



Post-Secondary Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution’s eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

- 1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority’s jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
- 2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
- 3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
- 4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution’s equal protection clause.
- 5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
- 6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
- 7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary 2015-2018

Public 4-Year Public 2-Year Private Non-Profit

Name of President/Chancellor: Dr. Carrie Besnette Hauser
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official College or University Name: Colorado Mountain College
(As it should appear on an award)

College or University Street
Mailing Address: 802 Grand Avenue, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: Garfield IPEDS Number*: 126711
Telephone: (970) 945-8691 Fax: (970) 947-8324

Web site/URL: <http://coloradomtn.edu> E-mail: echusid@coloradomtn.edu

*Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

Date: 01/06/17

(President’s/Chancellor’s Signature)



Nominating Authority's Certifications

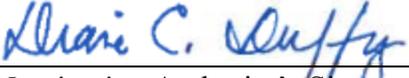
The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: Colorado Department of Higher Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Ms. Diane Duffy
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.


Date: 01/23/17
(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION OF NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Provide a coherent summary that describes how your college or university is representative of your jurisdiction's highest achieving green school efforts. Summarize your strengths and accomplishments in all three Pillars and their underlying Elements. Then, include concrete examples for work in every Pillar and Element. Only institutions that document progress in every Pillar and Element can be considered for this award.

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications and documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars should be converted to a PDF file and emailed to green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509
Expiration Date: March 31, 2018

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

Postsecondary Sustainability Award

Colorado Mountain College

Colorado Mountain College (CMC) is a comprehensive local district junior college with authorization from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to provide baccalaureate degrees in certain areas, including Sustainability Studies. Founded in 1967, CMC now serves approximately 22,000 students at 11 instructional sites annually, across a service area of over 12,000 square miles—larger than the state of Maryland—and including nine counties across Colorado’s Western Slope.

Since 2009, CMC has made changing our environmental impact a major strategic goal of the institution. This was symbolized on September 25, 2009 with CMC becoming a signatory to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. Since that pledge, CMC has focused our environmental efforts into three major areas: reducing its carbon footprint through direct action, integrating sustainability in all of our institutional operations, and using our position as an educational institution to teach our students and our community stakeholders about the changing nature of our surrounding natural environment.

CMC has focused on collaborative efforts with communities to expand alternative energy offerings throughout our district and worked to increase our own reliance on alternative energy for heating, cooling, and electricity. We have worked to reduce our solid waste, our food waste, and to increase the amount of locally sourced food used in our dining operations. We have worked to increase our use of recycled materials, including paper, and dedicated professional development time from our staff and faculty to training in responsible environmental stewardship.

CMC has worked as an educational institution to make ecological and sustainability issues a core part of our curriculum, from encouraging our faculty to address such issues in both STEM and other coursework to offering degrees that focus on environmental and sustainability studies, from the occupational certificate to the baccalaureate level of education. In our ecology and sustainability educational offerings, CMC has embraced the value of experiential education and our faculty focuses on expanding their use of experiential learning opportunities. We are committed to offering 21st century degrees in sustainability that first educate our students on challenging environmental issues facing the modern world and that give our students the tools to be powerful advocates for effective environmental policies.

CMC works to focus on more than our physical environmental impact and educational efforts by investing as an institution in the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. These efforts include investments in proper testing of water and air purity, investments in top-of-the-line HVAC equipment for proper air circulation, and extend to institutional investments in individual well-being programs to help our staff and faculty address an assortment of mental and physical health issues. In addition, CMC has worked to create support structures for our students to address emotional and mental health challenges they face while pursuing their education.

CMC’s Structural Approach to Sustainability and Wellness

With 11 learning sites, three residential and eight commuter, stretched over an area larger than the state of Maryland, CMC has to embrace diverse solutions to meet the diverse needs of its various campuses, both geographically and culturally. The students that we serve range from first-time college students just leaving high school to senior citizens returning to higher education to learn new skills or broaden their horizons. As such, CMC has adopted a college-wide strategic initiative in support of sustainability. CMC uses a decentralized model to encourage innovation; each CMC campus uses its own budget to creatively develop solutions to enhance and customize their sustainability and wellness solutions to meet the specific needs and desires of their constituents. CMC supports this approach and encourages the sharing among campuses of their various solutions to promote effective institutional collaboration. Therefore, for the *Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award*, CMC has reported on both institution-wide and campus-specific policies and initiatives that support sustainability and wellness in our student population.

Institution of Higher Education Demographics		
Basic Classification		College/University Setting
Public 4-Year		Rural, Multiple Campuses
Enrollment Information		
5,806		Enrollment Total
5,806		Undergraduate Total
0		Graduate Total
24%		Graduation Rate (150% of Normal Time)
30%		% Undergraduates Receiving Pell Grants
\$7,938		Average Institutional Net Price
Is your college/university participating in a local, state, or national program which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the Pillars?		
Yes	Program(s) and level(s) achieved:	CLEER
Has your college/university received any awards for facilities, health, or environment?		
No	Award(s) and year(s):	N/A

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

Element IA: Improved Energy Conservation/energy-efficient buildings

Since 2009, CMC has focused on reducing its energy footprint and environmental carbon emissions through a policy of energy efficiency and increased reliance upon renewable energy sources. Using 2009's energy consumption as a baseline, as of 2015 CMC has reduced its institutional energy usage by 13% institution-wide. Between 2009 to 2015 CMC has invested approximately \$3.2 million in building improvements to improve energy efficiency across all of our campuses. Some specific highlights include:

