



City Council Work Session

448 E 1st Street, Room 190 Salida, Colorado 81201

August 31, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Agenda

Please register, **BY 4:30 pm the day of the Work Session** for City Council Work Session

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AlrC-BslRNiigokU1E5K4w

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. To watch live meetings:

<http://www.youtube.com/@cityofsalidacolorado>

Discussion Items

1. Youth Liaison Update
2. Regional Sustainability Update
3. Community Budget Survey Discussion

Adjourn

Individuals with disabilities needing auxiliary aid(s) may request assistance by contacting the City Clerk at 448 E. 1st Street, Ste. 112, Salida, CO 81201, Ph.719-530-2626 at least 48 hours in advance.



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City Council Work Session Memo

Department	Presented By	Date
Administration	Sara Law - Strategic Initiatives Manager	August 31, 2026

Agenda Item

Regional Sustainability Project Update

Background

The City of Salida and Chaffee County have used Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding to support a regional sustainability contractor and advance coordinated work in energy, transportation, waste diversion, greenhouse gas planning, and community engagement. EECBG funding continues through the end of 2026, making this an important point to review progress, upcoming Council items, and how the work can continue supporting implementation after the grant period.

This regional approach is important to community resiliency because many of the issues being addressed cross jurisdictional boundaries. Energy use, transportation, waste systems, and climate impacts affect City operations, residents, businesses, and regional infrastructure. Coordinated planning helps the City use data to identify priorities, pursue outside funding, reduce long-term operating risks, and prepare policies that can strengthen the community's ability to adapt to environmental and economic change.

Work Supported Through EECBG

EECBG funding has helped create capacity to move sustainability projects from planning into implementation. Current and recent work includes:

- Energy projects, including contractor workshops and staff training related to energy codes, Energy Smart home energy audits, and coordination on Xcel Energy programs.
- Transportation planning, including the regional EV Readiness Plan, fleet and transit assessments, and continued pursuit of electric vehicle charging opportunities.
- Waste diversion work, including solid waste and construction and demolition waste audits, Extended Producer Responsibility implementation support, and public education.
- Business and community engagement through the Colorado Green Business Network, Green Week, workshops, public events, and regional outreach.
- Technical assistance and grant development that allows the City to evaluate future projects before committing local resources.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The community greenhouse gas inventory provides the City with a baseline for understanding where emissions are generated and where local action can have the greatest impact. The inventory found that building energy represents the largest combined share of community emissions and transportation is the second-largest source. Recommended approaches include improving building efficiency, adopting updated energy codes, supporting multimodal transportation and vehicle electrification, and expanding recycling and composting.

Staff will continue using the inventory to complete City facility energy assessments to connect near-term projects with the City's longer-term resilience goals. Additionally, staff is using the priorities laid out by Council to go after grants and external funding to achieve GHG reduction in our community.

Upcoming Council Policy Work

Staff and Sustainable Chaffee are working with Colorado Circular Communities (C3) and Cascadia Consulting Group on research and policy recommendations intended to improve recycling and composting access and operations. Upcoming items anticipated for Council consideration include:

- Multifamily housing infrastructure: potential requirements for new multifamily developments and qualifying redevelopment projects to provide adequate, accessible space for landfill and recycling containers.
- Waste hauler licensing: potential licensing or permitting concepts that could establish consistent expectations, improve information sharing, and support implementation of local and statewide recycling programs.
- Continued alignment with Extended Producer Responsibility implementation, including outreach and evaluation of opportunities to improve local recycling access.

The C3 work is currently focused on background research, local conditions, stakeholder engagement, and policy considerations. We expect that the policy proposal would return to Council for review and direction this fall.

Work Through the End of 2026

During the remainder of the EECBG funding period, staff and the regional sustainability contractor will focus on completing grant deliverables, advancing projects already underway, and identifying the highest-value next steps for 2027. This includes continued energy and waste policy work, follow-up on the greenhouse gas inventory and facility assessments, community education, and development of outside funding opportunities that can extend the impact of the EECBG investment.

Requested Direction from Council

This item is presented as an update. No formal action is requested.

