

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

Review of November & December 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Sustainability and Grants Divisions were awarded a ChargeAhead grant for 13 Level 2 EV public charging ports. Locations include Schofield Farm, Leon A. Wurl Service Center, the Church Lot at Town Hall and the Town Hall lot. These chargers will put Erie at 35 public EV charging ports by the end of 2025, reaching beyond our original 2025 goal by 10 charging ports!
- Ben Kellond started with the Town December 2024 as Erie's first Energy Analyst, with the focus of his work supporting oil and gas regulation and environmental review of proposed development in the Town.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

North Water Reclamation Facility

A Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund and federal WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant were submitted by the Facilities Division to support a flotovoltaic system at the North Water Reclamation Facility. Due to land use constraints and future expansion needs, the Town pivoted to a floating flotovoltaic system that would supply the facility's current energy consumption while allowing alternative use of available land at the site.

Streetlight Acquisition

Acquisition paperwork was submitted by the Town and Xcel Energy to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) in December and on January 29, the PUC approved the acquisition. Staff are now working with Xcel on a closing date to take ownership of the streetlights and assume maintenance responsibility. Staff are developing a maintenance contract as well as an LED conversion contract, that will be awarded through a formal bidding process. Negotiations to acquire streetlights from United Power are ongoing.

OIL & GAS

News & Notes

Draco OGD

The Draco Pad proposes drilling 26 wells northwest of the intersection of Weld County Roads 6 & 7 near the Westerly Development in unincorporated Weld County. Following the postponement of the Draco Oil and Gas Development Plan (OGDP) at the beginning of November, hearings with the commission resumed on Nov. 13. The Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) deliberated, ultimately

coming to a decision on Nov. 15, ordering an indefinite stay on the OGD. ECMC's decision was made on the grounds of an incomplete assessment of alternate location four (AL4), located in the parcel previously proposed as the Redtail Ranch development (North of the Vista Ridge neighborhood and West of WCR 5). To conduct a complete assessment of AL4, the commission directed Civitas to explore the possibility of a rezoning and securing an Oil and Gas permit at this location.

To further flush out the assessment of AL4, Civitas and representatives from the Town of Erie met on Dec. 16 to discuss the implications of a potential application at this location. The discussion focused on timelines for rezoning and for a formal Oil and Gas Permit application, and Civitas' questions and concerns with both processes. The Town will continue working with Civitas to satisfy ECMC's requests for a complete assessment of AL4 and will remain in contact until an additional hearing is called before the Commission.

Young 23-12D

Work on lead detection and repair (LDAR) is now complete on the Young 23-12D well pad, located at the southeast corner of Erie Parkway and North 111th Street in the Flatiron Meadows neighborhood. This came after continuous correspondence between the Town and Civitas regarding complaints of excess noise and vibration coming from the combustion of natural gas. Since the wells have not produced in some time, significant pressure had built up in the wells. Normally this can be remedied without necessitating flaring, however per a representative with Civitas, the pressure had surpassed the capabilities of their usual procedures, and therefore combustion was required.

Representatives from the Town arrived on site on Dec. 3 to follow up on the complaints from nearby residents and observed the excess noise and vibration resulting from the combustion of natural gas. The Town was not made aware of the required flaring despite such notice being required under State regulations. The need for advanced notice and noise reduction measures was promptly communicated to Civitas. In response an additional combustion device was brought onsite the following day to reduce the flow of gas to the original combustion device. This additional control was used until the completion of the work and Civitas has acknowledged the importance of these mitigation efforts going forward.

Price 1-26

In response to the correspondence about the Young MC 23-12D repairs and associated disturbance, Civitas delayed the maintenance originally scheduled for December 10-12th at the Price 1-26 well. The delay was to incorporate the same mitigation strategies deployed at Young MC 23-12D. The planned maintenance was rescheduled for and completed on Dec. 18-19.

Thomas 14-7

Work to plug and abandon the well commenced on Dec. 19 and lasted roughly 2 weeks with progress moving on site reclamation. No spills or previous releases have been reported for this well.

Spills & Releases

Operators reported 264 spills/releases during the months of November and December 2024, state-wide. Of these, two occurred within the municipal boundary of Erie. The first spill was reported to ECMC on Nov. 1 and was discovered at the Arapahoe 2-26 well. This well, owned by Civitas, was undergoing plugging when the spill was discovered. The spill happened at some point during the well's operation but was not discovered until the final plugging operations were underway. Remediation consisted of the excavation of 26 cubic yards of soil, with samples being sent to a third-party lab for analysis. Cleanup and site assessment activities are currently ongoing.