- In 2015 LED lighting systems were installed on several campuses in buildings and parking lots, completely phasing out less efficient Halide and HID systems. (Breckenridge, Spring Valley, Glenwood Springs Center, Carbondale, Aspen, Edwards, Central Services)
- In 2015 insulation for a major roof was replaced to implement a planned 10% heating energy reduction for one of our paired district support and services buildings (Central Services)
- In 2014 the institution achieved an energy milestone when a total of 17% of its entire energy usage was supplied from renewable sources. (Institution-wide)
- In 2014 a campus location upgraded its HVAC system with economizers that allow the system to work more efficiently by ventilating with the outside air rather than solely using internal chillers to cool the air. This has reduced the site's electrical usage by 16% overall and its natural gas consumption by 25%. (Glenwood Springs Center)
- In 2014 a campus experimented with active room-specific, occupancy-oriented HVAC scheduling to only provide heat to rooms that were "in-use" at specific times in the day, which reduced the site's electrical usage by 15% and reduced its natural gas consumption by 35%. (Carbondale)
- In 2012 a solar farm producing an annual output of 152,000 kilowatt hours was installed on one campus located at over 10,000 feet. This installation was particularly challenging due to the high altitude and high snowpack levels experienced at the site. (Leadville)
- In 2011 a conventional solar farm was installed at a commuter campus to generate approximately 103 kilowatt hours of power. This installation meets roughly 25% of the total power needs of the local campus. (Rifle)
- Geexchange heating and cooling systems are used at two residential campus locations for both student residence hall heating and cooling as well as the educational and administrative building climate control. (Steamboat and Spring Valley)
- Motion-sensing lighting systems utilized throughout the institution reduce energy usage and electricity consumption by ensuring lighting in spaces only when necessary. (Institution-wide)

CMC has also implemented several policy measures and specific organizational goals aimed at increased energy conservation and governing the construction of new campus facilities. Specifically:

- In 2009 a formal climate action plan was implemented for the entire institution with the goals of improving energy tracking and optimization, space utilization to decrease unnecessary energy usage, increasing emphasis on the use of renewable energy sources, and utilizing environmental data to impact institutional facilities planning.

- In 2010 an institution-wide policy was implemented that all new buildings will meet a LEED Silver standard and that the institution will use ENERGY STAR rated products whenever possible in equipping both new and existing facilities with new equipment.
- Since 2013 the institution has tracked carbon-emissions by private vehicles driven by staff and faculty members for institutional business and incorporated that impact into its overall environmental reporting regarding its carbon-offset targets.

Since 2012, CMC has built one new campus facility, Steamboat Springs, to LEED Silver specifications but has not sought formal certification of achieving that standard. CMC has not pursued formal LEED certification at this point on any buildings due to the anticipated high costs associated with formal certification, which are beyond the resources of the institution at this time to pursue.

Finally, CMC remains focused on continued efforts to reduce its emissions and better guide its future sustainability planning to reach its goal of carbon-neutrality by 2050. As of 2015 CMC has:

- Set targets for continued energy reduction. Using its institutional energy usage of 2011 as a baseline, the institution plans to have 30% total fewer emissions by 2020, 50% fewer emissions by 2025, 75% fewer emissions by 2035, and finally achieve a “net zero position” in emissions through a combination of renewable energy offsets and emissions reductions from 2011 by 2050.
- In 2016 CMC had completed a major institutional sustainability study by Natural Capitalism Solutions, an internationally recognized expert in the field of sustainability planning and improvements. The goal of this study is to assist the institution with its energy and sustainability master plan from 2015 to 2050. This master plan addressed all aspects of the institution, from carbon neutrality to educational imperatives, and CMC is currently pursuing new funding opportunities and sources to implement its suggestions. Inspired by this new report CMC has charged a new Sustainability Action Plan Committee, that will engage faculty, staff, and students at CMC with the challenge of implementing these suggested improvements.

As an indicator of CMC’s improvements in energy efficiency, as measured in electrical grid-provided and natural gas consumption, the following two tables summarize CMC’s progress:

CMC Electricity Use (By campus, in British Thermal Units)

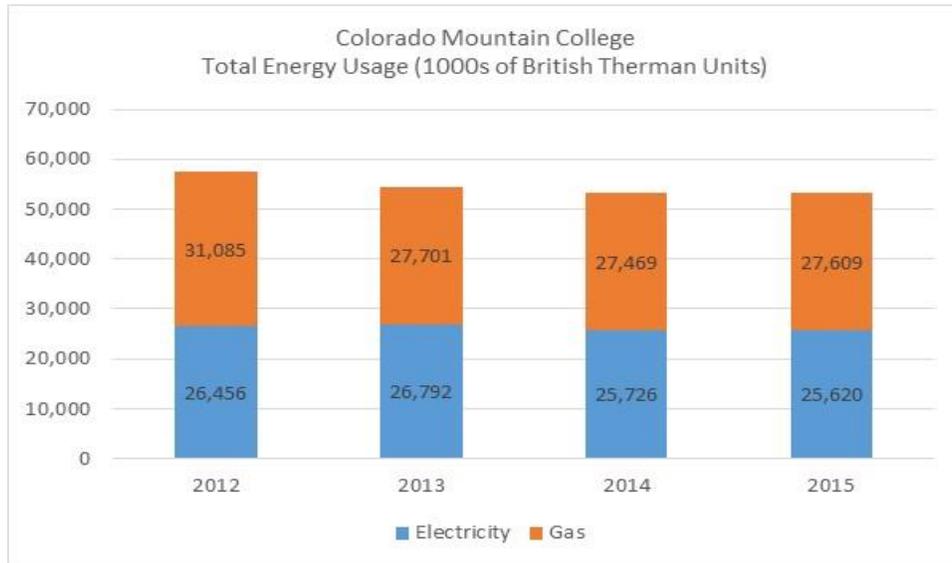
Year	AS	CB	CS	VL	GWC	WG	SV	SB	BK	DL	CH	LV
2012	833k	422k	2.7m	2.4m	1.5m	1.0m	7.6m	5.7m	1.3m	575k	226k	2.2m
2013	799k	377k	2.6m	2.2m	1.2m	1.0m	7.7m	6.5m	1.3m	521k	195k	2.4m
2014	749k	353k	2.6m	2.0m	1.0m	930k	7.4m	6.3m	1.3m	522k	172k	2.4m
2015	719k	346k	2.6m	2.0m	998k	964k	7.6m	6.5m	1.3m	538k	155k	1.9m
%	-15	-18	-4	-17	-34	-4	0	+14	0	-7	-31	-14

