

To the Colorado Energy Office's grant review team,

The Town of New Castle strongly supports the application of Garfield Clean Energy Collaborative (GCE) to receive policy and project funding from the Colorado Energy Office's IMPACT Accelerator grant program. As a member of GCE, the Town will be a partner in ensuring the grant benefits the residents of the Town and County.

Garfield Clean Energy is a government collaborative formalized through an intergovernmental agreement, founded in 2012. Membership consists of every municipality in Garfield County, Garfield County government, Colorado Mountain College, and the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority. Garfield County Libraries and Holy Cross Energy are affiliate members.

If awarded, this project funding will provide valuable resources directly to residents who need it most to help save money on their energy bills and make their homes and businesses safer and more comfortable. It will also help grow and diversify our economy. The region's high cost of living means that many residents who do not qualify for other state and federal assistance programs still cannot afford energy efficiency measures.

Grant funds will help GCE member governments advance the design and planning of solar and storage projects, beneficial electrification, thermal energy networks, ground-source heat pumps, and other decarbonization strategies. The funding will support organized procurement and the engagement of building efficiency and design consultant teams. It will allow significant extension of the ReEnergize Garfield County grant program which GCE has already begun, bringing much needed aid to New Castle residents.

Garfield County communities, including the Town of New Castle which is covered entirely by Xcel Energy as their electric utility, do not have the same access to funding as other entities in our region to help the community make clean energy improvements. This project provides a significant opportunity to address this gap. Development of policies to provide sustained local funding mechanisms will also create needed resources for clean energy programs into the future.

We support the collaboration between GCE members to leverage the IMPACT Accelerator grant's funding in providing significant benefits to community members.

Approved by New Castle Town Council on February 3, 2026.

Sincerely,

Art Riddile, Mayor