The second spill was reported on Nov. 26 from the Thomas E Unit 61N68W7NESW tank battery. The spill, having occurred at some point during the site's operation, was discovered by Civitas during plugging operations. Samples were collected from 13 boreholes and were sent to a third part lab for analysis. Cleanup and site assessment activities are currently ongoing.

Inspections

ECMC Inspectors visited 28 oil and gas wells at 9 locations in Erie during the months of November and December 2024.

- **BEARDEN 61N68W6NESW PAD**
 - BEARDEN 24-6
 - BEARDEN 13-6
 - BEARDEN 2-4-6
 - BEARDEN 2-8-6
 - BEARDEN 0-6-6
- **SRC PRATT 24-29D PAD (INSPECTED ON DECEMBER 19TH AND 20TH)**
 - PRATT 2
 - SRC PRATT 24-29D
 - SRC PRATT 13-29D
 - SRC PRATT 14-29D
- **I&J 1-6-7H PAD**
 - KOCH 41-6
- **KENNETH KOCH 61N68W6SENE PAD**
 - KENNETH E KOCH 1
- **YOUNG MC 61N69W23NWSW PAD**
 - YOUNG MC 23-12D
- **COSTIGAN MULTI WELL PAD**
 - EDWARD P COSTIGAN 1
 - COSTIGAN 33-20
 - COSTIGAN 34-20
 - COSTIGAN 43-20
 - COSTIGAN 6-8-20
 - COSTIGAN 8-6-20
- **THOMAS “E” UNIT-61N68W7NESW PAD**
 - THOMAS 14-7
 - THOMAS 24-7
 - THOMAS 33-7
- **SRC PRATT 34-29D PAD**
 - SRC PRATT 34-29D
 - SRC PRATT 43-29D
 - SRC PRATT 29TD
 - SRC PRATT 29XD
 - SRC PRATT 29PD
 - SRC PRATT 33-29D
- **VESSELS 61N68W30SWNW PAD**
 - VESSELS 12-30

No Notices of Alleged Violation (NOAV) were issued during inspections. However, one Corrective Action (CA) was issued at the SRC Pratt 24-29D Pad on Dec. 19. The corrective action was to conduct maintenance per Rule 1002.f(2).d. to address ECD pilots being unlit during the inspection.

In 2024, inspections occurred at 61 of the 137 total active wells (those designated producing, shut-in, or temporarily abandoned) within Erie (45%).

AIR QUALITY MONITORING

BoulderAIR

The BoulderAIR ECC monitoring station reported eight events where measured values exceeded the reporting thresholds, four in November, and four in December.

- Four measurements of methane concentrations exceeding the alert threshold of 5,000 ppb, with the highest reported value being 5,969 ppb (0.01% of the Lower Explosive Limit for methane, which is 50 million ppb). Elevated methane measurements have been frequent since the BoulderAIR station was installed. Back trajectory analysis strongly suggests the source of the majority of methane plumes originate in or near the Front Range and Denver Regional South Landfills.
- Four measurements of PM2.5 concentrations exceeding the alert threshold of 35.0 µg/m³, with the highest reported value being 42.95 µg/m³ (151% the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for 24-hour exposure of 35.0 µg/m³), though the measured event was less than 5 minutes in duration. While no observations approached the 24-hour primary 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).

Ajax/CSU

Two canisters were triggered to collect samples due to elevated PID sensor readings in the months of November and December. Both events occurred at the Landfill North station and contained only slight increases in alkanes and VOCs compared to the average weekly canister concentrations.

Full event reports are available from the Ajax Data Dashboard <https://trello.com/b/3zmnSBUG/erie-air-quality-event-reports>

LANDFILL TASK FORCE

The Landfill Task Force presented their final recommendations as well as a process overview to the Town Council on Tuesday, Nov. 19. The 6-month process was well received by residents, Town staff, and Waste Connections and provided an exceptional example of collaboration and public involvement and input into the decision making process of both the Erie Town Government and the privately operated landfill. Meeting agendas, summaries, project details and final Task Force recommendations can be found on Erie's website: <https://erieco.us/landfilltaskforce>.

In anticipation of annexation and land-use applications to be initiated by Waste Connections to make changes to the Front Range Landfill reflective of the Landfill Task Force recommendations, Council Members and interested residents are strongly encouraged to review the recommendations and other information available at the above link.

SUSTAINABILITY & WATER CONSERVATION

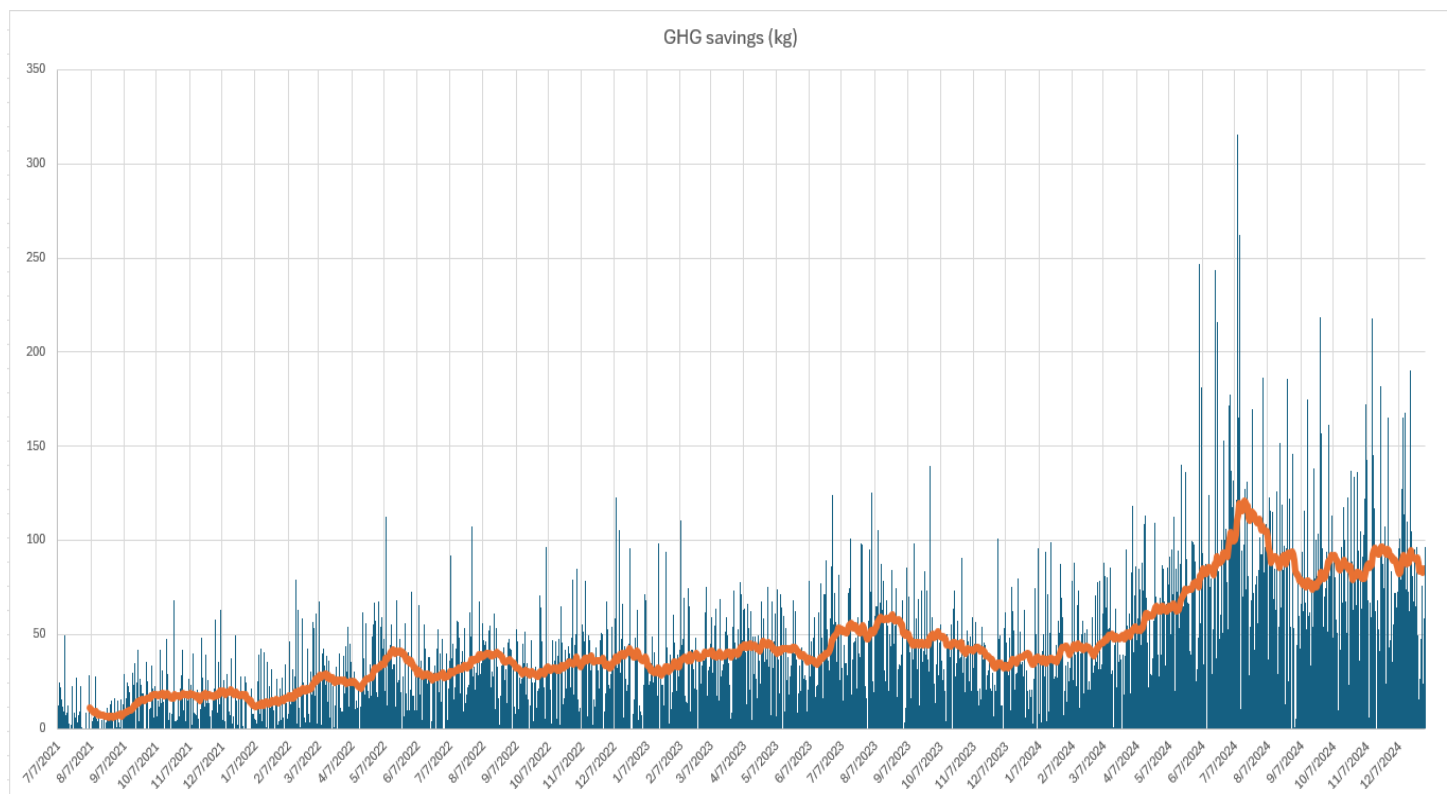
General Updates

The Sustainability Division is excited to announce its new Sustainability in Action web page:

<https://www.erieco.gov/2417/Sustainability-in-Action>. This page is a one stop shop to learn about what the Sustainability Division has worked on over the past few years and provides access to relevant documents such as our 2021 and 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

Air Quality & Transportation

- The Sustainability Division continues to participate in the Boulder County Regional Transportation Electrification cohort. This group received the Department of Transportation CFI grant (\$4.9 million) to which Erie committed as a project partner along with many other Boulder County municipalities. Funding will support multifamily and low to moderate income areas in Boulder County with exact locations yet to be determined.
- Indoor air quality rebates continue including air filters and in home radon mitigation systems: <https://www.erieco.gov/1931/Radon-Information>. Total air quality related rebates in 2024 were \$1,500 with 11 participants.
- A metered Level 2 EV charger was purchased in late 2024 and will be installed at the Police Department (PD) in early 2025. This charger will support PD EV fleet vehicles and staff but will not be available publicly due to security concerns and where this charger will be placed due to the quickly approaching site expansion project.



