

# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

Review of September & October 2024

## Highlights

- Environmental Analyst Position - an offer was extended to and accepted by Mr. Ben Kellond. Staff are extremely excited to begin working with Mr. Kellond, who's background includes extensive oil and gas facility inspection, FLIR/OGI camera certification and experience, oil and gas facility emission inventory analysis and reporting, as well as groundwater remediation and environmental regulation and compliance reporting to both CDPHE and ECMC. Mr. Kellond will join the Town of Erie team on December 2nd, just after the Thanksgiving break.
- Waste Diversion Rebates from the Sustainability Division and Economic Development teams were launched in early October. These rebates support waste diversion resources and efforts for Town businesses and residents, supported through bag fee funds.

## OIL & GAS

### News & Notes

#### Draco OGDG

The Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) will hold the final hearing on the Draco OGDG proposal on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Town will provide written and verbal comments to the Commission detailing the negotiated concessions agreed to by the operator as well as any issues which remain outstanding. Town staff continue to meet with the operator to resolve the few remaining issues raised by the Town.

### Spills & Releases

Operators reported 280 spills/releases during the months of September and October 2024, state-wide, of which 5 were reported within the municipal boundary of Erie.

- Woolley 21-7
  - Reported by Civitas Sept 12, 2024
  - Past spill identified during site decommissioning. Date of release unknown.
  - Extent and type of release being determined
- Pratt 22-29
  - Reported by Occidental Oct 17, 2024
  - Past spill identified during site decommissioning. Date of release unknown.
  - Extent and type of release being determined
- Pratt 4-2-29
  - Reported by Occidental Oct 17, 2024
  - Past spill identified during site decommissioning. Date of release unknown.
  - Extent and type of release being determined
- Vessels 12-30
  - Reported by Occidental Oct 18, 2024
  - Past spill identified during site decommissioning. Date of release unknown.
  - Extent and type of release being determined
- Thomas 24-7 & 33-7
  - Past spill identified during site decommissioning. Date of release unknown.
  - Extent and type of release being determined

## Inspections

ECMC Inspectors visited 25 oil and gas wells at 7 locations in Erie during the months of September & October 2024.

- WILLIAM H. PELTIER 12-20
  - SINGE WELL INSPECTION
- WILLIAM H. PELTIER 1
  - SINGLE WELL INSPECTION
- SRC PRATT
  - 6 WELLS INSPECTED
  - 1 CORRECTIVE ACTION ISSUED, CONCERNING THE CLEAN UP OF DEAD VEGETAION AND DEBRIS
- YOUNG 4-31
  - SINGE WELL INSPECTION
- PRATT 'F' UNIT 1
  - 8 WELLS INSPECTED
- COAL CREEK 19
  - 2 WELLS INSPECTED
- PRATT 29H-P168
  - 6 WELLS INSPECTED

No Notices of Alleged Violation (NOAVs) were issued during inspections.

So far in 2024, inspections have occurred at 59 of the 137 total active wells (those designated producing, shut-in, or temporarily abandoned) within Erie (43%) in addition to 13 inspections of plugged and abandoned wells.

## AIR QUALITY MONITORING

As autumnal weather sets in, the air quality on Northern Front Range improves with lower temperatures and greatly reduced ozone levels. With cooler temperatures, weather inversions and stagnant air accumulation will increase, resulting in more frequent detections of VOC plumes heading into winter.

### BoulderAIR

The BoulderAIR ECC monitoring station reported the following events in September and October where measured values exceeded their “alert” thresholds:

- Zero days included 8-hour averaged measurements of ozone concentrations exceeding the federal primary air quality standard of 70 ppb. The Northern Front Range is currently considered to be in Severe violation of Federal Air Quality Standards for ozone concentrations, with an attainment deadline of July 20, 2027. More information is available from CDPHE here: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/ozone-pollution-and-your-health>
- Nine (9) measurements of PM2.5 concentrations exceeding the alert threshold of 35.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, with the highest reported value being 328.5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, though none exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for 24-hour exposure of 35.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. While no observations exceeded the 24-hour primary 24-hour standard, high PM2.5 measurements have been frequent since the BoulderAIR station was installed. When compared to the other BoulderAIR monitoring stations in the region, Erie’s (ECC) PM2.5 measurements are similar to those at Longmont’s Union Reservoir (LUR), higher than those at Broomfield’s Soaring Eagle (BSE), and considerably lower than measurements in Commerce City (CCF). It is suspected that maintenance activities at the adjacent ballfields (mowing and raking of the clay infield and warning tracks) contribute heavily to the fine particulate matter detected, which should decline as utilization of the ballfields decrease in the fall/winter seasons.
- One (1) measurement of elevated methane (6.59 ppm or 0.000659%) on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>, which while notable is 4 orders of magnitude below the Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) for methane of 5%.

## Ajax/CSU

Seven (7) canisters trigger events to collect samples due to elevated PID sensor readings occurred in September and October. Links to the event reports, available as analysis and review are complete, are available here:

- **Sept 15** – Landfill North (1 of 2): <https://trello.com/c/gIBknPM8/126-9-15-24-919pm-landfill-north-500-mv>
- **Sept 15** – Landfill North (2 of 2): <https://trello.com/c/BKq15jDR/127-9-15-24-919pm-landfill-north-800-mv>
- **Sept 29** – Landfill South: <https://trello.com/c/nlwELU0k/134-9-29-24-612-am-landfill-south>
- **Oct 2** – Landfill North (1 of 2): review and analysis in progress
- **Oct 2** – Landfill North (2 of 2): review and analysis in progress
- **Oct 14** - Landfill North: review and analysis in progress
- **Oct 23** – Cosslett Southeast: review and analysis in progress

The Ajax Q2 2024 Summary Report is available here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xUV2KEQnl9hA6r8fe5aJ1oegAz5e9GP3/view?usp=drive\\_web](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xUV2KEQnl9hA6r8fe5aJ1oegAz5e9GP3/view?usp=drive_web)

A reminder that residents of Erie can rent an air quality sample canister free-of-charge from Town Hall.

## LANDFILL TASK FORCE (LTF)

The sixth and final LTF meeting was held on October 1, 2024, focusing on finalizing landfill land use recommendations and community benefits. LTF resources and October's full meeting summary will be available on the Landfill Task Force Website ([www.erieco.us/LandfillTaskForce](http://www.erieco.us/LandfillTaskForce)) once comments and edits from Task Force Members are complete. The group will be presenting to the Council regarding the process of the Task Force as well as final potential community benefit and other recommendations on November 19 during a virtual meeting.