CMC Natural Gas Use (By campus, in British Thermal Units)

Year	AS	CB	CS	VL	GWC	WG	SV	SB	BK	DL	CH	LV
2012	1.3m	541k	714k	4.9m	950k	2.8m	N/A	4.6m	3.0m	1.0m	480k	10.8m
2013	1.4m	531k	847k	4.1m	730k	1.1m	N/A	5.5m	3.1m	791k	402k	9.2m

2014	1.1m	402k	825k	4.6m	447k	980k	N/A	5.2m	2.6m	746k	369k	10.2m
2015	1.1m	422k	792k	4.5m	442k	964k	N/A	6.5m	2.7m	743k	346k	9.1m
%	-15	-22	+11	-8	-53	-66	N/A	+41	-10	-26	-28	-16

K for thousands, M for millions, AS – Aspen, CB – Carbondale, CS – Central Services, VL – Vail/Edwards, GWC – Glenwood, WG – West Garfield, SV – Spring Valley, SB – Steamboat, BK – Breckenridge, DL – Dillon, CH – Chaffee, LV – Leadville, % - Percentage changed 2012 to 2015



Although CMC’s energy usage, as shown above and tracked with Energy Navigator, has not fallen at all sites, CMC continues to work to reduce its energy usage overall in both grid-provided electricity and natural gas consumption. CMC is particularly proud of the reduction in natural gas use at our Central Services administration offices from a peak usage in 2013 due to improvements insulation and ongoing window improvements to reduce heat leakage.

CMC’s energy usage at its Steamboat Campus location in electricity and natural gas use increased from 2012 to 2015 due to a major construction project at that location that demolished three smaller buildings and replaced them with a new 66,000 square foot facility. Although increasing on campus capacity for course offerings and offering greater facilities for our students, this improvement came at an increased cost in energy usage at the site. Natural gas usage increases at our Central Services location are due to the college’s central administration offices moving from an older, smaller headquarters location into a significantly larger space.

As of 2016, CMC has begun work on offsetting its carbon emissions. At this time, in alignment with the recommendations from Natural Capital Solutions, CMC has begun securing short-term contracts with renewable energy projects to reduce/offset its indirect greenhouse gas emissions from the purchase of commercially provided energy. CMC is also exploring a targeted disinvestment strategy to remove high-carbon emission economic activity from its long-term investment strategy. Finally, CMC is exploring the recommendation to permanently phase-out all non-electric vehicles/greenhouse gas emitting vehicles from its institutional fleet.

Element IB: Improved water quality, efficiency, and conservation

CMC has several unique challenges overall as an institution in managing both its water quality and water usage. CMC’s campuses are located in climates ranging from the high alpine to high desert, at altitudes ranging from 10,152 to 5,348 feet. However, the institution has undertaken several initiatives since 2009 to mitigate our water usage and demands. Some specific implemented initiatives include:

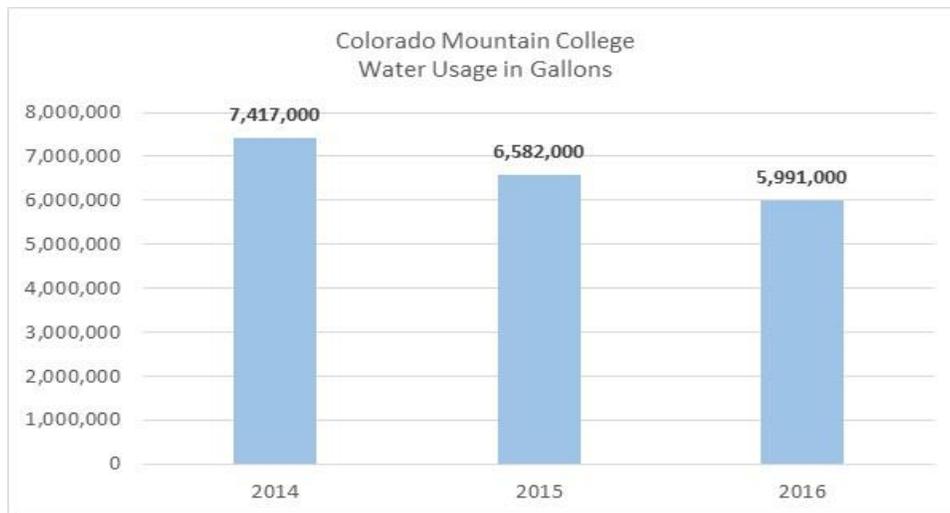
- Xeriscaping utilized at all campus sites including the use of native plants, nighttime watering schedules to maximize water absorption, minimizing decorative plants to economize on water consumption (Institution-wide)
- 2014 extensive landscaping changes including new groundwater runoff channels, extensive native grass utilization, and careful water-flow controls to reduce the need for the use of irrigation water (Rifle campus)
- Installation of low-flow toilets, urinals, and automated water faucets in restrooms at each site to reduce water usage. (Institution-wide)
- Utilization of waterless urinals to reduce water usage at specific campuses on a trial basis. (Breckenridge, Dillon Campuses)
- Utilization of a high efficiency boiler to reduce water needs for building heating and hot water use. P-K Thermific Velox Non-Condensing Boilers with a CSA certified efficiency of 85% as a Category I non-positive, non-condensing appliance. (Breckenridge campus)
- Installation of water bottle “filtered refill stations” throughout all sites to encourage reusable water bottle use and to enhance the quality of water consumed by our students and staff. (Institution-wide)
- In 2014 one campus site that is not utilizing municipal water supplies partnered with the Colorado Rural Water Association (CRWA) to create one of the state’s only Source Water Protection Plans to preserve its local non-municipal water supply through protection and use stewardship. (Spring Valley campus)
- In 2014 two campus sites implemented using EcoBlue Cubes in their urinals to reduce water consumption, this product reduces urinal water usage by approximately 99%. (Spring Valley and Glenwood Springs campuses)