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

September 2026
Presented by Julie Mach



ENERGY PROJECTS

Energy Code Adoption Grant

- Contractor Workshop series
- Staff Training

Energy Smart

- 16 Audits in Q1 & Q2 (double 2025!)
- Heat Pump Training postponed
- Grant submitted for expanded funding

Xcel On-Bill Repayment Program



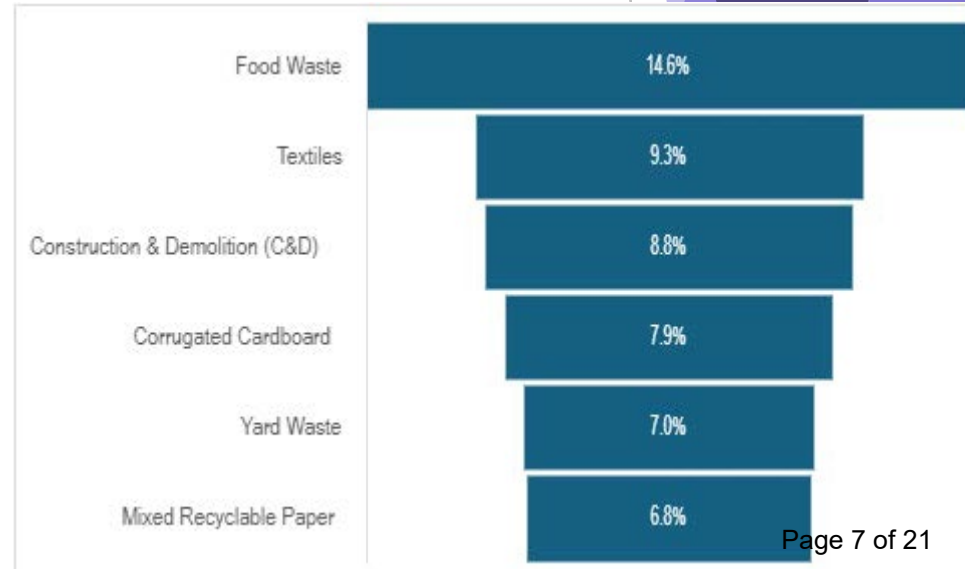
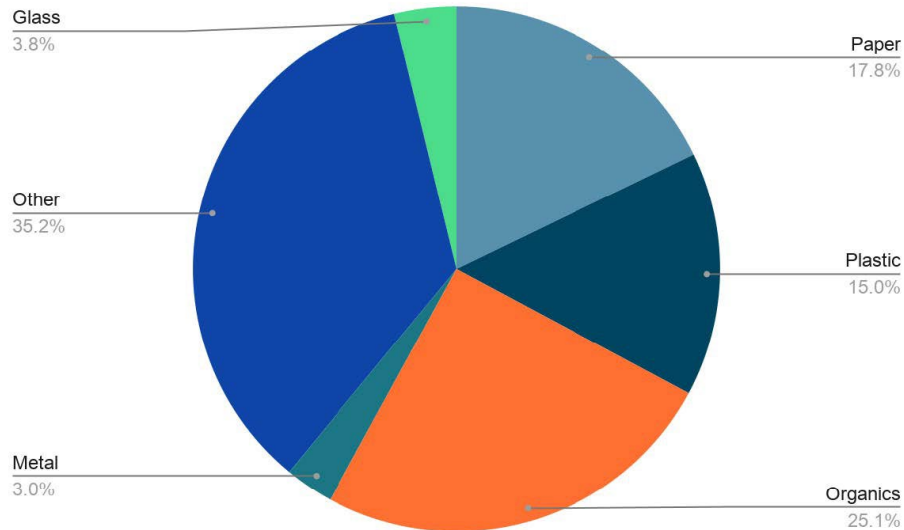


TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

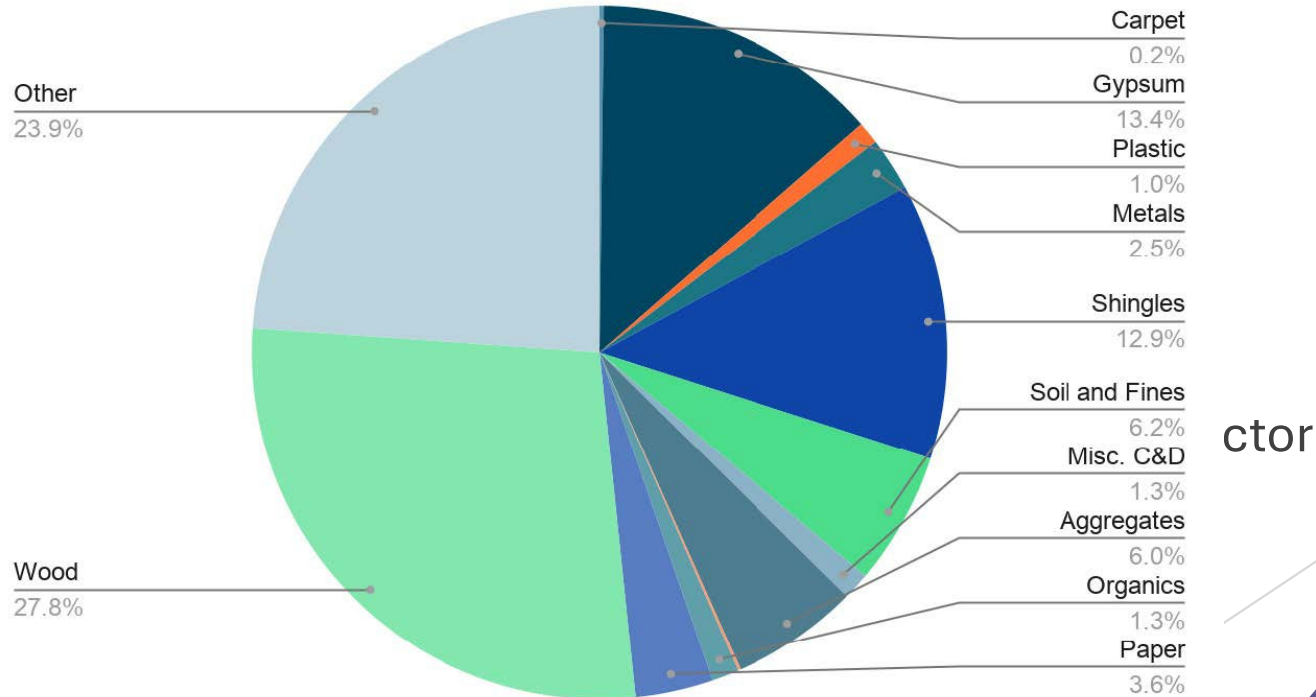
- ▶ CSU Impact MBA Fellow
 - ▶ MVT Financial Assessment & GHG Impact Assessment
 - ▶ EV Readiness Plan – Code Language for Infrastructure Requirements
 - ▶ EV Charging Grants

WASTE AUDIT – DRAFT

- ▶ Mixed Solid Waste Composition
- ▶ 47.3% divertable through existing programs
- ▶ Second Sampling in September



CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE AUDIT



IMPACT ACCELERATOR GRANT

Timeline

- Current: Contracting
- Summer/Fall 2026: Waste Policy Stakeholdering
- Winter 2026: Waste Policy Adoption
- Spring/Summer 2027: Facility Audits & Building Decarbonization Plan
- Summer 2027-2029: Building Decarbonization Projects (HVAC, weatherization, renewable energy)

EPR – EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ Government RFR Application Submitted
- ▶ Education & Outreach Portal – template materials
- ▶ Hauler & composter applications in process
- ▶ Program launch date based on hauler contracts



Sample Messaging

Share the story of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and paper: use these messages in newsletters, social media posts, websites, mailers and more. Explore the portal for photos to pair with the copy provided, or use your own local images.

RecycleOn Colorado	Sigue reciclando, Colorado
Recycling in Colorado is getting easier and better for everyone. A new state law is offering free recycling service to all residents, and introducing new guidelines to make how you recycle simpler and more consistent across the state. RecycleOn Colorado is here to help you stay in the know and recycle with confidence. The Producer Responsibility Program for Statewide Recycling is a new Colorado law that brings together brands that sell products in paper and packaging, local governments and recycling companies to improve the state's recycling system and provide residents with free, consistent service. It was developed with input from Coloradan communities and industry partners.	El reciclaje en Colorado ahora es mejor y más fácil para todos. Gracias a una nueva ley estatal, el servicio de reciclaje ahora es gratuito para todos los residentes. También se están publicando nuevas guías de reciclaje para que el reciclaje sea más sencillo y consistente en todo el estado. <i>Sigue reciclando, Colorado</i> está aquí para mantenerte al tanto y ayudarte a reciclar con confianza. El Programa de Responsabilidad del Productor para el reciclaje estatal es una nueva ley de Colorado por la cual los gobiernos locales, las compañías de reciclaje y las compañías de marcas comerciales que venden productos que usan papel y empaques, se han unido para mejorar el sistema de reciclaje del estado y ofrecer a los residentes un servicio gratuito y consistente. Se desarrolló tomando en cuenta las opiniones de las comunidades de Colorado y sus socios industriales.