## SUSTAINABILITY & WATER CONSERVATION

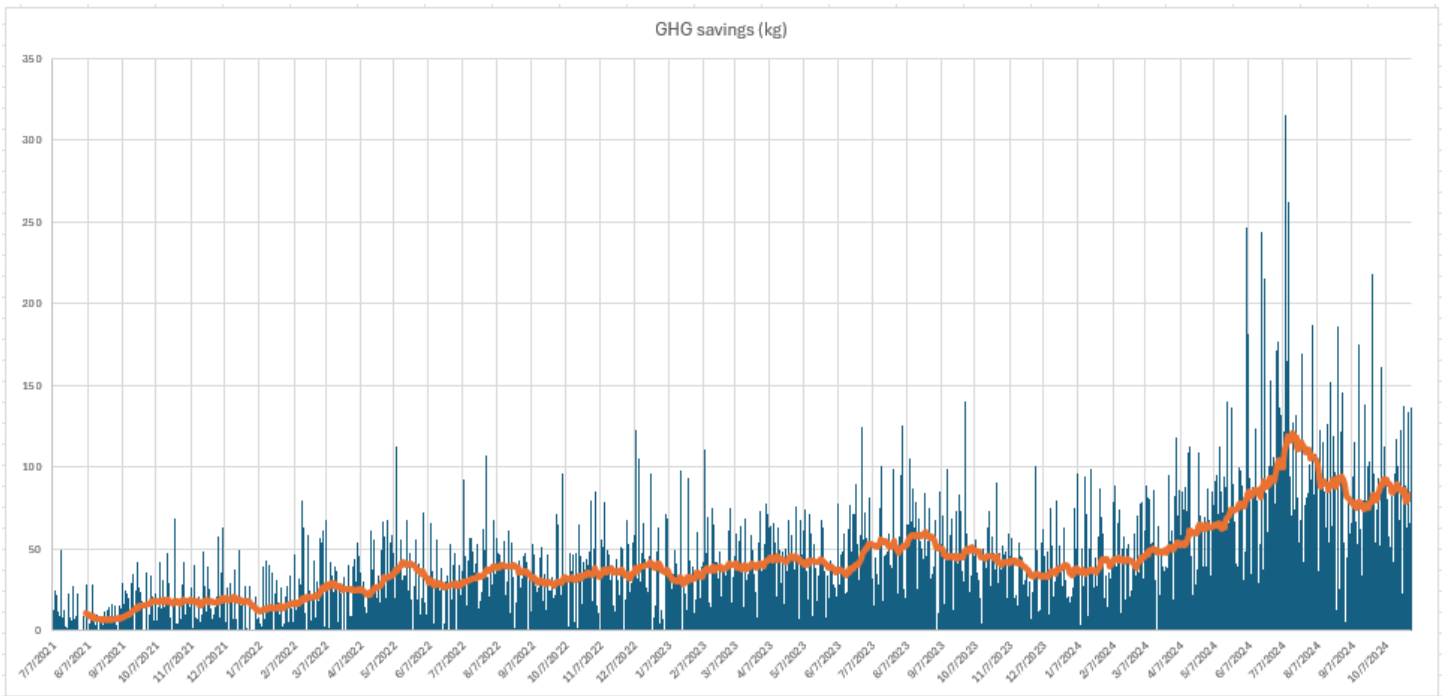
### General Updates

The Sustainability Division continues to participate in the [Denver Regional Collaboration of Governments \(DRCOG\) EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant](#) of \$199 million dollars to the Front Range focused on beneficial electrification of the built environment and improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado. Colorado was unique in being awarded two grants with the [Colorado Energy Office the recipient of a \\$129 million implementation grant](#) to support methane emissions monitoring and reduction, large building decarbonization and local government climate action accelerator efforts. The Sustainability Division is part of the DRCOG steering group for this grant as well as supporting partner organizations including the regional Code Cohort and the Front Range Beneficial Electrification Network in their participation. Current efforts including hiring ~15 new staff positions to support the implementation of this grant as well as establishing sub groups to tackle individual components and related efforts. Sustainability staff are engaging in and supporting specific grant development and implementation responsibilities as they become available.

### Air Quality & Transportation

- The Town of Erie has received bronze designation in the electric vehicle [Charging Smart pilot program](#). The Charging Smart program is modeled from the roof top solar SolSmart program of which Erie was awarded bronze in 2023. This program identifies Erie as an EV charging friendly community as well as connects us with resources to increase our equitable EV adoption and infrastructure. We are actively pursuing gold designation.
- Charge Ahead grant: The Sustainability Division and Grants Team applied for the Charge Ahead grant for 13 public charging ports in mid-October. Proposed charger locations include Town Hall, the Leon A Wurl Service Center and Schofield Farms. Awards should be announced in December 2024. This grant will help Erie achieve its goal of 25 Town of Erie EV charging ports in the town by 2025.

- Indoor air quality rebates continue including financial support for radon systems and indoor air purifiers. To date, \$650 has been rebated for 7 participants. Rebate applications can be found here: <https://erieco-sustainability.app.transform.civicplus.com/forms/37974>.



The above ChargePoint Town of Erie graph (22 ports of Level 2 charging) outlines the greenhouse gas savings per day (in blue) so far since July 2021 at Town of Erie ChargePoint EV charging stations. Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Town of Erie EV charging stations avoided 37,794 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> or the equivalent of planting 1,500 mature trees (the average mature tree absorbs about 25 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> annually).