CMC has conducted a complete water use audit of all our sites to establish a water-use baseline for future conservation efforts. CMC regularly participates in all local and county water-assessment activities to ensure lower lead and other potential toxic threats in the water supply. Of particular note in this regard is CMC’s Leadville campus, which maintains a water-purity testing laboratory and has contracted with various private and government entities to assist in water-standards testing. CMC is pleased to report the following data from its water use audit:

CMC Water Usage (By campus, in Thousands of Gallons, January to August per Year)

Year	AS	CB	VL	GWC	WG	SB	BK	CH	LV
2014	868	78	302	263	489	2,696	300	414	2,007
2015	771	27	368	205	443	2,973	300	50	1,445
2016	907	17	253	217	282	2,751	260	82	1,222
%	+18	-78	-16	-17	-42	+2	-13	-80	-39

AS – Aspen, CB – Carbondale, VL – Vail/Edwards, GWC – Glenwood, WG – West Garfield, SB – Steamboat, BK – Breckenridge, CH – Chaffee, LV – Leadville, % - Percentage changed



Although CMC’s water usage, as shown above and tracked in cooperation with local billing utilities companies, has not fallen at all sites, CMC continues to work to reduce its water usage overall. CMC is particularly proud of the massive water savings achieved at its Rifle and Leadville campuses, which link to changes in landscaping practices that are more adaptive to the needs of the region. Carbondale’s water-savings link to greater conservation of use and adapting improved lower-usage water fixtures. CMC is exploring why water usage spiked in 2016 at its Aspen campus location.

Element IC: Reduced Waste Production and Improved Recycling and Compositing Program

The CMC facilities department throughout all 11 of the institute’s campus locations and at our central offices aggressively monitors its production and disposition of hazardous waste materials to ensure full compliance with Colorado state law. In addition, our Risk Management department monitors all CMC laboratories for proper compliance with all required hazardous waste disposal practices, as well as all regularly updating CMC’s policies and procedures on laboratory safety to capture recommended best practices to minimize hazardous waste disposal. CMC maintains a battery-recycling program in all of its operational sites; all collected batteries are recycled according to proper safety methods.

Some examples of CMC’s commitment to reducing waste production and improving its recycling/composting programs include:

- All paper purchased for use in the central administration offices of the institution is required to have recycled content. Presently, all centrally purchased paper contains 30% post-consumer recycled content, meets the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and is Green-Seal certified to ensure a lower impact on the environment and human health. (Central Administration in Glenwood Springs)

- In 2015, two premier recycling campuses were responsible for implementing extensive recycling efforts including paper/food scraps recycling for composting, single stream recycling, and glass recycling. Combined both campuses were responsible for up to 136 gallons of paper, 53 gallons of food waste, and 384 gallons of single stream recycling a week. Up to 80 gallons, a month of glass was recycled at both locations. (Breckenridge and Dillon campuses)
- In 2015 three campuses implemented a total recycling program for all food waste and organic material to ensure its diversion into composting. Working in partnership with EverGreen Zero Waste this material is diverted from the local landfill and is turned into soil that is resold to local residents and farmers. (Aspen, Carbondale, Glenwood campuses, Spring Valley limited to the residence hall only)
- In 2015 due to student initiative one of our three residential campus dining halls became a charter member of a local Food Recovery Network and has begun to donate unused human-edible food to local non-profits in the region for use. This delivery has been implemented twice weekly. (Steamboat Springs campus)
- Beginning in 2014 two of our three residential campus dining halls implemented an organic recycling program in combination with a local pig farmer. Students, staff, and faculty are aggressively encouraged to recycle leftover organic food waste/kitchen food waste that shipped regularly for the consumption by pigs. Since 2014, both campuses have diverted a total of 41,400 pounds of organic waste from landfills and used as agricultural feed. The Steamboat Springs campus joined this effort in 2015. (Spring Valley, Leadville, and Steamboat Springs campuses)
- Since 2008 the institution has implemented and maintained an e-waste recycling and reuse program. Local eligible non-profit organizations or governmental entities such as local school districts are offered surplus electronic items the institution has phased out. Unwanted electronic items and electronic items that are no longer functional are recycled with a local third-party corporation which ensures the e-waste is properly disposed of and valuable components are recovered. The institution maintains a 100% e-waste recycling/reuse program. (Institution-wide)
- All operational sites have an active recycling program that diverts plastic/container waste and paper from the landfill flow. Each operational site maintains dumpsters for both waste and recycling. (Institution-wide)
- Individual campuses have switched over to using only green certified cleaning supplies for their custodial needs. (Institution-wide campus driven initiative)

CMC has explored the possibility of tracking its paper, food waste, single stream, and glass recycling efforts by weight at each campus. Unfortunately CMC has to contract with different individual vendors at its assorted campus locations to process its recycling and multiple vendors have indicated that tracking individual “pickup” weights for recycled products is either beyond their current capacity to track or would be cost prohibitive. However, CMC plans to continue to explore this data gathering need and will continue to seek innovative solutions to better track this information.

Element ID: Use of alternative transportation to and from campus

Of the 11 sites that compose CMC’s system, eight are commuter campuses, oriented towards non-residential local students pursuing their degrees. CMC is also located in a rural region, requiring a large percentage of our students, faculty, and staff to commute from their homes to the learning sites. Due to

these circumstances, and limited regional mass transportation systems, CMC is very limited in the reasonable and implementable solutions it can utilize to promote alternative transportation to and from its campuses. However, CMC has undertaken several initiatives to promote reduced and alternative transportation use:

- Since 2013 a total of six of CMC's 11 total sites have provided free electric charging stations for use by owners of electric vehicles. (Rifle, Carbondale, Leadville, Breckenridge, Steamboat Springs campuses and the Central Administration in Glenwood Springs)
- In 2015 CMC received funding from the Colorado Charge Ahead initiative to install four additional electric charging stations for use by owners of electric vehicles. These stations were fully installed and operational by October 2016. (Edwards, Spring Valley, Glenwood Springs Center, and Aspen campuses)
- Within the Roaring Fork Valley, the institution maintains a free commuter shuttle that moves students between three geographically disconnected locations. This free shuttle allows students to attend courses located among these locations without having to utilize private vehicles. This shuttle provides six trips per day, year round, covers 180 miles per trip, and has an average daily ridership of 28 students. (Spring Valley, Glenwood Springs, and Carbondale campuses)
- One campus has partnered with the local municipality to provide twice an hour stops on campus by one of the local bus lines to encourage student use. (Steamboat Springs)
- Since 2013 each April the institution holds a month long alternative transportation event for its central services staff to bike, walk, or ride public transportation to reach their offices. Participation is encouraged through a series of small-prize drawings for locally donated gift cards. The institution also regularly promotes walking and biking as healthy activities during the warmer months through staff healthy lifestyles emails. (Central Administration in Glenwood Springs)
- Since 2009 the institution has utilized its video conferencing system (IVS) to reduce the number of physical presence meetings required by staff and faculty. Doing so has allowed staff members at different sites throughout the institution to meet without having to use personal vehicles, reducing the institution's overall carbon impact. In 2016, CMC implemented an institution wide desktop-based online meeting system, WebEx, to broaden non-travel meeting support. (Institute-wide)

CMC is currently working on developing new methods to track the impact of its supportive programs for alternative transportation within the institution. At present CMC is exploring working with local governments to attempt to track bus ridership and working with our healthy lifestyles partner to develop means of tracking utilization of CMC funds for bus pass usage. CMC has recently phased in usage tracking for its electric vehicle charging stations and anticipates having data to show its collective impact beginning in the 2017-2018 calendar year.

Pillar II: Improved Health and Wellness

Element IIA: An Integrated Campus Environmental Health Program

CMC has invested throughout its campuses in state-of-the-art HVAC systems on each of its campuses and within our central offices. Our facilities department actively pursues air quality testing to maintain proper humidity levels below 60%, to test for proper ambient temperatures, and to ensure proper airflow and purity at each CMC operational site. CMC conducts radon level testing during construction or renovation

projects. The college maintains a tobacco-free environment within all campus facilities and our central offices. CMC actively works to prevent any growth of mold within our HVAC systems and environments throughout our facilities locations and maintains proper carbon monoxide alarms to protect our students, faculty, and staff at all operational locations.

CMC uses Orkin Pest Control services on most of our campus locations for Integrated Pest Management. Orkin is a preferred pest control vendor due to its corporate commitment to utilizing environmentally responsible pest control solutions, EPA certified pest control products, and efforts to maximize its corporate energy savings and diminished carbon footprint. Orkin Pest Control regularly tracks and reports its pesticide use. CMC, on the recommendation of Natural Capitalism Solutions, has begun work on 2017 on the development and implementation of an Integrated Pest Management plan for the entire institution to reduce its pesticide usage. This work is ongoing and the final Integrated Pest Management plan will be designed to accommodate individual campus location climate and ecological needs.

CMC is in compliance with all-applicable Colorado state laws and federal regulations related to mercury, carbon monoxide, radon, and other hazardous chemicals and materials. Its full-time, on-site Risk Assessment Manager oversees CMC's compliance with these regulations. CMC disposes of all chemicals appropriately as outlined in the applicable Safety Data Sheets provided by the chemical manufacturer.

CMC maintains an "active response" system for addressing any asthma concerns/asthma triggers within its campus communities. In the event of a reported asthma trigger or asthma concern CMC's Facilities Manager, working with our Risk Assessment Manager, meets with the impacted individual/individuals, reviews the environmental systems to ensure their compliance, and a mitigation plan is implemented. CMC contracts with local industrial hygienists to gather data on asthma trigger risks, as needed, and works with them to develop mitigation plans. Finally, CMC changes all HVAC system filters at each campus location twice yearly to reduce the risk of asthma triggers and to ensure air quality at all of its campus locations.

CMC employs a full-time, on-site Risk Assessment Manager who is responsible for overseeing laboratory safety standards and protocols, implementing safety measures throughout all campus and administrative sites, and providing regular safety training addressing potential threats to our students and staff.

CMC has also implemented several other initiatives to promote the health and safety of both its students and its staff:

- Since 2015 the institution has conducted several active-shooter trainings and has conducted several "lockdown" drills with mandatory staff participation. (Institute-wide)
- The institution maintains at its central administrative location a "floor captain" system to ensure that each major functional area has dedicated staff responsible for assisting in an emergency evacuation. (Central Administration in Glenwood Springs)
- The institution holds regular fire drills with mandatory staff and student participation. These fire drills are designed to test evacuation procedures and familiarize the staff with proper evacuation routes. (Institution-wide)

Element IIB: High Standards of Health and Wellness

CMC has incorporated numerous individual campus initiatives to implement elevated standards of health and wellness within our staff, our faculty, and our students. Our primary focus in this regard is on our three residential campuses (the only locations with both dining facilities and regular residential students).

Some of the major initiatives in this area are:

- CMC supports a co-ed college ski team that is a member of the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association. This team is open to any CMC student who is able to pass its competitive qualification requirements. (Steamboat Springs campus based)
- A student-run outdoor mountain biking club that CMC's Outdoor Education program supports to promote its outreach and student membership. (Spring Valley campus)
- In 2014 one campus completed a forest garden on its grounds for use by local students and community residents. In collaboration with a local non-profit organization, students planted a total of two dozen heritage fruit and nut trees and bushes along with dozens of strawberry plants and local wildflowers. (Carbondale campus)
- In 2014 one campus supported a student initiative to form a beekeeping club and establish four hives on the campus. The club also offers an all-day workshop on beekeeping that is free to local students/at a minimal cost to non-students interested in learning about beekeeping. (Steamboat Springs campus)
- Through our dining services partner Sodexo, CMC's residential campus dining halls focus on procuring locally grown produce with an emphasis on organic produce where possible. Sodexo enforces high standards on meat quality and purity in all purchases made, although Sodexo has no plans to implement an organic meat procurement plan in the immediate future. (Spring Valley, Leadville, Steamboat Springs campuses)
- CMC's dining hall management partners with PEAK, CMC's student wellness club, to provide a monthly high nutrition/high health menu with a goal of teaching students to avoiding junk foods/fried foods. (Spring Valley, Leadville, Steamboat Springs campuses)
- As a student-led initiative, community gardens are maintained at two campus locations to allow local residents and students to cultivate vegetables for their own consumption and to promote sustainability. (Breckenridge and Edwards campuses)
- As a student-led initiative, a permanent extensive greenhouse, utilizing modern sustainable production and growth methods, operates as a student/faculty collaborative project that provides organic high-quality vegetables year-round for use on-campus and by local restaurants. The production of this facility includes salad greens, herbs, spices, and aromatics and its student/faculty partnership have promoted its effectiveness and impact to expand the scope of local restaurants utilizing this local source for produce. This facility also utilizes extremely low water consuming irrigation techniques and technology. (Edwards campus)
- The Permaculture Design Certificate of Completion program has begun implementation of food producing gardens at one campus. The food produced is available to students taking the permaculture courses and to faculty and staff at the campus. (Steamboat Springs campus)

CMC has a strong emphasis on encouraging voluntary outdoor activities by our student population to emphasize our location in the Rocky Mountains. CMC also provides numerous athletic facilities for use by our students to promote their individual health. Our Spring Valley campus features a “ropes challenge course” that is used by students. The Spring Valley campus also has an indoor gymnasium available for use by students. Our Leadville and Steamboat Springs campus facilities also provide exercise equipment within their respective residence halls for use by our students.

Element IIC: Coordinated Campus Health, Mental Health, Campus Climate and Safety

As a rural community college with widely distributed campuses and serving a wide array of student needs, CMC is continually researching methods of meeting the health and safety needs of our students. From 2001 to 2005, CMC maintained an experimental student health clinic at its Spring Valley Residential Campus location, but CMC had to close the clinic in 2005 due to low-utilization rates by students and the high cost of operation. Since 2005 CMC has periodically reviewed the needs of its student population and the projected costs of re-establishing a student health clinic or clinics, but the combination of cost and low anticipated demand continue to make a CMC-operated student health clinic an untenable option.

However, CMC has implemented several other systematic and individual campus solutions to meet the needs of our students’ physical and mental health and to improve the campus climate and the safety of our students. Some highlights include:

- One residential campus, through its student government fee, funds two no-cost mental health specialists who serve on the campus three days per week and one no-cost physician’s assistant who serves on the campus four days per week. (Steamboat Springs campus)
- One non-residential campus coordinates with a local community clinic at a hospital near the campus and provides a “care card” for low-income/high needs students that grants them discounted medical assistance with that provider. (Breckenridge campus)
- One campus has a club for its LGBTQ students and their allies. This club, and its advisors, offers a training session on campus for faculty interested in learning more about supporting LGBTQ students. In 2015 over 20 full-time faculty attended this workshop. (Steamboat Springs Campus)
- Institution-wide, every enrolled student is eligible to receive up to six hours of mental health support from a partner provider, MindSprings, at a significant discount. CMC covers \$120 of the hourly healthcare fee while each enrolled student covers \$10 of the total cost. Access to this service is referral based. (Institution-wide)
- CMC maintains a staff of professional counsellors located at each learning site who are able to assist students with academic concerns as well as life issues, mental health issues, and emotional issues. (Institution-wide)
- CMC maintains a staff of dedicated disabilities services coordinators who are responsible for assisting students with documented physical or learning disabilities who receive accommodations at the institution to support their academic success. (Institution-wide)
- CMC, with the generous grant support from the federal Department of Education, has recently expanded its student support services to include three regular TRIO programs and one TRIO Disabilities program. These programs allow the college to provide intense academic guidance support, counselling, and college success support in a high-contact manner for students who are

first-generation and/or low-income. These programs support 375 full-time high-needs CMC students and have increased completion and retention rates when compared to their unsupported student peers. (Institution-wide)

- A commuter campus has partnered with a local recreational center to provide students with a discounted rate access pass to utilize the facility. (Edwards Campus)
- All campuses with vending machines have implemented identification of healthy-choices among the items sold, ensuring that at least some high-benefit nutritional items are available for student purchase. (Institution-wide where applicable)
- All campuses' counsellor and support programs are linked by shared secure software to foster coordination of benefits and assistance to individual students. (Institution-wide)

CMC also has invested in the health and well-being of its staff and faculty. The following highlights illustrate this commitment:

- Since 2015 CMC has conducted several active-shooter trainings and has conducted several "lockdown" drills with mandatory staff participation. (Institute-wide)
- The institution maintains at its central administrative location a "floor captain" system to ensure that each major functional area has dedicated staff responsible for assisting in an emergency evacuation. (Central Administration in Glenwood Springs)
- All institution sites maintain active emergency procedure guides available to staff, faculty, and students outlining the correct emergency responses. (Institution-wide)
- CMC has a particular focus on efforts to improve the health of its staff and faculty including offering a comprehensive yearly free health-screening event. (Institution-wide)
- To allow flexible coverage options, CMC offers varying health coverage plans to all benefit eligible staff and faculty members as well as voluntary dental and vision coverage. (Institution-wide)
- CMC has also invested in a college wide Employee Assistance Program that provides free of charge, confidential counselling resources by phone or online for staff members who desire assistance with personal/life issues. (Institution-wide)
- In 2014 CMC partnered with CEBT to provide a pilot program of two no-cost basic health clinics for eligible staff and faculty, as well as their dependents/spouses, to provide lower-cost healthcare options. (Glenwood Springs and Rifle campuses)
- CMC also offers for all staff and faculty a "Wellness Benefit" – a special fund that can be billed to reimburse active health improvement measures including massage, physical fitness costs, preventative medical care, and other applicable health expenses. (Institution-wide)

CMC currently does not sufficiently track the impact of these various initiatives on its student and staff populations' well-being. CMC is currently working to develop such systems.

