rd St. Center to better serve the community.

Waste: CORE worked with E-Board members to host community meetings on waste reduction, and explored policies pertaining to composting and recycling.

GLENWOOD SPRINGS

Energy: Glenwood Springs Electric continued to support energy conservation for its residents and businesses. They contracted with CLEER who provided outreach and technical assistance to the City’s commercial and residential customers. This work generated more than \$691,800 in local economic activity, increased solar PV capacity by 150kW and is saving close to 1.4 million kWh per year.

The municipal utility continued to help subsidize the cost of the Home Energy Assessment, administered by Energy Smart Colorado at CORE.

HOLY CROSS ENERGY

Energy: Across Holy Cross Energy’s service territory, the member-owned co-op provided 939 rebates for over 2,000 efficiency measures and achieved an annual deemed savings of 8,152 MWh –exceeding their annual goal of 6,600 MWh.

Community: Holy Cross partnered with Clean Energy Collective on the 1.81 MW Sunnyside Ranch Solar Array in Carbondale. Holy Cross owns the electricity, purchased by the Town of Carbondale, Town of Eagle and RFTA. Over its lifespan, the array will produce about 150 million kWhs of local, clean energy.



Sunnyside Solar Array. Photo courtesy of Sensesolar.

2015 CORE GRANTS

CORE AWARDED \$618,800 FOR ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS THAT ARE PROJECTED TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING:



DOLLAR SAVINGS
\$550,000 annually



ENERGY SAVINGS
972 MWh of electricity
and 39,000 therms
annually



CARBON SAVINGS
2 million pounds
of carbon dioxide
emissions annually

THE RANDY UDALL ENERGY (TRUE) PIONEER GRANT

CORE's largest grant program, named in honor of Randy Udall, CORE's first Executive Director and one of the nation's leading activists in promoting clean energy.



Rocky Mountain Institute. Photo: Tim Griffith, courtesy of ZGF Architects

\$545,000 WAS AWARDED TO THE FOLLOWING RECIPIENTS:

Anderson Ranch: \$20,000 for an LED lighting retrofit and a 95% efficient boiler.

Aspen Skiing Company: \$10,000 for a variable speed kitchen hood control system at the Sundeck on Aspen Mountain. The project is estimated to reduce energy load 50%, and will serve as a model for other large scale kitchen operations.

City of Aspen Recreation Department: \$75,000 for a LED lighting retrofit at the Lewis Ice Arena, Aspen Ice Garden and Red Brick Gym.

Colorado Mountain College (CMC): \$75,000 for LED lighting, a 95% efficient boiler and roof insulation.

Habitat for Humanity Roaring Fork: \$75,000 for LED lighting, mechanical and insulation upgrades and a 50kW solar PV system at their new ReStore.

The Inn at Aspen HOA: \$20,000 for LED light fixtures and lamps.

Rocky Mountain Institute: \$25,000 for LED lights and state-of-the-art mechanical system components in the new RMI Innovation Center in Basalt.

Ross Montessori School: \$75,000 for LED lighting and 20kW of solar PV in their new school in Carbondale.

Sustainable Settings: \$75,000 for a 25kW solar PV system, a 60-tube solar thermal system, and an anaerobic methane digester.

The Town of Snowmass Village: \$75,000 for insulation, air sealing and controls at the Creekside Apartments, which include 45 units of affordable, employee housing across five buildings.

DESIGN ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Created to aid commercial and institutional development projects in implementing integrated efficient design principles. These funds support the promotion of new technology and innovation during the design phase of new building construction, or significant remodels.

2015 DESIGN ASSISTANCE GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Pitkin County and the City of Aspen:

Each entity received \$12,000 to study the feasibility of installing solar PV in order to offset a portion of their energy use.



Solar panels at the City of Aspen water treatment facility.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Intended to support a broad spectrum of environmental and energy projects with tangible results for the Roaring Fork Valley.

2015 COMMUNITY GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Biospaces: \$10,000 to work with the Town of Basalt, Pitkin County and the City of Aspen to encourage the adoption of new green building codes for commercial projects, and assist with implementation.

WE-cycle: \$10,000 for solar power components to power three bike share stations in Aspen.

The Town of Carbondale: \$1,028 to upgrade thermostats in Town buildings.

Energy Smart Colorado: \$5,000 to support the local workforce in acquiring or maintaining building science credentials.

Roaring Fork High School: \$1,850 for “kill-a-watt” surge protectors for classrooms and offices to reduce phantom loads in the building.

The Rocky Mt. Utility Exchange: \$2,000 for their annual conference, which brings together utility company representatives to discuss best practices.

American Renewable Energy Institute: \$2,000 for their annual conference, American Renewable Energy Day (AREDAY).



We-cycle stations.

CORE IN THE COMMUNITY

CORE hosted or participated in 42 events, engaging community members on average every 8 days. These events are made possible due to the collaboration and sponsorship of many invaluable partners.