COLORADO GREEN BUSINESS NETWORK

► 10 businesses certified!

Gold Certification

Salida Distillery

Silver Certification

Elements Mountain Compost

Lifestream Water

Su Casa! Furniture & Sleep Shop

Bronze Certification

A Church

Chaffee County Government

City of Salida Government

Greater Arkansas River Nature Association

Rocky Mountain Garlic

Shavano Intelligence Consulting LLC

Woodland Motel



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Green Week

- ▶ **Sept 21** – Climate Film
(SteamPlant)
- ▶ **Sept 23** – Energy Audits
(Office Bar)
- ▶ **Sept 25** – Battery Systems
(Elevation Beer Co)
- ▶ **Sept 26** – Green Homes Tour
(Salida Farmers Market), hosted by
Ark Valley Energy Futures



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City Council Work Session Memo

Department	Presented By	Date
Administration	Sara Law Strategic Initiatives Manager	August 31, 2026

Agenda Item

Community Budget Engagement Survey Framework

Background

Traditional city budget surveys often ask residents to rank departments or broad budget categories against one another, such as public safety versus parks. Staff is proposing a different approach that would both educate residents about the City budget and gather input that can help City Council and staff implement the City's strategic priorities.

The proposed online survey would be promoted through City digital channels, and in-person pop-ups at community locations and events such as the Farmers Market.

Proposed Survey Format

The survey would use an "Inform and Ask" structure. Each section would begin with a quiz-style question that provides context about a City budget issue. Residents would then respond to two to three related questions intended to identify community values, preferences, and acceptable tradeoffs.

The attached survey questions are not a final proposal. They are a starting point for Council review and are intended to demonstrate how this format could support the Strategic Priorities laid out by Council.

Draft Survey Sections

1. Where does the money come from?

- Informs residents that the City currently receives no property tax revenue and relies more heavily on other sources, particularly sales tax.
- Asks about approaches to a more stable revenue mix, principles for considering new revenue, and openness to revenue dedicated to a clearly defined community need.

2. What does it take to maintain the Salida we have?

- Explains how deferred maintenance can turn small issues into more expensive repairs.
- Asks how the City should approach maintenance, balance community access with revenue generation at public facilities, and weigh existing assets against new investments.

3. What does responsible growth look like?

- Explains that development using existing roads, water, sewer, and other infrastructure can generally be more cost-effective to serve and maintain than development requiring infrastructure extensions.
- Asks residents to identify priorities related to housing, infrastructure, local business, community character, mobility, natural resources, and tools that help fund growth-related needs.

Requested Direction from Council

Staff requests Council discussion and direction on the following:

- Does Council support the "Inform and Ask" approach for community budget engagement?
- Are revenue stability, maintenance of existing assets, and responsible growth the right primary themes?
- Do the draft questions appropriately connect the budget conversation to Council's strategic priorities?

DRAFT - Budget Engagement Survey

SECTION 1: Where does the money come from?

1. QUIZ: What percentage of your property tax payment currently goes to the City of Salida?

- 0%
- 2.3%
- 8%
- 15%

Correct: 0%

Did you know? Salida is the only comparable municipality that receives no property tax revenue. This means the City relies more heavily on other sources, particularly sales tax.

2. Which approaches would you be most comfortable with the City exploring to create a more stable mix of revenue?

Rank your top three.

- Growing the local business and sales tax base
- A property tax dedicated to only specific City services
- Creating dedicated special districts to run and fund separate services like fire or recreation
- Fees that help growth pay for growth-related infrastructure
- Visitor-related revenue like increasing Lodging Tax
- Paid parking or other parking-management revenue
- Fees that more closely reflect the cost of providing certain services

- I would prefer the City to work within its existing revenues even if it means fewer services and improvements to things like our roads.

