



2023 IMPACT REPORT



Healthy planet. Healthy people.

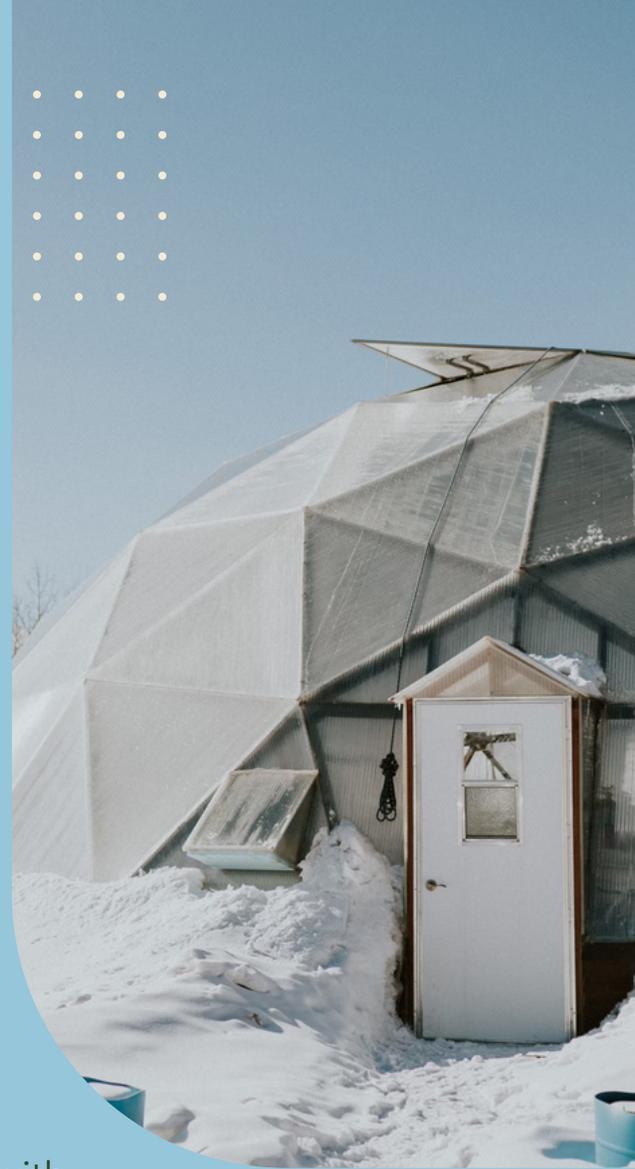
This year, we celebrate Cloud City Conservation Center's (C4) 10 year anniversary. This milestone offers us a chance to reflect on the environmental stewardship and social justice roots that inspired C4s formation and continue today on the ancestral land of the Tabeguache band of Ute people.

Cloud City Conservation Center officially opened its doors in 2013 with a mission to inspire stewardship of our natural resources by creating educational opportunities and lasting community infrastructure in Leadville and Lake County.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented new challenges for the Lake County Community. C4 leaned into its efforts to respond to community needs and solutions with an emphasis on environmental and social justice. The energy programs shifted to focus on bill payment, while C4 farm production shifted to support the local food bank at St. George's to keep our community fed.

At our 10-year mark, C4 is going strong. Looking ahead, we are optimistic of C4's financial and organizational health. C4's board agreed on a new audacious goal of leading Lake County's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions reductions while continuing to center equity in our work. C4 is poised to continue advancing climate resiliency in Lake County through food justice, energy efficiency, zero waste, and expanded educational programming.

**- ERIN ALLAMAN
Board Member**



10 YEARS

of Cloud City Conservation Center

2013

C4 founded by local residents, Zero Waste event partnership with Leadville Race Series launches.

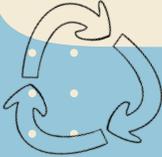
2014

Help bring Lake County's first solar garden.



2015

Composting begins with LCSD, recycling drop sites open with Lake County Landfill..



2017

Construction begins at Cloud City Farm.

2016

The Styrofoam Stoppers, four LCIS students, receive the Presidential Environmental Youth Award.

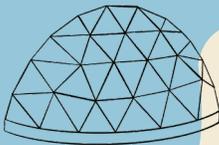
2018

Construction completed & production begins at Cloud City Farm.



2019

Lake County wins Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Prize.



2020

Launch Bill Payment Assistance Program for past due utility bills.



2021

Cloud City Community Garden opens.



2022

Partner with AmeriCorps to expand youth education.



2023

Expand Community Compost program & Cloud City Farm.



ENERGY PROGRAM



C4 addressed delayed maintenance issues in 53 homes in 2023, and assisted 171 total households through the following programs:

- BPA + Community Solar
- EAF
- CARE
- LEAP
- WAP
- Home audits
- Radon Testing



Assisted 18 mobile homes within the City of Leadville access electrification & weatherization assistance in partnership with the Colorado Energy Office with a goal of 100% reduction in energy bills within 2 years.

Christian Luna-Leal joined the team as our new Energy Program Manager! Christian believes that C4 gives him the opportunity to grow his expertise in both peoples lived experiences with our dilapidated housing, as well as a climate and energy efficiency perspective in housing.

art by Marley Seifert Designs



171

total households assisted

100%

of households who received financial assistance through C4 also took steps towards improving the energy efficiency of their home!

\$123,237

in financial assistance distributed out to Lake County households.