Lucy Kessler tabling at the Aspen Farmer's Market.

EVENTS THAT SUPPORTED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

- Presentation on net-zero design practices for low-income homes
- Energy Smart Contractor Expo
- Realtor trainings
- Property manager trainings
- Energy code trainings

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- Energy efficiency expo for income-qualified residents
- Solar information session
- Earth Day celebration
- AREDAY cocktail party
- Green Drinks event
- Grants reception
- Open-house on clean energy

STATEWIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

Energy Smart Colorado was developed in 2010 by CORE, Eagle County, and the Office for Resource Efficiency in Gunnison, with a grant from the US Department of Energy, and was available in just three counties: Pitkin, Eagle and Gunnison. Today, there are Energy Resource Centers in seven counties and partnerships with eight utility companies.



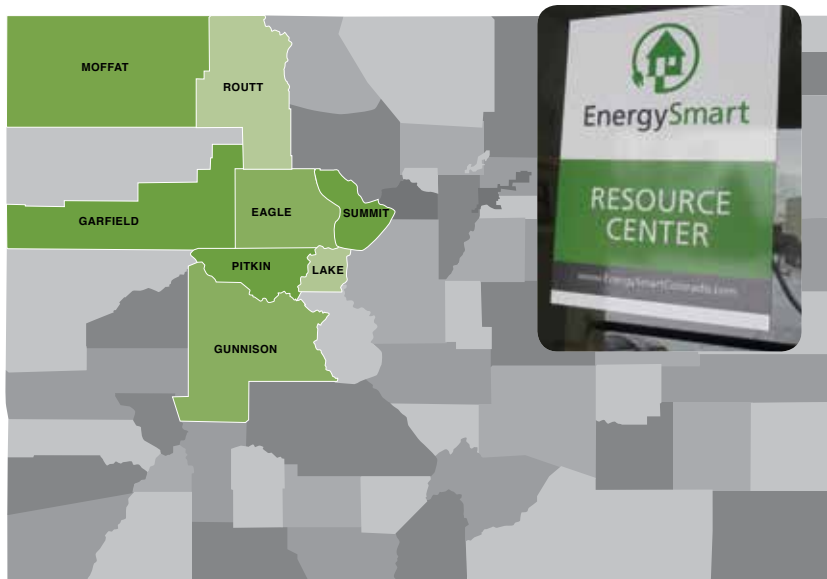
EnergySmart
COLORADO

The Energy Smart Home Energy Assessment is available statewide, offered at a discounted rate in 48 counties! CORE continues to help Energy Smart Colorado identify new partners and opportunities.

2015 PROGRAM SUCCESS (INCLUDING CORE'S RESULTS)

- Facilitated 745 Home Energy Assessments (24% more than 2014)
- Provided 458 rebates for energy upgrades (81% more than 2014)
- This work saved residents \$489,000 in annual energy savings (a five-fold increase as compared to 2014).
- Collective energy savings was equivalent to taking 1,000 cars off the road, or 450 homes off the grid.

Energy Smart worked with the Partners in Energy Savings (PIES) to facilitate Home Energy Assessment for their customers and assisted Black Hills Energy, formerly SourceGas, achieve their PUC goal for assessments for 2015.

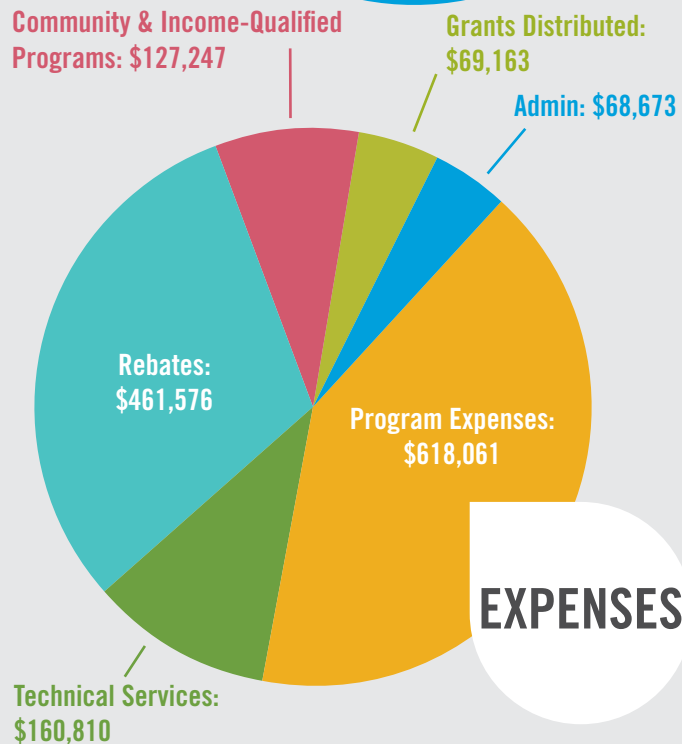
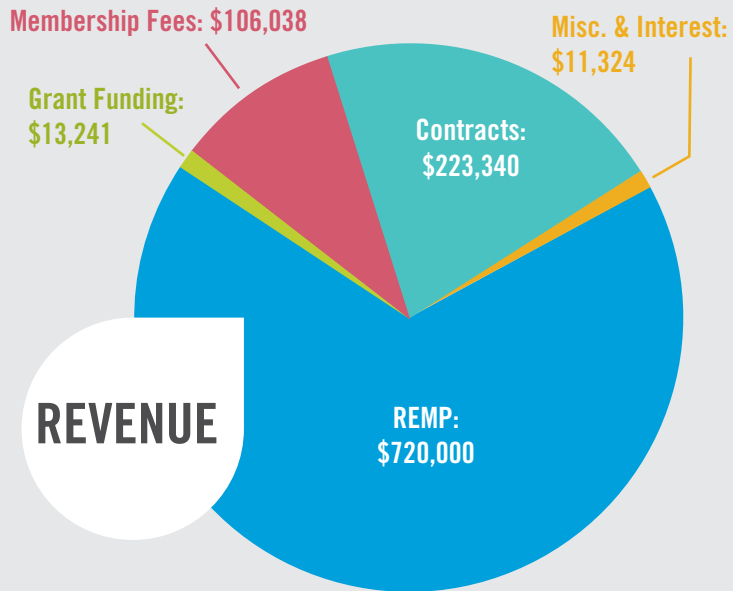


