



To: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Local Government
CC: Chris LeMay, North Central Regional Manager
From: Jennifer Carrol, Mayor, Town of Erie
Re: Joint EIAF Grant Application on Net Zero in the Built Environment
Date: February 23, 2021

Dear DOLA Staff, DOLA Executive Director Rick Garcia, and EIAF Selection Committee,

The Town of Erie is excited to support this joint proposal for the Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) grant. Our proposed approach includes a collaboration with neighboring communities to adopt the 2021 International Energy Conservation Codes and the development of community-specific renewable energy roadmaps.

The Town of Erie recognizes that each community has similar built environment and renewable energy goals and although the benchmarks and timelines for success may be different, a collaborative effort allows for greater results. Taking this collaborative approach will allow for synergies across our communities' development codes and will lead to better cooperation on the part of local builders and developers to help Erie to achieve its renewable energy goals. Additionally, we believe that this cohort-based approach will allow for cost and time savings to each individual community in pursuing this work, as we will be able to leverage the expertise of staff at the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project and Lotus Engineering and Sustainability.

As a local government, Erie recognizes that a main tool for reducing the energy impact of development, reducing emissions, and enhancing energy efficiency and renewables throughout our community is through a target-based management of new development and redevelopment activities. The Town of Erie adopted its first Sustainability Master Plan in November 2019. In the Energy Use Sector of this plan, the Town set goals to use Erie's building codes to incentivize green building, energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy in new construction. Erie also set goals to encourage new development and existing buildings to conserve the use of natural resources (energy impact). The Town of Erie would like to source 25% of community-wide electricity use from renewable resources by 2025 above and beyond what is already included in our utilities' fuel mix.

Erie will begin updating its Comprehensive Plan in 2021, however a roadmap is needed to achieve additional renewable energy generation strategies and built environment codes that go above and beyond what is included in the Comprehensive Plan update. Creating said roadmap would not be possible without the assistance of this EIAF grant and in collaboration with this regional cohort.

Thank you for your consideration of this joint application for EIAF funding to support Erie and the likeminded regional communities involved in this project. Support through this grant will ensure that we, and our neighbors, are able to achieve local and regional climate action and sustainability goals in a way that makes efficient use of grant funding.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Carrol, Mayor