Pillar III: Environmental and Sustainability Education

Element IIIA: Interdisciplinary Learning about the Key Relationships between Dynamic Environmental, Energy, and Human Systems

CMC has embraced a varied curriculum emphasis on environmental stewardship and sustainability education. The centerpiece of these efforts is our newly offered Bachelor of the Arts in Sustainability

Studies. Due to its carefully considered high-value to our served communities and the broader anticipated future economic and social demands of Colorado and the nation, the Sustainability Studies degree was one of the first two bachelor's degrees offered by CMC. CMC's Sustainability Studies degree blends classroom instruction with experiential education. Classroom instruction focuses on integrating STEM disciplines such as biology and ecology with humanities and social sciences, including philosophy, ethics, and social justice. The program also focuses on integrating business practices with social justice and proper environmental stewardship concerns.

CMC also offers two Associate of Applied Science degrees with an environmental focus: the Natural Resource Management and Environmental Science programs. CMC's Natural Resource Management program focuses on hands-on experiential education designed to develop students' skills in a variety of environments, including high alpine forests, high alpine meadows, riparian areas, and wetlands. The Natural Resource Management program has successfully placed students in internships with various state, federal, and private organizations to develop their academic skills into functional career skills. CMC's Environmental Science program centers on a broad STEM approach with coursework in biology, chemistry, and geology, all of which is focused on environmental problems and biological and ecological approaches to addressing them.

Finally, CMC offers a popular technical training program in Solar Energy with three certificates: Basic Solar Photovoltaic, Photovoltaic Installer, and Solar Thermal Installer. Each of these certificate programs focuses on training students in immediately marketable skills in the solar installation industry while grounding students in broader ecological theories and principles to enhance their understanding of the role greener energy will play in the energy future of the United States. Each of these certificate programs relies on solid practical/experiential learning methods including working with outdoor practical installation test-facilities, direct guided installation experience working with the tools and materials of the industry, and student-led concluding projects within local communities. CMC also works with local community partners to determine opportunities to allow student-led solar installation projects to be implemented in real-world conditions.

CMC is particularly proud of a new initiative at its Edwards campus location that supports both student post-secondary degree completion and CMC's sustainability studies educational work. Called "Early College" this new pilot program allows high school seniors in the Eagle County school district to enroll at CMC for an additional two years to complete an Associate's degree. CMC offers strong support through partnerships with non-profit organizations, as well as with the local school district, to support interested students in completing STEM Associates degrees during this supported period, with an emphasis on sustainability coursework. CMC is grateful that the state of Colorado supports this "Early College" project with direct tuition support for enrolled students, making postsecondary education more accessible, affordable, and integrated into Eagle County high school students' post-high school plans. CMC is also pleased to report that credits earned by students pursuing their Associates degree through this program are transferrable to other four-year institutions and CMC has created easy-pathways internally to support these students pursuing a four-year degree at CMC.

CMC has an established environmental learning outcome requirement for all of its sustainability-oriented academic programs, but as of 2016 does not have a universal environmental learning outcome as a general educational goal. However, CMC does encourage all of its students to explore sustainability coursework

while enrolled at CMC. Any student is eligible to enroll in a sustainability course for which they meet the prerequisites, and many sustainability courses can be cross-utilized as electives for non-sustainability degree programs. Finally, CMC offers two general elective courses focused on sustainability: Introduction to Sustainability and Issues in Sustainability.

CMC also provides significant opportunities for its faculty and staff to participate in professional activities related to environmental and sustainability education. The college maintains a Sustainability Action Plan Steering Committee that focuses on implementing the college's sustainability plan and works with the college administration to maintain CMC's commitment to carbon neutrality. In addition, many CMC campus locations, and the central administrative offices, maintain "green teams" that work directly on individual campuses and in the central administrative offices to promote local, small-scale solutions that reflect the priorities of the larger institutional climate action plan.

In April 2014 and April 2016, CMC hosted its biannual college-wide sustainability conference at our Steamboat Springs campus. These two-day events brought together a large number of students, faculty, and staff as well as key community leaders to explore a wide array of sustainability issues and challenges.

Element IIIB: Use of the Environment and Sustainability to develop STEM Content, Knowledge and Thinking Skills

CMC encourages its STEM faculty to make links between course material and issues/topics in the environment and sustainability. CMC makes a particularly strong effort to link these subjects into the STEM field in its Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies, Associate of Applied Science in Natural Resource Management, and Environmental Studies degree programs as well as in its certificate programs in Solar Power. In each of these programs, not only are sustainability topics widely addressed, but also interconnected links among STEM topics and these issues are explored in depth. CMC also supports its students in these fields, and throughout the institution, in transferring to institutions for further post-secondary education above the Associates/Bachelors level (as appropriate) to continue their learning in environmental or sustainability fields. CMC also directly assists interested students in career placement in these fields. In general, CMC students have extensive access to STEM courses and content outside of the courses and degree programs outlined above, CMC offers extensive for-credit and non-credit STEM courses and opportunities for STEM knowledge attainment.

An example of a course offered by CMC exhibiting these characteristics is SUS 321 – Leadership, Ethics, and Social Responsibility. This is a required course for our Sustainability Studies, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and Bachelors of Applied Science majors and one available to any student who has completed 45 college credits. This course focuses on training in questions of ethics, meaning, and values as related to 21st issues of sustainability and environmental policy.

CMC is working to gather comprehensive data on the career placement success/internship placement success of the students enrolled in its various sustainability certificate and degree programs. This is part of a broader effort by CMC to gather better data on the job placement and success rates of its students. At present, this effort is limited by CMC's data tracking capacity and the challenge of following students as they move between institutions and into the workforce.