3. When considering new revenue sources, which principles are most important to you?

Rank your top three.

- Having visitors help support the services and infrastructure they use
- Creating stable, predictable funding year to year
- Connecting new revenue directly to a specific service or investment
- Having new development help pay for the additional demands it creates
- Keeping taxes and fees as low as possible, even if that limits City services or investments

4. How open would you be to considering a new source of revenue for the City if it were dedicated to a clearly defined community need?

Very open / Somewhat open / Unsure / Somewhat opposed / Strongly opposed

5. If additional revenue were dedicated to a clearly defined community need, what need would you most like to see addressed? Please be as specific as possible

Open Response

SECTION 2: What does it take to maintain the Salida we have?

6. QUIZ: What can happen when maintenance of City streets, buildings, parks and other facilities is postponed?

- A. It generally costs less to address later
- B. Costs usually stay about the same
- C. Small problems can become significantly more expensive repairs
- D. Maintenance has little effect on long-term costs

Correct: C.

Did you know? Many City facilities are aging, and deferred maintenance can turn relatively small issues into major capital expenses. Proactive maintenance can help protect existing public investments and avoid larger replacement costs.

7. When making budget decisions, how should Salida generally approach maintenance?

- Invest proactively to extend the life of City assets, even when there is not an immediate problem
- Focus primarily on the most urgent maintenance needs
- Address maintenance when problems begin affecting services
- Defer maintenance when possible to keep current spending lower

8. When the City manages publicly owned buildings and facilities, which of the following should generally be the higher priority?

- Prioritize community access and public benefit, even if it generates less revenue
- Balance community access and revenue generation equally
- Prioritize generating revenue that can support City services and maintenance

9. Which approach comes closest to how you think Salida should balance existing assets and new investments?

- Put more emphasis on taking care of what we already have
- Maintain what we have while making some new improvements
- Make room for significant new improvements when they address important future needs

SECTION 3: What Does Responsible Growth look like?

10. QUIZ: Which type of growth is generally more cost-effective for a city to serve and maintain over time?

- a. Development that uses existing roads, water lines, sewer systems, and other infrastructure
- b. Development that requires extending roads, water lines, sewer systems, and other infrastructure to new areas
- c. Both generally cost the same
- d. It depends only on the number of new residents

Correct: A.

Did you know? When growth occurs near existing infrastructure, cities can often serve new homes and businesses more efficiently. Extending roads, utilities, and other services into new areas can require significant upfront investment and create additional long-term maintenance responsibilities. The location and pattern of growth can affect housing availability, transportation options, service levels, and future costs for the community.

11. When considering investments that support growth, which principle matters most to you?

Rank the top three.

- Growth should not reduce the quality of existing City services
- Growth should make efficient use of existing roads, utilities and public facilities
- Growth should help expand the City's long-term tax base
- Investments should help preserve Salida's character and quality of life
- Growth-related investments should support housing options for the local workforce

12. Which outcomes are most important when planning for future growth?

Select up to 3

- Expanding affordable and attainable housing options
- Ensuring infrastructure like roads, water and sewer and public services keep pace with growth
- Supporting local businesses and economic opportunities

- Preserving Salida's character, neighborhoods, and quality of life
- Making efficient use of existing infrastructure like roads, water and sewer and public investments
- Improving transportation connections and mobility throughout the community
- Protecting natural resources, open space, and scenic views

13. How open would you be to the City using tools such as impact fees, special districts or other mechanisms to help fund infrastructure and current services needed associated with growth?

Very open → Strongly opposed

14. As the City plans future budgets, what is one thing you most want City Council to keep in mind?

Open response

DEMOGRAPHICS:

15. Age

- 18-24
- 25-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

16. Sex

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self describe _____
- Prefer not to say

17. Race

- White, Non-Hispanic
- Asian, Asian American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black, African American
- Other

18. Which best describes your connection to living in Salida?

- I was born and raised in Salida
- I have lived in Salida for more than 10 years
- I have lived in Salida for 5–10 years
- I have lived in Salida for 2–4 years
- I have lived in Salida for less than 2 years
- I live in Salida part-time or seasonally
- I do not live in Salida

18. How would you prefer to have budget information communicated?

- Social media
- In-person meetings
- Mail correspondence
- Press releases or Newsletters
- Other: