



HIGH COUNTRY  
CONSERVATION CENTER

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



## From Our Director



I'm excited to share our recent accomplishments with you in HC3's 2022 Annual Report. These achievements were made possible thanks to you and our community partners.

As a longtime Summit County resident, I've seen the local impacts of climate change firsthand - hotter summers, more variable snowpack and earlier spring runoff, resulting in less water in our rivers. And as a mom of two school-age kids, I feel compelled to preserve this amazing place for future generations. Fortunately, I'm not alone. HC3 and our entire community are doubling down on climate action efforts. We also have a unique opportunity to share our environmental ethos with the thousands of visitors that come to enjoy our beautiful landscapes.

In 2022, we began creating a climate equity plan that will be finalized in 2023. We've engaged diverse stakeholders, with a focus on our underserved neighbors, to ensure that all residents have a say in creating climate change solutions. We also advocated for pay-as-you-throw recycling policies. These programs will increase recycling access for all residents and visitors. Finally, we created a new Water Smart program to tackle wasteful irrigation systems.

Thank you for supporting our work to build a more sustainable Summit County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Schenk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "J" being particularly prominent.

Executive Director, HC3

## 2022 Board of Directors

### **Jed Callen, Chair**

Retired Attorney

### **Angela Fisher, Vice Chair**

Aspire Consulting, Principal

### **David Axelrod, Treasurer**

Highside Brewing, Owner

### **Carol Saade, Secretary**

Summit Information Services  
Breckenridge Town Council

### **Matt Wright**

Deeper Green Consulting, Principal

### **Mike Nathan**

Arapahoe Basin Ski Area,  
Sustainability Manager

### **Virginia Hammock**

Minimal Impact, Owner

### **Melissa Sherburne**

Western Land Group, VP

### **Bruce Fitch**

Retired Non-Profit Director

### **Elisabeth Lawrence**

Summit County Commissioner

### **Keaton Morrison**

Alpine Bank, Banking Officer

### **Chris Carran**

Local Liquors, Owner  
Silverthorne Town Council

### **Dan McCreery**

Retired Builder

# Climate Action



*"It just feels better knowing we're doing the right thing."*

—JACK & NICOLE GERVAIS

## Leading Our Community in Action

From dwindling water supplies, increased risk of wildfires, and longer shoulder seasons, climate change is a global problem with local impacts. Our community goal is to reduce emissions 80% by 2050 – and to inspire you to get in on the action.

### Solarize Summit

Solarize Summit empowers residents to take action on climate change by making it easy and more affordable to generate clean, renewable electricity at home. Over 40 systems were installed in 2022, bringing our 4-year total to 204 households.



**44 PARTICIPANTS**



**362 KILOWATS  
SOLAR INSTALLED**

## Improving Climate Equity

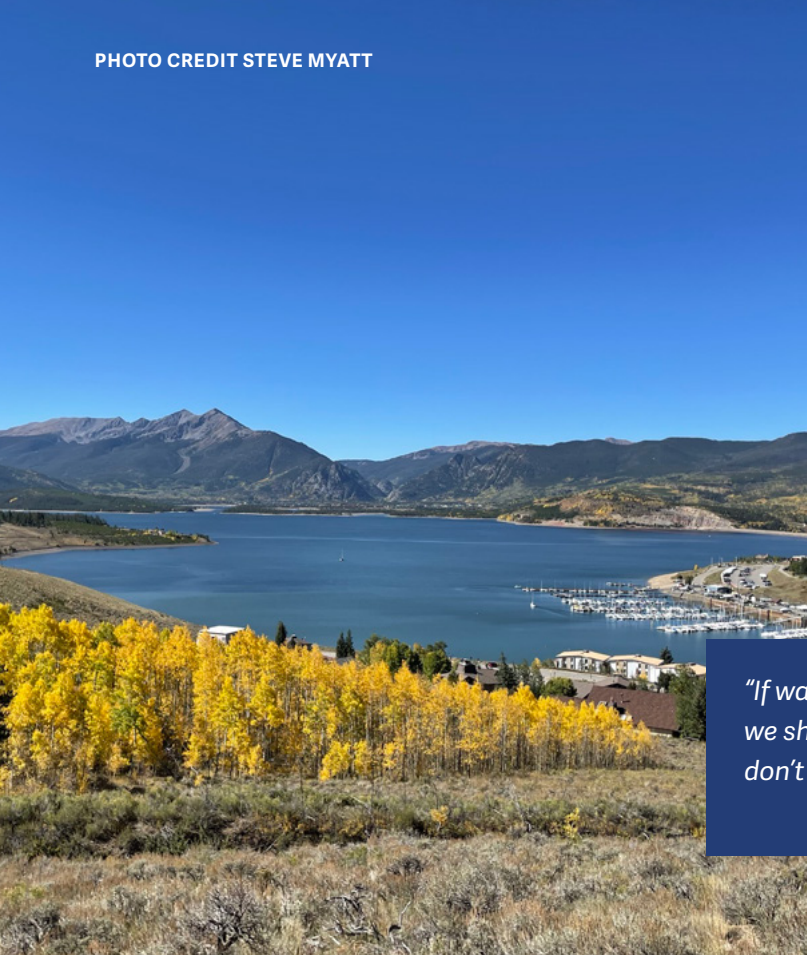
In 2022, HC3 was awarded an Environmental Justice grant from the US EPA to begin working on a Climate Equity Plan for our community. Strategies in this plan will help us reach all of Summit County's residents with programs that improve quality of life while also decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.

*"People who are already vulnerable, including lower-income and other marginalized communities, have lower capacity to prepare for and cope with extreme weather and climate-related events and are expected to experience greater impacts."*

– U.S. FOURTH NATIONAL  
CLIMATE ASSESSMENT



PHOTO CREDIT STEVE MYATT



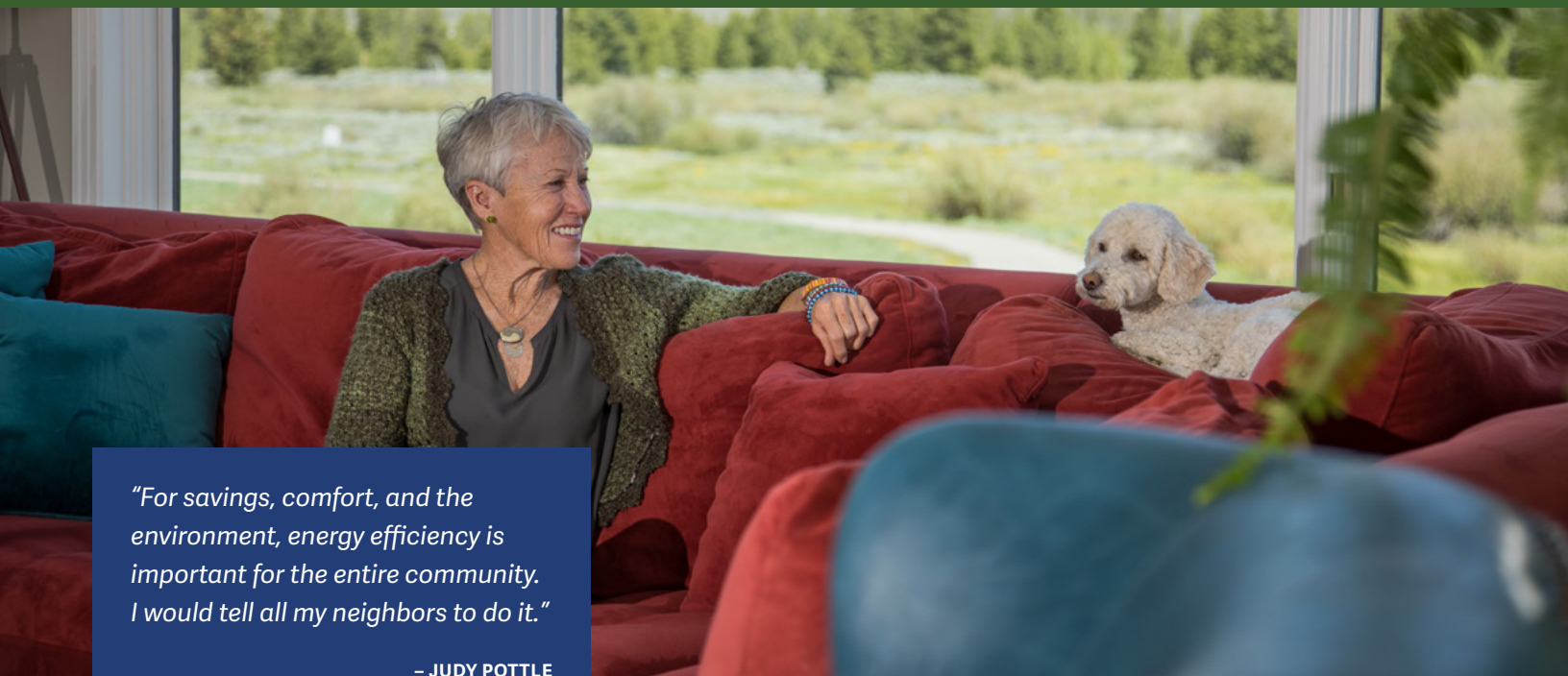
## Telling our Stories

It's said that a picture speaks a thousand words, so we asked local Colorado Mountain College (CMC) students to share their climate change stories through images. HC3 partnered with CMC's Creative Sustainability Class and Boulder-based photographer, Jason Houston, to coach the students through a project that challenged them to take photos showing the impact climate change has in their lives.

*"If water sustains us and is technically all we need to survive, then we should at least pay it just a little bit more respect and gratitude, don't you think?"*

– STEVE MYATT, CMC STUDENT

# Energy Conservation



*"For savings, comfort, and the environment, energy efficiency is important for the entire community. I would tell all my neighbors to do it."*

– JUDY POTTLE

## Maximizing Comfort and Efficiency

HC3's Energy Smart Colorado program makes it easy for residents to save energy. Not only does energy efficiency help us meet our climate action goals, it also makes homes more comfortable – and affordable – to live in.

**191 HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENTS**    **2,248 LED BULBS INSTALLED**

**47 HOME ENERGY UPGRADES**    **\$420 AVERAGE ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS**

### Energy Smart Project

When Frisco resident Judy Pottle bought a new home a few years ago, she figured the 20-year-old house could use some energy efficiency TLC. HC3's Energy Smart Colorado program made it super easy for her to move forward with a project. After adding insulation and sealing up air leaks, Judy's home is cozier than ever.

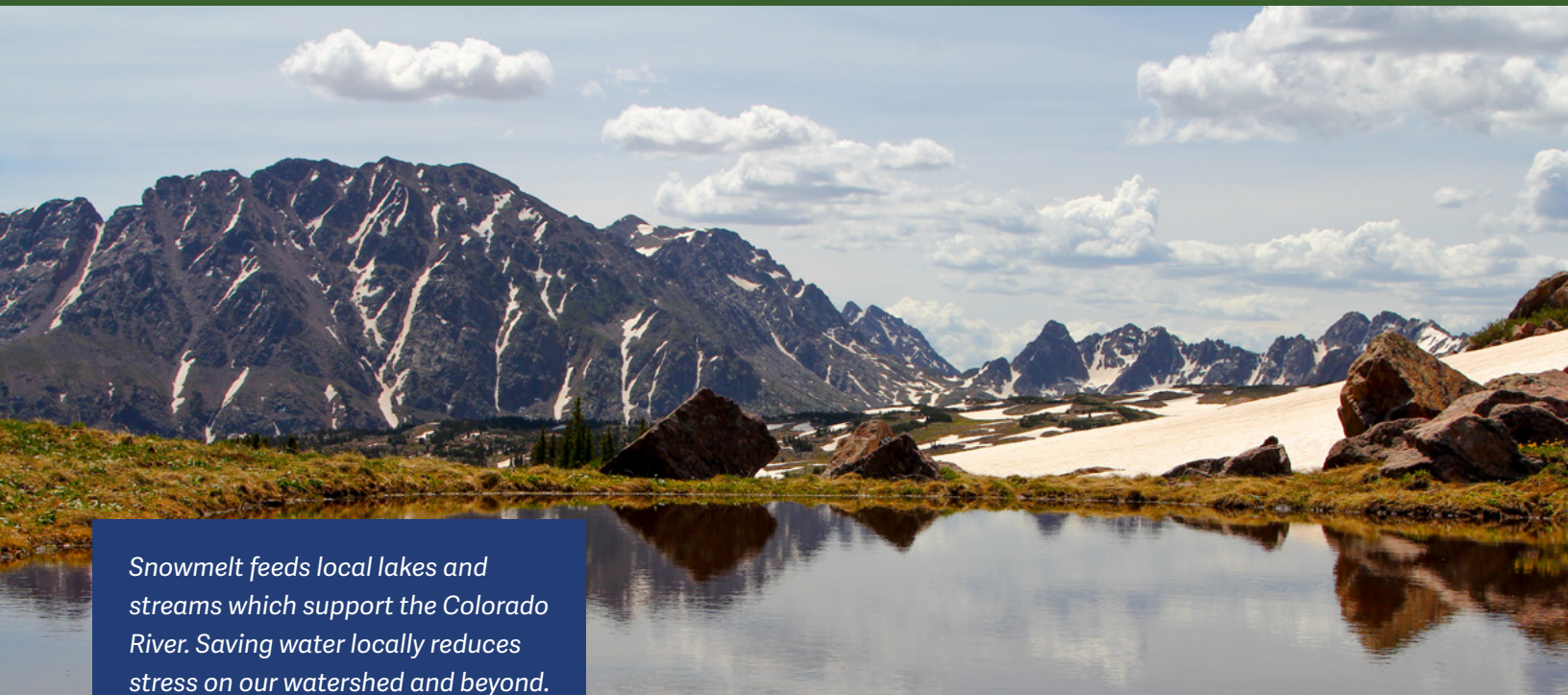
**\$2,453 TOTAL COST**

**\$400 ENERGY SMART REBATE**

**\$2,053 NET COST**

**\$377 ANNUAL ENERGY BILL SAVINGS**

# Water Conservation



*Snowmelt feeds local lakes and streams which support the Colorado River. Saving water locally reduces stress on our watershed and beyond.*

## Reducing Water Use

Fifty percent of the water we use outdoors is wasted due to inefficient irrigation. HC3 helps residents and businesses reduce water use on irrigated landscapes while raising awareness of our precious water resources.

