



#### **From Our Director**

HC3's vision is to create a healthy planet through local action.

rironment – it's the vn to this beautiful sustainability by cal policy creation.

Our community has a shared value to protect our natural environment – it's the reason most of us chose to live here and why visitors are drawn to this beautiful place. HC3 leads Summit County toward environmental sustainability by providing hands-on community support and advocating for local policy creation.

HC3 helps residents and visitors recycle right, and we connected with thousands

of community members in 2023 – at recycling centers, events and even at residents' curbside bins. Breckenridge and Frisco's recent pay-as-you-throw ordinances ensure that all residents and businesses have access to recycling.

HC3's climate action initiatives empower residents to reduce their carbon footprints, from energy efficiency and rooftop solar to driving electric vehicles. In 2023, we increased rebates to residents who made energy efficiency upgrades, resulting in more comfortable homes and dollars saved. And Breckenridge adopted a policy to discourage outdoor energy use (like heated driveways) through requiring onsite renewable power.

Finally, we are growing water conservation programs to encourage responsible irrigation and beautiful low-water landscapes. In addition, we are working with local jurisdictions on policies that encourage water savings.

I'm excited to share our recent successes and hope you will support our work building a more sustainable Summit County.

Sincerely,

JSchenk

Jennifer Schenk Executive Director, HC3

#### **2023 Board of Directors**

Jed Callen, Chair Retired Attorney

Angela Fisher, Vice Chair Aspire Consulting, Principal

**Keaton Morrison,** *Treasurer* Alpine Bank, Assistant Vice President-Branch Manager

**Carol Saade,** Secretary Summit Information Systems + Breckenridge Town Council

**Chris Carran** Locals Liquor, Owner **Kim Casey** Copper Mountain, Director of Mountain Sports

Bruce Fitch Retired Non-Profit Director

Virginia Hammock Minimal Impact, Owner

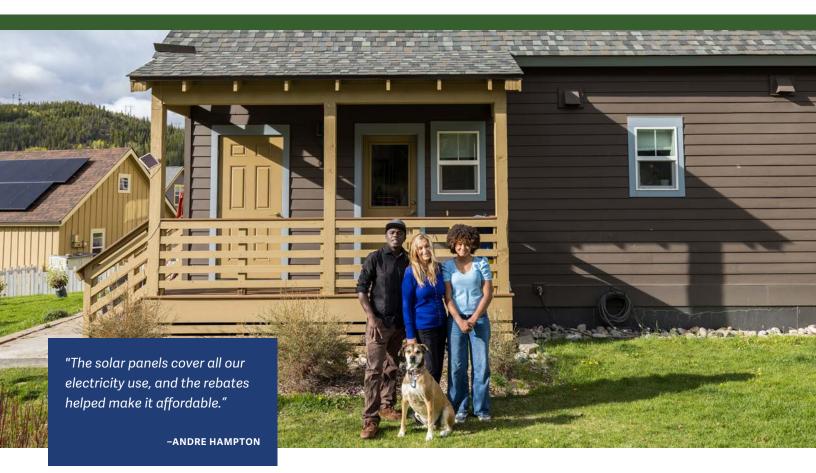
**Mike Hurwitch** Breckenridge Grand Vacations, Director of Business Applications

Nina Waters Summit County Commissioner Dan McCrerey Retired Home Builder

**Jean Mikulas** Vail Resorts, Retail/Rental Operations Regional Director

**Mike Nathan** Arapahoe Basin Ski Area, Sustainability Manager

# **Climate Action**



### **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 2023, bringing our 5-year total to 259 households.



**44** PARTICIPANTS

**396** KILOWATTS SOLAR INSTALLED

5 YEA

5 YEAR TOTAL: **259 HOUSEHOLDS** 

#### **Beneficial Electrification 101**

Beneficial electrification is a popular buzzword these days, but what does it mean? It's the practice of replacing appliances and vehicles powered by fossil fuels for those powered by electricity. Why? Because burning fossil fuels releases harmful greenhouse gas emissions, whereas electricity can be renewably generated.

In Summit County, using natural gas and gasoline in our homes, businesses, and cars is responsible for 60% of our community's carbon pollution. Yet the electricity supplied by Xcel Energy is already 40% renewable and on track to be 80% renewable by 2030. So, the more we can use electricity for heating our homes, cooking, and driving, the more we'll reduce emissions. And that's great news for our climate.





- CARLY LANDWEHR

#### HC3's Leadership

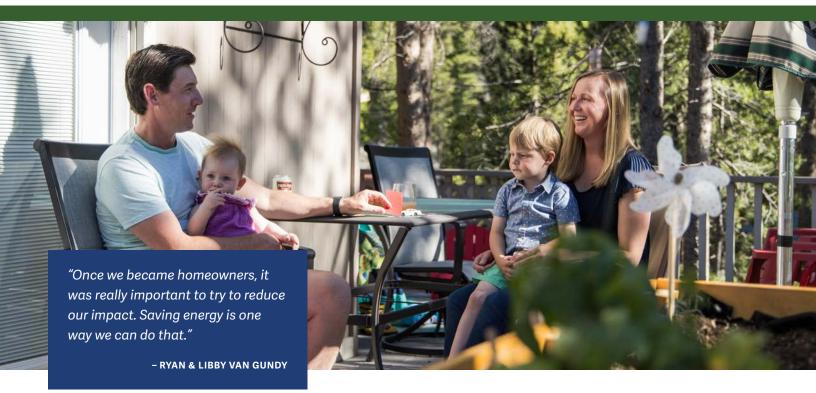
In 2023, we hosted heat pump workshops for residents and building professionals, educating the community on how these heating systems work and the incentives available. We put 100 Summit County residents behind the wheels of electric cars at our annual Electric Vehicle Ride & Drive event. And we've expanded our Energy Smart Colorado rebates to encourage beneficial electrification. From cold climate heat pumps and heat pump water heaters to electric vehicle charging and even electrical panel upgrades, we're helping community members kick gas for good.

#### COST TO DRIVE 100 MILES IN COLORADO:



GAS-POWERED CAR: \$12

# **Energy Conservation**



### **Maximizing Comfort and Efficiency**

**162** HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENTS

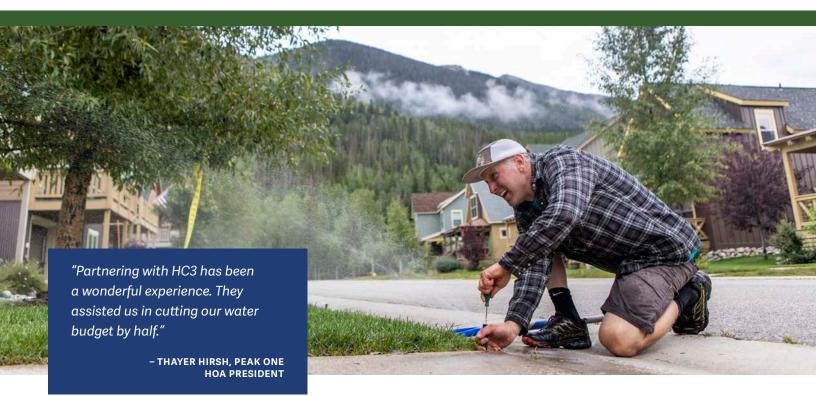
**\$470** AVERAGE ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS

**89** HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

#### **Spotlight: The Van Gundy Family**

When Frisco residents Ryan and Libby Van Gundy moved to their home at the base of Mount Royal, they quickly discovered that warm indoor air was leaking out through the roof. HC3's Energy Smart Colorado program helped them pay for needed improvements, and the impact was significant. Not only are their energy bills lower, but the home is a lot more comfortable, too. \$3,370 TOTAL COST
\$500 ENERGY SMART REBATE
\$2,870 NET COST
\$539 ANNUAL ENERGY
BILL SAVINGS

## Water Conservation



### **Reducing Water Use**

Water Smart Irrigation Assessments and rebates help residents use less water on thirsty grass lawns. Additionally, HC3 offers workshops to keep best practices top of mind for local irrigation pros.

**5** WATER EDUCATION EVENTS

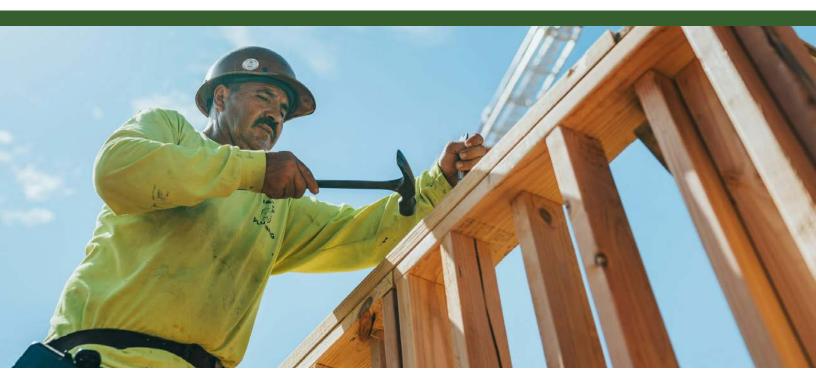
**8** LARGE IRRIGATION ASSESSMENTS PERFORMED

### **83** LANDSCAPERS TRAINED IN EFFICIENT IRRIGATION

#### Spotlight: Peak One Neighborhood

Peak One Neighborhood HOA was looking for a solution to high water bills. After working with HC3 to get an assessment, they took advantage of rebates to help their irrigation system run more efficiently – and reduced their summer watering bill by half. \$12,843 TOTAL PROJECT COST
\$3,500 TOTAL REBATES
\$3,891 ANNUAL SAVINGS
2.5 YEARS PAYBACK PERIOD

### **Zero Waste**



### **Advancing New Zero Waste Strategies**

Local recycling programs are working well. Yet, an increasing population, a growing visitor base and new development are creating more waste than ever before. In 2023, HC3 addressed a major source of local waste: construction & deconstruction (C&D) waste.

