



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Meeting Agenda Sustainability Advisory Board

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

6:30 PM

Community Room Town Hall

In Person
Doors close @ 6:45 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

3. Approval of the Agenda

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

[2026-393](#) Approval of Sustainability Advisory Board June 3, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [SAB 06-03-2026 Meeting Minutes](#)

5. Public Comment

6. General Business

- A. *The STEAD School and Aimbridge Energy Presentation: Resilience Hubs*
1. *Rachel Balkcom, Erie Resident & The STEAD School Director of Partnerships*
 2. *David Lindsey, President & COO with Ambridge Energy Group*
 3. *Ben Berghoff, National Sales Manager with Ambridge Energy Group*

[2026-392](#) The STEAD School and Aimbridge Energy Presentation: Resilience Hubs

Attachments: [Resilience Hub Presentation 07-01-2026](#)

- B. *Council Member Updates*
C. *Staff Liaison Updates*
D. *Bee Watering Station Event Swag*
E. *August SAB Corner Contribution*
F. *August Meeting Attendees*
G. *Upcoming Public Engagements*
H. *Advisory Board Member Updates*
I. *Prior Action Items*

7. Adjournment

- A. *Next regular in person meeting: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.*

Translation Services

Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, taped material, or other accommodation should email the Town Clerk's Office at TownClerk@ErieCO.gov or call 303-926-2710. Please submit requests at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión del Consejo, por favor llame a la Ciudad al TownClerk@ErieCO.gov o 303-926-2710. Por favor envíe sus solicitudes al menos 48 horas antes de la reunión.



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Sustainability Advisory Board

Board Meeting Date: 7/1/2026

SUBJECT:

..Title

Approval of Sustainability Advisory Board June 3, 2026, Meeting Minutes

..Department

DEPARTMENT:Administrative Operations

..Presenter

PRESENTER(S): Karen Winkler, Chair

..end

..Time

TIME ESTIMATE: 0 minutes

..end

For time estimate: please put 0 for Consent items.

..Fiscal

..Policy

POLICY ISSUES:

N/A

..Recommendation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Sustainability Advisory Board June 3, 2026, meeting minutes.

..Body

BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

N/A

..priorities

..attachments

ATTACHMENT(S):

Add items in a numbered list OR delete this list and change to N/A.

1. SAB 06-03-2026 Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes

Sustainability Advisory Board

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026

6:30 PM

1. Call Meeting to Order

- Karen calls to order at 6:35pm

2. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

- Present: *Mackenzie McClaskey, Karen Winkler, Megan Anders and William Thomas*
- Absent: *Art Henderlong, Anne Walsh, Kathleen Teal*
- Also Present: *Eryka Thorley, Anil Pesaramelli*

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Mackenzie motions, Will seconds, approved.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Mackenzie motions, Karen seconds, approved.

5. General Business

A. Advisory Board Member Welcome & Officer Elections

- Megan, Art and Mackenzie terms will be up April of 2027, all others will be 2029.
- Karen motions to keep Mackenzie as secretary, herself as Chair and Anne as Vice Chair. Mackenzie seconds, approved.

B. Council Member Updates

- New Draco pad oil wells and related mineral rights were discussed last night, more details to come as no details have been decided yet. Voting will take place on the 16th of June.

C. Staff Liaison Updates

- Interim town manager has asked staff liaisons to submit budget requests for 2027 minus 5%, allocations for that budget will be discussed.
- Annual board presentation is in July.
- Installing the last 7 ports for the charge ahead grant.
- EPR update: starting to implement some of the programs. If HOAs contract haulers are already approved through EPR then you should see those discounts come through.
 - Mackenzie asks if haulers will offer the ability to sign up for ONLY recycling collection rather than trash and recycle. Unknown, Mackenzie will investigate.
- Flush and Flow program: fliers went out to old town but also targeted the manufactured home community
- Drought stage 2 declared: voluntary restrictions are in place. Some neighboring cities have gone beyond stage 2. Aspen is not allowing residents to fill pools and hot tubs with city water.
 - Check out the newsletter for native turf examples.
- Turf Replacement program: just asked for more funding from 120k to an additional 50k. Lots of participation. Average project is going to the maximum allowed in the program.
 - Eryka says that water conservation benefits of compost are incredible.
 - [ACTION]: Mackenzie will do a before/after photo for showing off her yard at Farmer's Market to drive more interest.