### Water Smart

In 2022, HC3 developed WaterSmart, an irrigation efficiency program that certifies local landscape professionals in efficient irrigation practices, reduces water use on lawns, and offers tips to use less water.

**18 LANDSCAPERS CERTIFIED**  
in efficient irrigation practices

**4 TOWN EFFICIENCY PROJECTS**



# Waste Reduction



## Doubling Recycling by 2035

While our landfill diversion rate was 21% in 2022 – meaning that 79% of our waste was trashed – HC3 is driving policy and programs to increase local recycling and composting.

### Recycling Policy Passed

Breckenridge and Frisco passed Pay as You Throw and Universal Recycling, policies proven to divert more waste from the landfill. Strong Future recycling programs – supported by a ballot measure passed in 2018 – help residents recycle food waste, mattresses and more.

Meanwhile, HC3 led the creation of a 5-year Construction & Demolition Waste Reduction Plan, which provides strategies and programs to begin in 2023.



**2 COMMUNITIES**  
passed major  
recycling policy



**19% INCREASE**  
in food waste  
composted by  
residents



**58% INCREASE**  
in mattresses diverted  
from the landfill

## Cleaning Up Recycling

HC3 meets residents where they recycle – curbside recycling bins and local recycling centers – to help them understand local guidelines.

### Cart Tags & Custom Tips

Staff inspects recycling bins at the curb and leaves friendly notes helping residents improve recycling.



#### 921 RECYCLING BINS

tagged with personalized tips

### Recycling Center Experts

In summer, HC3 staffs the recycling centers to help residents understand what's accepted.



#### 251 RECYCLERS

educated at 3 drop-off centers



*La Escondida increased recycling in 2022 with support from HC3.*

## Businesses Go Zero Waste

HC3 works closely with restaurants and home-owners' associations to add or improve recycling.



#### 39 BUSINESSES

supported with personalized assistance



#### 8 RESTAURANTS

started new glass and/or food waste recycling programs



#### 19 GRANTS

distributed to improve recycling

# Resource Wise



*"Not only does our solar roof look great, but patients relax in our dental chairs knowing our practice is powered by solar energy."*

—TOM ROWE

## Making the Business Case for Sustainability

Local businesses are the backbone of our economy, but they also account for half of our energy use and much of our waste. Through Resource Wise certification, businesses become more sustainable, setting an example for visitors and helping to preserve our mountain home.

**20 NEW BUSINESSES**

**20 BUSINESS PROJECTS**

**\$700 AVERAGE SAVINGS  
PER BUSINESS**

### Business Spotlight: Breckenridge Family Dental

Dentist Tom Rowe moved his Breckenridge practice to its historic-district location in 2021. Knowing that dental offices use a lot of energy, he invested in significant renovations to turn the space into a functioning dental office. He also installed a Tesla solar roof – the first in the county. The 13-kilowatt system provides over 100% of the building's electricity needs.

# K-12 Education



*"The students got important understandings about the ways we can take care of our lovely planet."*

—DILLON VALLEY TEACHER

## Inspiring Summit County's Future Leaders

From wind-powered sail cars and solar bugs to recycling games and compost science, HC3 teaches Summit County's K-12 students the importance of protecting our natural resources.

**266 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS**  
(Rocky's Recyclers)

**207 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**  
(Energy Explorers)

**271 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**  
(Water Warriors)

**998 STUDENTS**  
Recycling Food Scraps

# Sustainable Food



## Growing Local Food

Greens grown in California travel over 1,200 miles to reach Summit County. The greens – and much more – grown locally by HC3 account for far fewer emissions and much more nutrition.

### Grow to Share

Fresh produce donations and nutritional education for local families.



**30 SHARES WEEKLY**  
to families in need



**61% INCREASE**  
in donated produce

### Summit CSA

Community farm-share program offering fresh, locally grown food.



**77 COMMUNITY SHARES**



**7,790 POUNDS**  
in Local Produce

# Community Partners





# Get Involved

DONATE • VOLUNTEER • TAKE ACTION • [HIGHCOUNTRYCONSERVATION.ORG](https://highcountryconservation.org)



**HIGH COUNTRY**  
CONSERVATION CENTER

## VISION

*Creating a healthy planet  
through local action*

## MISSION

*Promote practical solutions  
for resource conservation in  
our mountain community*