## Energy & Efficiency

- [Energy Efficiency rebates](#) continue to support residents with \$31,275 spent as of 10/30/2024 for 175 participants. Financial support for Boulder County rebate participants is through the Boulder County Sustainability Matching Grant this year. To maximize funds available, strategic paid marketing efforts were started in October (also funded through the grant).
- The Sustainability, Public Works, Planning, and Communications Departments will hold the first kick-off event for Erie's [Beneficial Electrification Plan](#) development on November 1. This plan is supported by Xcel Energy and the Partners In Energy Program and is free for the Town as an Xcel customer. Despite still needing to round out details regarding the scope of the plan, Erie was notified that components of an EV Action Plan will be included. EV planning was on hold for Xcel due to its Transportation Mobility Plan negotiations with the Public Utility Commission. This plan will identify a high level decarbonization and EV infrastructure strategy for the Town.
- The Sustainability and the Building Divisions continue to participate in the Regional Energy Code Cohort. This group had its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in October facilitated by Lotus Sustainability and Engineering and is in the process of identifying regional code adoption strategies and base adoption levels across the Front Range.

## Waste Diversion

- Support continues for Erie's Communitywide Waste Hauling and Pay As You Throw research with the [Technical Assistance Service Provider \(TASP\) program through the Front Range Waste Diversion program](#). The Town was accepted into Tier 1 support which includes 50 hours of technical support over 6 months. Support from this group will be finishing up in late 2024.
- Staff presented communitywide waste hauling and PAYT research and updates to date to the Town Council on September 24. HOA Resident and HOA waste hauling surveys and interviews continue: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ErieWasteSurvey>. To date, survey responses have been received from 179 individuals and conducted interviews with 5 HOAs and all 6 haulers that operate in Erie. If you are an HOA board member and would like to discuss your waste hauling perspective and experience, please email [SustainableErie@erieco.gov](mailto:SustainableErie@erieco.gov).
- The Sustainability Division and Economic Development teams launched Erie's first [Waste Diversion Rebates](#) for Town businesses and residents in early October. This program includes rebates for businesses such as compost and recycling support and backyard compost equipment for residents. This program will be funded through the Bag Fees from Town of Erie businesses, required by state legislation. There was 1 participant in October as many of the rebates are reliant on a 3 month contract.

## Outreach & Education

- Ecotoberfest was another huge success! With over 1,500 people attending, the event showcased sustainability throughout the Front Range. Thank you to those that attended, donated costumes and the Town of Superior and cities of Louisville and Lafayette for jointly organizing and supporting this event.



*UCAR team sharing science experiments with participants*



*Louisville's first electric trash hauling truck with Republic*



*Halloween costume exchange supported by donated costumes from all four communities*



*Vendor showing attendees a cute turtle*



*Sustainability and elected officials that supported the event*

## Water Conservation

- Waiting on redlined draft of Town of Erie Water-Wise Landscaping Ordinance from WaterNow and Western Resource Advocates.
- Finalizing contract with Kimley Horn for turf replacement design for the front area at the Leon A. Wurl Service Center.
- [Turf Replacement Rebate Program is wrapped up for 2024:](#)
  - 68 projects completed to date with 72,429 sq. ft. of turf replaced and \$101,881.47 spent on rebates
- [Town of Erie Water Efficiency Rebates:](#) 211 Water Efficiency Rebates provided to residents representing \$19,294 spent on rebates
- [Resource Central](#) programming is complete including Slow the Flow audits and Garden In a Box.

Accounts with EyeOnWater

24%

Out of 11,988 Accounts



9,140 76%

Without EyeOnWater

2,848 24%

With EyeOnWater

User Count

2,665

EyeOnWater Users

Active in the last 30 days



Active in the last 24 hours



New Sign-ups

144

Sign-ups in Last 6 Months



[View All EyeOnWater Users](#)

[View Detailed User Analytics](#)