- LAWSC Service Center turf replacement is moving forward. Two grants to support it as well as plaques for education.
 - Resilience action plan capstone students are moving forward, reaching out to 2-3 HOAs to do a pilot workshop series to go through a planning process.
 - Events: Farmer's market tomorrow. Caleb and Dylan will be there. More events to be discussed later.
- D. 2026 Budget Recap & SAB Priorities
- Budget for 2026 is \$11,000. The bulk of budget goes toward Eco-cycle programming in schools here in Erie's St Vrain Valley School district (both Boulder & Weld Counties). The BVSD is already part of the budget but St. Vrain in Erie does not get that budget so our board funds it. They've already done the spring programming of 4k, fall programming will also be 4k. Community Fruit Rescue programming is budgeted in partnership with the Tree Advisory Board. Both boards provide \$750. Pollinator Surveys \$1,500, which would be about 3 surveys from the Butterfly Pavilion. Outreach materials & swag for what remains.
 - Waste diversion sponsorship during the Erie Cleanup days were historically done, but with lower budget we have not done this, so as we get closer to the fall cleanup we can assess if we can support that.
 - Arbor & Earth Day was financed by the TAB and SAB boards and the Forestry and Sustainability Town Divisions.
 - [ACTION]: Karen to send Megan and Will the budget info from the past.
 - Will asked about what the Eco-Cycle programming is like, discussed the various programs they provide for the schools.
 - Mackenzie asked if any of the recycling programming is now free because it's part of the EPR education costs. For simplicity, funding is going to Boulder County Resource Conservation (aka the BoCo Recycling Center team) to streamline education around that – half of this year and all of 2027 is funded but no funds have been seen as of yet.
 - Karen calls out the SAB Priorities Brainstorming OneNote document for putting all the ideas in there.
- E. 2027 Budget Proposal
- Eryka will submit by end of this week, requested that there is a 5% reduction across the board based on tax revenue projections. Plan is to take what we submitted for 2026 and take 5% off and next meeting can discuss allocations of that budget.
 - Will asks if we can get sponsorships. There are a lot of criteria as monetary exchanges are tricky, but there are already examples of entities paying for fliers or swag giveaways.
 - [ACTION]: Eryka to learn more about the details of sponsorships.
 - Megan motions to approve \$10,450 for our 2027 budget, Mackenzie seconds, approved.
- F. Public Engagement Opportunities
- From now until end of the year, we have Farmer's Markets, June 28th Makerspace Garden Tour, Fall Cleanup, etc.
 - [ACTION]: Karen to email Will the info about Co-Create Erie's Garden Tour tabling.
- G. July Meeting Attendees & Topics
- Can attend: Mackenzie
 - Cannot attend: Karen, Megan, Art
 - Rachel Balkcom is coming to present to us about what they are doing. Erie has looked at resiliency hubs, so also invited Chad Alexander the facilities manager for the town.
- H. Advisory Board Member Updates
- Mackenzie:
 - Planting for Pollinators Presentation and the Bee Hotel Workshop both went well, we now no longer have any more bee hotels. I'm still planning on doing a workshop in the fall to go over how to harvest the bees, plus an instructional video for anyone who can't make it. The planting for pollinators presentation included a LOT of plugs for Friends of Coal Creek, the Erie's Buzzing Gardens, the Turf Replacement Rebate, and Resource Central Garden in a Box.
 - This weekend I will be doing some pollinator surveys if anyone wants to join.

- We do have some leftover materials to make seed bombs, should I mix my own collected seeds to make more, or should I keep those for seed handouts this fall? Mackenzie's recommendation is to do seed bombs for fall handouts and seed packets for spring handouts.

I. Prior Action Items

6. Adjournment

- Adjournment at 8:10pm and date of next meeting is Wednesday July 1st at 6:30pm.



Sustainability Advisory Board

Board Meeting Date: 7/1/2026

File #: 2026-392, **Version:** 1

SUBJECT:

The STEAD School and Aimbridge Energy Presentation: Resilience Hubs

DEPARTMENT: Environmental Services

PRESENTER(S): Rachel Balkom, The STEAD School
Aimbridge Energy

TIME ESTIMATE: 20 minutes

FISCAL SUMMARY: NA

POLICY ISSUES:

This presentation supports general Town efforts to increase resilience as started through Erie's first Sustainability Plan, adopted in 2019, and its recently adopted Resilience Action Plan (March 2026). Resilience Hubs are a strong resilience strategy and resource to support increased Town resilience in the threat of increasing extreme weather events affecting all residents but especially those that are more vulnerable and impacted disproportionately during and after these events.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend board members engage with Rachel's presentation materials, sharing any questions and concerns, and exploring more information and details about resilience hubs in Colorado and beyond.

SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- This discussion was requested by Councilmember Pesaramelli after an initial discussion with Rachel about the STEAD school resilience hub efforts to date.
- Resilience hubs are identified in Erie's recently adopted Resilience Action Plan (RAP) as an important strategy to explore and develop to increase the Town's overall resilience in the threat of amplifying extreme weather and climate change related events (flood, fires, heat events, etc.).
- The Town continues to explore resilience hub opportunities including from a facility perspective where possible while also working with graduate students on Phase 1 implementation of the RAP on various identified strategies such as upcoming resilience neighborhood pilot workshops and developing related evergreen resources.

BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

According to the Colorado State Department of Local Affairs “Resiliency hubs are physical spaces that serve as community centers for education, services, and community capacity. They can enhance community resilience, reduce burdens on local emergency response teams, improve access to public health resources and services, and distribute resources and funding to priority communities and those that need them the most. Their key feature is that they strengthen against hazards to ensure continuous operations and to provide physical shelter and other resources during hazard events, however, they can serve their community on a daily basis in other ways. Resiliency hubs are not a ‘one-size fits all.’ They are flexible and scalable and accommodate communities based on their unique needs and priorities.