CLOUD CITY FARM



Community Garden

“Being a part of the community garden at Cloud City Farm has provided my family an invaluable learning experience in high-altitude gardening, as well as the importance of volunteering and working together as a community to achieve access to locally grown organic produce!”

"I love *almost* everything about living in Leadville - except how hard it can be to grow food at 10,000 ft. Having a garden plot at the C4 has been turning that around for me! Being able to grow more of my own food makes Leadville feel like a more sustainable community to live in."



of produce were grown ourselves, and 1,000 lbs of Colorado grown produce were purchased



of our produce was donated to St. George Community Meals

25% of Lake County residents engaged in our local food system through Cloud City Farm:

- Community Garden Families
- Valley Roots CSA Members
- Farm market customers
- Composters
- Volunteers
- Youth

NEW HIGH TUNNEL!

We also hired our new farm manager, Sarah Hamilton!

She believes that the garden & the kitchen table are the best places to build community, & is dedicated to building on the grassroots history of Cloud City Farm.



ZERO WASTE

300 lbs

of paper were recycled by the Lake County Intermediate School Project Dream Recycle Club

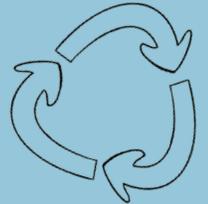
32,000 lbs

of food scraps from over 200 households diverted from the landfill through our free community compost program.



Leadville Race Series:

- Approximately 78% of waste was diverted from the landfill
- 14,000 pounds of waste were recycled or composted
- 278 pounds of nutrition wrappers were collected and recycled through the Terracycle + GU Performance Nutrition Recycling Program
- This year marked TEN YEARS of Zero Waste partnership with the Leadville Race Series!

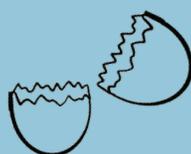


Zero Waste Staff & Volunteers

- 85 people contributed their time with C4's Zero Waste Team during Boom Days and Leadville Race Series Events
- **C4 hired our new Sustainability Manager, Ash Warner!** She believes that small actions can lead to impactful changes. An educator at heart, she finds joy in sharing knowledge and empowering others to embrace actions that benefit our planet.



Scan here to sign up for our free community compost program!



YOUTH EDUCATION

"Inviting the **Full Circle** 4th and 5th graders to C4 has been delightful. They love the ladybugs and watering the plants - plus, misting themselves and friends. Students discovered that watering plants is a necessity for growth and a sense of relaxation.

They loved shoveling and throwing matter into the compost bins. For one activity, we did community service with the BOYS group where they enjoyed carting each other to the piles."

- **Luciano Galvin, Full Circle**

Our 2024 Goal

Next year we plan to expand our youth education programming in partnership with Get Outdoors Leadville to reach EVERY Lake County School District student.

We hired our new Healthy Futures AmeriCorps Service Member: Youth Engagement Coordinator, Makayla Garza!

"Our youth are our future and cultivating community and sovereignty is our lifeline to the future." - Makayla

751

youth were reached through our education programs! That's....

75%

of Lake County School District students!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Partnerships in 2023:

- Lake County Conservation District
- Lake County Wraparound
- Lake County Build a Generation
- Lake County Department of Human Services
- Lake County Food Access Coalition
- Lake County Housing Coalition & Homelessness Subcommittee
- Lake County Board of County Commissioners and Government
- Colorado Weatherization Assistance Program
- Energy Outreach Colorado
- Lake County School District
- Leadville Main Street Program
- High Mountain Institute
- Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
- Colorado Mountain College
- Lake County Community Fund
- Lake County Build a Generation
- St George Episcopal Mission & Community Meals
- Xcel Energy Partners in Energy
- Lake County Public Library
- Lake County Senior Center
- Boom Days Committee

- City of Leadville
- Get Outdoors Leadville!
- Full Circle of Lake County
- Mountain Roots Food Project
- Healthy Futures AmeriCorps
- Broken Arrows 4-H
- Project Dream
- Visit Leadville-Twin Lakes
- Advocates of Lake County
- Energy Smart Colorado
- Friends of Twin Lakes
- Leadville Trail 100 & Lifetime

**OVER
400**

**volunteers
contributed to the
work of C4 in 2023**

**OVER
1,200**

**volunteer hours
were logged
this year!**



Scan here to learn
about volunteer
opportunities!

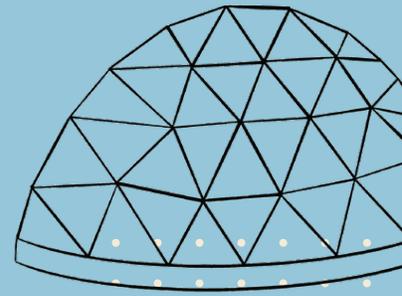
THANK YOU!



We could not have done this work without our amazing community partners, donors and volunteers who all contributed to our successes this year.

IN 2024 WE PLAN TO:

- Support a Lake County Climate Action Plan in partnership with Lake County Government.
- Triple our financial assistance for Lake County residents who want to reduce their energy usage.
- Install a third high tunnel at Cloud City Farm, expanding community access to fresh, local food.
- Expand our youth environmental education programming with GOL! to reach EVERY Lake County student.
- Pilot a commercial compost program.



You can support our work by scheduling a Colorado Gives Day donation, or making a donation at c4leadville.org