Staff of the the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, who joined as the 7th Energy Smart partner.

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- CORE is partnering with the City of Aspen to help them compete for the Georgetown University Energy Prize, a national energy competition. At the conclusion of the competition, the strategies and tactics from Aspen will be shared with participating communities nationwide.
- CORE staff spoke at conferences in Utah and Wyoming to share information about CORE's programs and unique funding mechanism.
- CORE's Executive Director, Mona Newton met with elected officials to discuss climate change and options for pricing carbon, as a member of Citizens Climate Lobby.

FINANCIALS



WHAT'S NEXT IN 2016?

HELPING ASPEN COMPETE FOR THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY ENERGY PRIZE.

INCORPORATING THE "HOME ENERGY SCORE" IN THE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT TO PROVIDE AN EASY MEASUREMENT FOR HOMES.

WORKING WITH THE TOWN OF CARBONDALE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CLEER, TO HELP THEM WORK TOWARDS THEIR EMISSION REDUCTION GOALS.

CONTINUING TO WORK WITH COMMUNITIES TO FURTHER BUILDING CODES AND ADVANCE THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE (IECC).

A NEW GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS BUILDING HOMES THAT ARE HIGHLY EFFICIENT AND THAT PRODUCE AS MUCH ENERGY AS THEY CONSUME.

EXPANDING "REACH" TO SERVE 40 OWNERS AND RENTERS IN PITKIN AND EAGLE COUNTY, THANKS TO A GRANT FROM ENERGY OUTREACH COLORADO'S "CARE" PROGRAM.





CORE's programs, grants and rebates continue to expand, providing residents, commercial businesses and organizations opportunities to reduce their energy consumption, lower their energy bills and in their own way help address climate change through reducing their carbon footprint. We can all make a difference and CORE is here to help. — GEORGE NEWMAN

2015 CORE BOARD MEMBERS

- GEORGE NEWMAN:** Board Chair. County Commissioner, Pitkin County
- PAM ZENTMYER:** Vice President. Trustee, Town of Carbondale
- STEVE CASEY:** Treasurer. Holy Cross Energy, Director of Member Services
- ADAM FRISCH:** Board Member. Council Member, City of Aspen
- TOM GOODE:** Board Member. Trustee, Town of Snowmass Village
- DAVID HORNBACHER:** Board Member. Director, City of Aspen Public Works
- CINDY HOUBEN:** Board Member. Director, Community Development for Pitkin County
- ROBERT LEAVITT:** Board Member. Council Member, Town of Basalt
- BILL STIRLING:** Board Member. Founder of the Energy 2000 Committee

For information about CORE or to speak to an Energy Advisor, call 970.925.9775 or email info@aspencore.org.

CORE OFFICES:

Aspen:
 111 Aspen Airport Business Center
 Suite M
 Aspen, Colorado 81611

Carbondale:
 Third Street Center
 Suite 7
 Carbondale, Colorado 81623

ASPENCORE.ORG

CORE STAFF

- BRAD DAVIS:** Energy Programs Specialist
- CHARLIE ECKART:** Building Science Coordinator
- SARAH GRUEN:** Energy Programs Specialist
- KATE HENION:** Energy Programs Assistant
- LUCY KESSLER:** Communications Manager
- MONA NEWTON:** Executive Director
- MARTY TREADWAY:** Grants Manager & Energy Smart Program Manager



The CORE Team