Resilience hubs serve communities in three operating conditions: normal (more than 99% of the time), disruption, and recovery. Existing buildings and spaces where community members already visit as trusted sources of information and support, such as schools, parks, malls, or cultural centers, can serve as resilience hubs before, during, and after climate events or other disasters. These facilities strengthen communities by coordinating resources, programs, and services including childcare, health care, access to healthy food, economic development, workforce training centers, emergency response, safe and affordable housing, and social connections. Investing in these spaces and helping ensure they are affordable and accessible for all communities, especially low-income and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, is a key resilience strategy. They can also serve as both cooling and clean air centers.”



Image illustrating 5 key components of resilience hubs from Colorado Department of Local Affairs website: <https://dlg.colorado.gov/resilience-hubs>.

File #: 2026-392, **Version:** 1

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resilience Hub Presentation 07-01-2026

MicroGrid Resilience Hub Discussion

Town of Erie Sustainability Advisory Board

July 1st, 2026



Introductions



Ben Berghoff
Aimbridge Energy
National Sales Manager



Rachel Balkcom
Erie resident
Director of Partnerships
The STEAD School



David Lindsey
Aimbridge Energy
President/COO

Project Details

- STEAD–Aimbridge partnership powers campus microgrid(s)
- Renewable energy for Animal Sciences Center, outdoor classroom, future agrivoltaics and entire building for resilience hub
- Students learn alongside engineers and professionals
- Hands-on training in systems and circuits
- Real-time energy monitoring and analysis
- Living lab and training for careers and innovation
- Advancing STEAD as a Resilience Hub





SOLAR MICROGRID



What is it?

A solar microgrid is a local energy system that uses solar panels, batteries, and a system controller to power a building independently. This barn operates off-grid, producing and storing electricity on-site for daily agricultural use safely and reliably.



11.3 kW SOLAR ARRAY
26 panels collect sunlight to power the barn.



8 kW POWER OUTPUT
Maximum usable power available for building loads.



28.6 kWh BATTERY STORAGE
Stored energy supports night use and cloudy weather.

14,000 kWh PER YEAR

This system is expected to generate about 14,000 kWh of electricity each year, enough to support this building's electrical loads without utility grid power during normal operations.

Why is it important?

Reliable electricity helps protect animals and students by keeping ventilation, exhaust fans, circulation fans, lighting, outlets, equipment, and heating blowers available. Consistent airflow helps reduce ammonia and carbon dioxide buildup, supporting healthier indoor conditions during changing weather, animal activity, and daily operations.



What is the impact of solar microgrids on agriculture?

Solar microgrids help farms operate independently, keep critical systems running, reduce grid dependence, and show students how clean energy supports modern agriculture practices.



Local solar, battery storage, and backup energy work together on-site daily.

Careers in Solar Microgrids

Examples of positions for students interested in solar, construction, and agricultural energy systems.

- Electrician
- Solar Installer
- Solar Designer
- Electrical Engineer
- Agricultural Engineer
- Energy Systems Technician
- Battery Storage Technician
- Microgrid Controls Specialist
- Construction Project Manager
- Building Automation Technician
- Operations and Maintenance Technician
- PV System Inspector
- Electrical Estimator
- Energy Data Analyst
- Renewable Energy Consultant



100% OFF-GRID ELECTRICAL SYSTEM



14,000 kWh PER YEAR

POWERED BY **Ambridge ENERGY**

15

What Does a Microgrid Power?

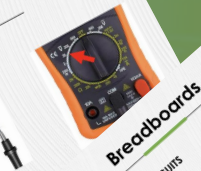
- Loads are the things that use electricity
- Microgrids are designed to power specific loads **inside their boundaries**
- **Different Types of Loads Exist**
 - Indoor building systems and outdoor agricultural equipment can have different power needs
- **Microgrids are Flexible**
 - They can be designed to power many different types of loads
- **Microgrids can also connect to Each Other**
 - This allows power to be shared between systems



Digital Multimeter (DMM)

A DMM or Meter LETS US SEE WHAT ELECTRICITY IS DOING

- Voltage is measured **across**
 - **Red Probe is Positive**
 - **Black Probe is Negative**
 - Measured in Volts (V)
 - Turn the dial to voltage
- Resistance is measured **across**
 - Polarity doesn't matter
 - Always measure with power off
 - Measured in Ohms (Ω)
 - No resistance



Breadboards

BREADBOARDS LET US EASILY BUILD CIRCUITS

- They are **reusable**
- Wires and components **plug into the holes**
- Behind the holes are **power rails** that connect holes together
- The top and bottom are **power rails** marked + and -
- **Red rows are connected together**



- All Points North Foundation
- State level funding for microgrids
- Federal funding for resilience hubs
 - HB 26-1051, Continue Microgrid Community Resilience Grant Program
 - As yet unfunded
- Collaborative grant proposals—work-based learning endeavors, municipalities, school districts





TOWN OF ERIE
RESILIENCE
ACTION
PLAN

My advocacy: Erie Community Center as a holistic resilience hub, with microgrid(s) and local farm food access.