



COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 03, 2026

ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER: Consideration of Letter of Support for ProgramEarth Climate Smart Community Initiative Grant Application

Presented by Talia Hansen, Economic Development Director

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of a letter of support for ProgramEarth's application to the Climate Smart Community Initiative (CSCI) Funding Program for a 12-month pilot project evaluating biochar applications in the Lower San Juan Basin.

SUMMARY

ProgramEarth, in partnership with Utah State University (USU) Extension, is applying for funding to conduct a 12-month pilot project evaluating biochar applications for soil health, water retention, and agricultural resilience in the Lower San Juan Basin.

The project would gather localized data through controlled testing and monitoring. The County's letter of support does not include financial commitment or regulatory approval.

HISTORY/PAST ACTION

San Juan County, in coordination with USU Extension, has been exploring biochar and biomass-related applications as part of broader efforts related to land stewardship, forest and woody biomass utilization, and agricultural resilience.

These discussions have included coordination with AirBuild and consideration of potential funding opportunities to further evaluate feasibility in our region.

This proposed pilot project represents a continuation of that line of research and exploration, and aligns with ongoing grazing education and land management efforts supported through USU Extension.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to San Juan County associated with approval of this letter of support.