The above ChargePoint Town of Erie graph (22 ports of Level 2 charging) outlines the total greenhouse gases avoided through Town owned public chargers since operations began in 2021. Town of Erie EV chargers have prevented the emission of 57,758 kg of greenhouse gasses since installation and utilization has doubled in the past year.

Energy & Efficiency

- The first full year of [Energy Efficiency Rebates](#) were a success with 2024 seeing \$47,425 in rebates and 258 participants. The 2024 Boulder County Sustainability Matching Grant supported a significant portion of our Boulder County resident participation in this program.
- The Town completed its first Beneficial Electrification Plan development partner meeting in November and second one in December. This plan development is facilitated by Partners In Energy, a free consultation resource for the Town through Xcel Energy. The third meeting will occur on Jan. 22 with staff planning to present a draft plan to Council for discussion in March and considering adopting the plan in April.
- The Sustainability and Building Divisions continue to participate in the Regional Energy Code Cohort. Current effort is focused on the Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant championed by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). Erie is a partner in this \$199 million grant with current efforts focused on developing implementation requirements, hiring staff and developing and releasing RFPs for the grant identified target areas. The top grant priority is emissions reduction from the built environment and transportation sector through building electrification, work force development, and education and outreach.

Waste Diversion

- The Town of Erie Recycling Center added residential food waste and mixed metal collection in late 2024. Participation in these services continues to increase.
- Communitywide Waste Hauling and Pay As You Throw research continues with a report received from CDPHE's Colorado Circular Communities Enterprise (C3) program in late December that outlines recommendations for improving Erie's townwide waste diversion. This report will be shared with Council with a potential Council discussion in April to discuss recommendations and options further.
- HOA and resident waste hauling surveys and interviews continue: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ErieWasteSurvey>. To date, 202 survey responses have been collected with 75% of those responding indicating they do not know what they currently pay for their curbside hauling as the cost is wrapped into their HOA fees. If you are an HOA board member and would like to discuss your waste hauling perspective and experience, please email SustainableErie@erieco.gov.
- Erie has seen a successful first few months of its [Waste Diversion Rebates](#) for Town businesses and residents. This program includes rebates for businesses such as compost and recycling hauling and backyard compost equipment for residents. This program is funded through Bag Fees from Town of Erie businesses, required by State legislation. Total rebates in 2024 were \$85.98 with two participants.

Outreach & Education

- Erie's Arbor/Earth Day is Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Sustainability and Tree Advisory Boards, Sustainability Division and Town Forester are collaborating on this event again this year. This event is at the Post Pavilion at the Erie Community Park again this year. Event highlights include free trees, raffle, landscaping experts, renewable energy information, and multiple kid's activities like face painting and book reading. Event organizers are accepting vendor applications and can be found on the event website here: <https://www.erieco.gov/454/Arbor-DayEarth-Day-Celebration>.

- The Town of Erie Sustainability Newsletter has reached 550 subscribers. If you're not yet in the sustainability know, sign up here: <https://www.erieco.gov/list.aspx?PRVMSG=300>.

Water Conservation

- [Water Efficiency Rebates](#) for 2024 included \$20,330 spent and 221 participants.
- [Turf Replacement Program](#) 2024:
 - 72,429 sq. ft. of turf converted to low water use plantings
 - \$83,881 spent on rebates with 68 participants
 - Average rebate \$1,331
 - Average project sq. ft. 1,150
- Erie received an [Accelerator Grant](#) from Western Resource Advocates and Water Now Alliance. This accelerator is assisting Erie with developing its first Water Wise Landscaping Ordinance. Town staff partners received a redlined Water-Wise Landscaping Ordinance in late 2024. The group reviewed the first draft collectively in December with final staff feedback and comments due Jan. 31.
- Contract signed with Kimley Horn for design services for the turf conversion project at Leon A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC). Site visit scheduled for end of January. This project will convert roughly 24,000 sq. ft. of non-essential turf at LAWSC to water wise landscaping and demonstration gardens and is supported by a state and federal grant.

