

**Climate and Environment Commission
New Castle, Colorado
Strategic Plan 2026 – 2028**

Mission

Preparation: Please review the three options and consider which words, concepts, and whole statements resonate for you. You may also develop your own option to be presented for the discussion at the work session.

The mission statement will define our fundamental reason for existence. The statement will guide strategic decision-making and help us stay on track with our core purpose. It also communicates our role to the town, the public, and partner organizations.

The mission of the New Castle Climate and Environment Commission is:

Option A:

To promote actions that care for and protect our natural heritage for current and future generations.

Option B:

To protect and preserve the local environment and natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Option C:

To advance sustainable practices for a healthy and vibrant environment for all, well into the future.

CEC 2026 - 2028 Goals

Preparation: Please review these draft goals and objectives. Identify the key objectives, wording, phrasing that resonates the most for you. Be prepared to talk about these goals and objectives.

Bring any additional ideas for goals and objectives, any modifications, etc.

The CEC three-year goals will outline our organization's primary focus and results. The goals and objectives will provide a roadmap for achieving our mission and guiding our priorities and activities for three years and possibly longer.

GOAL 1: Engage the community in environmental stewardship

GOAL 2: Advise and inform local entities

GOAL 3: Collaborate for broader impact

GOAL 4: Develop New Castle's Environmental Leadership

GOALS with POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: Engage the community in environmental stewardship

POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES

- Raise public awareness by educating residents and businesses about environmental issues, sustainable practices, and opportunities for involvement.
- Promote environmental stewardship among residents, businesses, and organizations through events, promotional campaigns, social media, and other initiatives:
- Encourage responsible management and care for the local environment and its resources, such as water, air, land, and biodiversity via grants, recognition, and other methods.

GOAL 2: Advise and inform local entities

POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES

- Provide expert advice, research, and recommendations to the Town Council, municipal officials, and other civic leaders to inform environmental issues, policies, green systems, and other programs.

- Develop and implement environmental initiatives that address specific environmental challenges, such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, non-plastic solutions, water conservation, wildfire mitigation, native landscaping, and other initiatives.
- Promoting environmentally responsible development and maintenance practices that minimize negative impacts on the local environment, natural resources, and wildlife.

GOAL 3: Collaborate for broader impact

POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES

- Work with individuals, community groups, businesses, and other organizations to achieve shared environmental goals.
- Convene and attend relevant events to increase sustainable environmental practices locally and regionally.

GOAL 4: Develop New Castle's Environmental Leadership

POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES

- Build the Climate and Environment Commissioner's knowledge and capacity for effectiveness in achieving other goals.
- Attend relevant events to gain knowledge, share expertise, and build partnerships.

Let's also consider a brief statement summarizing our commission.

The CEC acts as New Castle's local advocate for the environment, works to integrate environmental considerations into New Castle decision-making, engages the community toward environmental stewardship, and develops environmental civic leadership. Keeping New Castle Authentically Colorado.

Commission Activities

Preparation: Please review the list of activities. Identify any changes, additions, etc. you have. Be prepared to talk about the activities and any new ideas you have for the next three years.

If the Mission is our “why” and the goals and objectives are our “what” -- think of the commission activities as our “how” we achieve our plan. Consider what we have done that we can continue as well as new things we can do in the next 3 years to create the change we want.

- Develop an annual calendar plan with educational and outreach activities.
- Host an annual environmental film and panel of experts.
- Focus the community on sustainable use of natural resources (water, air, native plants, wildlife, etc.) through a “Guardians of Nature” campaign, sustainable business recognition, and other public awareness initiatives.
- Use bag fee funding to support initiatives to reduce plastic use, encourage reuse, recycling, composting, upcycling, and other waste reduction strategies.
- Provide town council with recommendations when relevant.
- Support town departments with their sustainability efforts.
- Host annual Earth Day events with partners participation.
- Engage with town and civic events, such as Chamber events, Burning Mountain Parade, Chili Cook-Off clean up, etc.
- Conduct town, trail, and stream bank cleanups and partner with others on these events.
- Manage funding for environmental initiatives.
- Gain public input on commission initiatives
- Collaborate with other municipal and/or regional environmental commissions.
- Maintain public transparency with meetings, regular online updates (town newsletter, website, social media), reports, and well-promoted activities.
- Stay current with environmental issues through speakers at meetings, attendance at conferences, and other educational development.

2026 Calendar of Events & Projects

Preparation: Please review the events and prepare to discuss specific dates. Have your calendar ready so we can identify dates. Is this plan for the year realistic and doable? What may be too much? What may be missing? Which project interests you enough for you to take a lead/co-lead role in coordinating?

- Monthly meetings on 3rd Thursday at 4:00 pm
- Ongoing updates to website & social media with events & news
- Host a joint meeting of climate and environmental groups from the region to share ideas, coordinate, and collaborate for regional impact.

January

Submit 2025 CEC Annual Report to Town Council
Elect Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary)
2nd Round Business Grants Launched
Promote grants at Chamber event, flyers to businesses

February

2nd Annual Film – Water Conservation Theme? – Date TBA (partner with library)
Prepare for Earth Day event

March

March 19 Meeting - Select Business Grants
March 19 Meeting - Identify Nature & Environment Champion - Business of the

Year

April

Attend Natural Resource Conference (regional, per Dave Reynolds)
April 25 - New Castle Earth Day in Burning Mountain Park – CEC Hosts; ceremony to award Business Nature & Environment Champion for 2025; swag, etc.

May

Trail project – remove invasive plants, seeding native plants with partners

June

Chamber event in the park – Promote Waterwise, Firewise

July – August

PR campaign for Guardians of Nature?

September

Parade (Theme, logistics, give aways TBD)
Half day planning for 2027, submit budget request for 2027 town budget

October

Oct 9 or 10? Clean Up New Castle – Trash & Recycling Pick Up (joint with town)

November & December

Spend down any extra 2026 funds, prepare 2026 report for town council
Edits and updates to the web presence