Since 2014 CMC's Edwards campus has implemented a new work-study position, "Sustainability Coordinators." These student paid internships work to aggressively support and expand this campus's efforts to increase their sustainable initiatives and reduce its operational carbon-footprint. Meeting weekly this group of student interns have completed the following major projects:

- In 2014 while working with a local non-profit, the Walking Mountains Science Center, student Sustainability Coordinators gathered data on campus energy use, recycling impacts, and sustainable activities to attain a baseline of campus sustainability activity and apply for the recognized status of "Actively Green" for the campus. This status was attained in 2015 and has been maintained since then by these student positions
- Since 2015 student Sustainability Coordinators have been actively working on outreach and educational efforts with other students on campus to promote sustainability and environmental awareness in the local student population. This work has included posters and presentations on these subjects
- Since 2016 student Sustainability Coordinators have worked with Knapp Ranch, a local farm in the valley, to provide sustainably produced local produce for use by Eagle County restaurants. These student interns have worked as business/sales liaisons with local restaurants, farmed, and harvested produce.

Element IIIC: Development and Application of Civic Engagement, Knowledge, and Skills

CMC has focused in its Sustainability Studies program on encouraging our students to be ethically and civically engaged as a core value and requirement to successfully complete the program. Through supporting internships, the college has also encouraged its students to seek out civic engagement opportunities to broaden their skills and real-world experience. Some highlights of these efforts include:

- Experiential learning trips for first-year students including one to Echo Park in Dinosaur National Monument and a second to eastern Utah/western Colorado. Each trip focuses on intense observation and experiential learning about environmental issues, the history of the environmental movement, the impact of water access on the history of the West, general ecology, and cultural history. (Steamboat Springs campus)
- Since 2012 students have worked with a local non-profit to plan, manage, and host a community oriented farm-to-table event. This includes engagement with local gardens to raise the food produced for the event. This year, the event shifted focus to be a fall harvest festival for the community, with special focus on educating children and families about sustainability. (Steamboat Springs campus)
- Student organizations have been founded on several campuses to encourage civic engagement and environmental projects. These organizations include two campus Students for Sustainability Clubs (one in the Roaring Fork Valley and one in Steamboat) and the Food Club and Beekeeping Club (Steamboat Springs). In 2014 the Roaring Fork club installed two PV systems in the homes of low-income families, assisted Habitat for Humanity in building two LEED-platinum homes, and undertook a road cleanup on Colorado Highway 82 that removed over 1,000 pounds of trash. The Steamboat Springs clubs have coordinated many educational events open to the local community and have undertaken numerous small projects related to waste reduction, sustainable food,

reduction of bottled water consumption, and more. (Carbondale, Spring Valley, Glenwood Springs, and Steamboat Springs campuses)

- In 2014, CMC received a grant from the Sierra Club of Colorado to support two student interns researching issues of wolf reintroduction to Colorado and to support educational presentations on this topic. (Spring Valley campus)
- CMC students in the Outdoor Leadership program engage in a focused outdoor learning experience as an integral part of the program curriculum. Students enrolled in this certificate program are required to undertake a field experience in a wilderness location to apply their theoretical knowledge. (Leadville campus)

CMC is proud to recognize the following student-led sustainability initiatives, by campus, which have had a powerful and lasting impact on the institution:

- Expanding the number of water dispensers to cover all campus buildings including retroactive upgrades to older facilities. (Leadville campus)
- In 2015 hosting a zero-waste student commencement celebration. (Leadville campus)
- In 2016 undertaking work with local city and county government officials to attempt to extend shuttle service for students/local community members without cars. This effort is still underway. (Leadville campus)
- Committing to the “Real Food Challenge” which mandates that the residence hall dining facility commit to obtaining 20% (by dollar value) in real food by 2020, with real food defined as either local, organic, humane, or non-exploitative of people. (Steamboat campus)
- Researching and developing ecological restoration strategies for CMC’s Veterinarian Technology (Vet Tech) farm to reduce its impact and increase the presence of native/local plant life. (Spring Valley campus)
- In 2016 CMC’s day-long all-staff and faculty retreat was modified to be a zero-waste event. (Spring Valley campus)
- In 2016 a sustainability student, as part of a capstone project, was tasked with developing a single unified draft policy for CMC to govern its grounds management with diminished ecological impact. This draft policy was accepted by the CMC’s executive leadership and is currently under review for general implementation. (Institute-wide)

Cross-Cutting Questions

Participation in Green Programs and/or Awards for Environmental and Sustainability Efforts

CMC is also a proud member of the Sustainability Education and Economic Development Center (SEED). Since 2009 CMC is a member of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. The American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment was established in May 2007 and as of 2017 has 650 signatories. Each signatory institution pledges to measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions, take immediate actions to reduce them, and develop and implement a plan to go climate neutral. This initiative is overseen by the non-profit organization ecoAmerica. As of 2016 a CMC faculty member, Tina Evans, was honored with an award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for her research work and journal article about the process of activating hope and agency among undergraduate college students.

CMC currently has a partnership with the Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER), a non-profit organization within its service district dedicated to assisting communities, governments, businesses and households in western Colorado develop clean energy solutions. CMC partners with CLEER to track its energy usage and to make recommendations for both means to reduce our energy consumption and to implement new clean energy solutions. CMC also partnered with both CLEER and the Rocky Mountain Institute in 2014 to host the first-ever “Electric Vehicle Rally of the Rockies.”

Finally, CMC recently secured a grant from the Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE) to provide \$75,000 in funding for additional environmental upgrades to our facilities in Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, Spring Valley, and Aspen. In support of this initiative CMC has partnered with CORE to track energy usage at these locations to test the impact of the improvements and better manage our institutional energy usage.

CMC is pleased to submit the included five photographs, with the following captions:

- Picture 1 – “STEM coursework, field water testing, CMC faculty and student”
- Picture 2 – “STEM coursework, field water testing, CMC students”
- Picture 3 – “STEM summer camp, middle school students exploring”
- Picture 4 – “STEM CMC students and faculty explore an aspen forest”
- Picture 5 – “STEM CMC students and faculty discussing course on river bank”