#### Planning for the Future of C&D

HC3's proactive approach to diverting construction and deconstruction waste has led to the development of a comprehensive community-wide plan and pilot projects, paving the way for future policy development in C&D recycling.

#### 5-YEAR C&D RECYCLING PLAN DEVELOPED

**46 TONS** OF C&D WASTE SEGREGATED DURING A PILOT PROJECT

#### **Education & Engagement**

HC3 meets residents where they recycle – at businesses, schools, curbside recycling bins, and local recycling centers – to help them increase and improve waste diversion.



**1,595 RECYCLING BINS** tagged with personalized tips

734 RECYCLERS educated at 3 drop-off centers

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**129 BUSINESSES** supported with personalized assistance





#### **Strong Future Grants**

In 2023, HC3 launched and administered the Strong Future Grants program, which empowers local businesses and organizations to implement innovative waste diversion projects. Funded projects included:

- Launching the community's first residential compost pick-up service
- Increasing capacity for a local food rescue initiative
- Replacing single-use drinkware with reusable cups

### **Resource Wise**



# 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 residents and visitors and helping to preserve our mountain home.

**30** NEW BUSINESSES

**37** BUSINESS PROJECTS

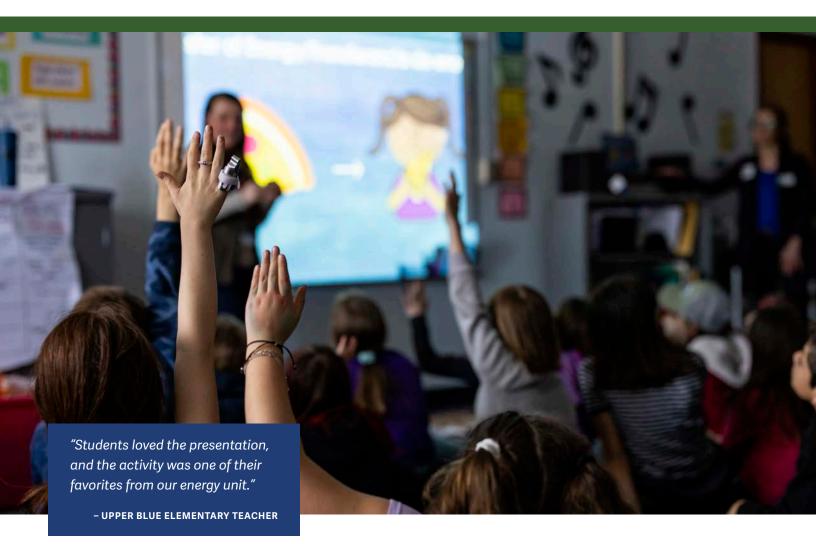
**\$840** AVERAGE SAVINGS PER BUSINESS

3,308 LED BULBS INSTALLED

#### **Business Spotlight: A-Basin Electric Vehicle Charging**

How do you get skiers and riders to drive their electric cars to the mountains? Install charging stations in coveted parking spots. Arapahoe Basin's Early Risers lot now features 10 electric vehicle charging plugs, so folks can charge while they hit the slopes. The impact? Guests love it, and the chargers are almost always full.

# **K-12 Education**



### 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.

**164** 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS **249** 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS **124** 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

**247** 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

280 8TH GRADERS

### **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.

#### Summit CSA

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



**30 SHARES WEEKLY** to families in need



**13% INCREASE** in families served



77 COMMUNITY SHARES



6,260 POUNDS of local produce

# **Community Partners**









**ANSCHUTZ** FAMILY FOUNDATION

























# **Community Partners**















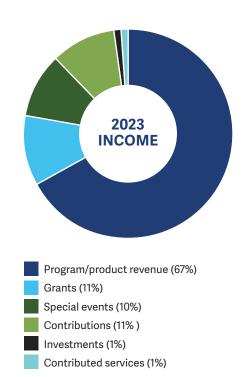




# **Financials**

### **Statement Of Activities**

Income	2023	2022
Program/product revenue	\$1,137,014	\$917,320
Grants	\$181,370	\$182,740
Special events	\$167,946	\$143,293
Contributions	\$169,996	\$153,523
Investments	\$26,127	(\$3,851)
Contributed services	\$18,750	\$17,700
Total Income	\$1,701,203	\$1,410,725





Programs (91%) Management and Operations (5%) Fundraising (4%)

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Expenses	2023	2022
Programs	\$1,473,991	\$1,037,775
Management and Operations	\$78,203	\$143,557
Fundraising	\$61,974	\$116,922
Depreciation	-	\$17,862
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	_	\$806
Total Expenses	\$1,614,168	\$1,316,922

<b>Financial Position</b>	12/31/2023
Total Assets	\$1,221,176
Total Liabilities	\$227,136
Net Assets	\$980,054



# **Get Involved**

#### **DONATE • VOLUNTEER • TAKE ACTION • HIGHCOUNTRYCONSERVATION.ORG**



VISION

Creating a healthy planet through local action

#### MISSION

Promote practical solutions for resource conservation in our mountain community