

A GUIDE TO A REGENERATIVE RECOVERY FOR COLORADO

COLORADO EMERGENCE SERIES
FINAL REPORT (1.0)



**THE ALLIANCE
CENTER**



**COLORADO'S
REGENERATIVE
RECOVERY**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Alliance Center (AC) faced the challenges revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic and turned them into action. In April of 2020, AC created the *Colorado Emergence Series*: six facilitated virtual meetings inviting diverse individuals from across Colorado to share their vision of a recovery and deliver change for the better. In six meetings, participants contributed to a vision for a *regenerative* future, addressing our obligation to create a thriving world based on an economy that benefits all.

“Never let a good crisis go to waste.”

- Winston Churchill

At the completion of the Series, the recommendations were collated, and key patterns and affinities were identified as the following Regenerative Recovery Fundamentals:

- Transition rapidly to renewable, distributed, reliable energy
- Strengthen and increase Colorado’s regenerative food systems
- Provide equitable access and opportunities for all
- Build the industries and workforce of the future
- Invest in natural and built infrastructure
- Build Colorado’s circular economy
- Preserve and strengthen democratic institutions
- Leverage diverse partnerships to demonstrate regeneration in action

Achieving this will require three major steps:

- Stop the harm
- Create the conditions, locally for healing and prosperity
- Learn along the way

Our current economy deepens our country’s divides, including inequality, and does not adequately care for the environment. This must be stopped. Crafting the future we want will require restoring what has been damaged and implementing new systems that allow all citizens to thrive. We stand at a crossroads. We can continue the status quo and avoid addressing these pressing issues, or come together to create the finer future we want and need.

The work of the Colorado Emergence Series and this report is an action plan to move this vision from concept to the impact here in Colorado. The sessions covered climate change, economy, food systems, water, infrastructure, natural resource management, workforce development and democracy.



Participants identified what needs to be done now, in six months and in a year and beyond. Hundreds of solutions were put forth. Those presented below were prioritized based on impact and practicality, with the full list available in the appendix.

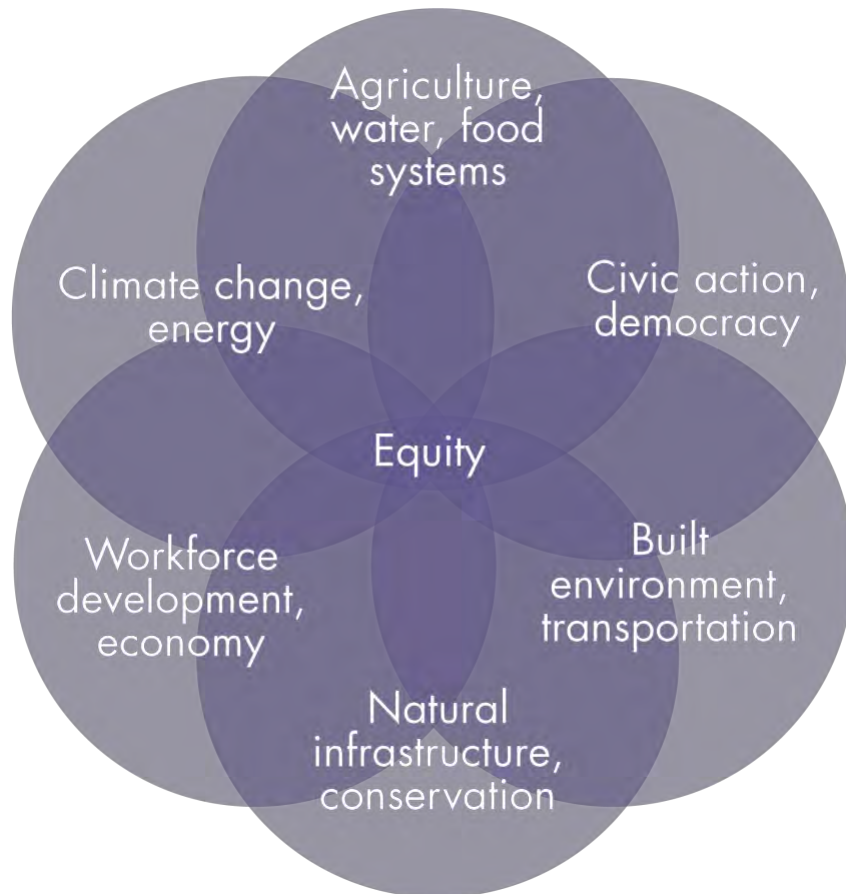
The first outcome was the formation of the Regenerative Recovery Coalition. The goal of the Coalition is to convene all the relevant stakeholders to implement the strategies listed below.



INTRODUCTION: A NARRATIVE OF COLORADO'S REGENERATIVE RECOVERY

The Alliance Center, with the engagement of the governor's office and many state agencies,¹ convened the Colorado Emergence Series (the Series) to craft a regenerative and equitable future for the state. The Series engaged several hundred Coloradans: change agents from diverse sectors, geographic regions, cultures, communities and generations. Participants included representatives from local food banks, farmers, community groups, climate experts, youth leaders, financiers, industry and workforce development groups, large corporations, small businesses and cultural institutions. These sector experts, government agency heads and staff, scientists, activists, citizens and the governor helped shape the strategies and solutions presented here.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| May 14 | Climate and Energy |
| May 26 | Food Systems/ Agriculture and Water |
| June 10 | Democracy |
| June 23 | Economy and Workforce Development |
| July 9 | Natural and Human Infrastructure and Transportation |
| July 21 | Transformational Change |



In the facilitated discussions, participants identified solutions to address challenges and opportunities in the energy and climate, agriculture and water, enhancement of democratic institutions, workforce development and the economy, infrastructure and transportation and financial viability sectors. Two systems not explicitly discussed were education and healthcare. Though both are crucial to the recovery from the pandemic, these systems are outside the core expertise of The Alliance and were not central to the Series, however, participants did include recommendations that impacted the education and healthcare systems.

Participants agreed that there are important lessons to be learned from the COVID-19 crisis:

- Solutions must address equity if we are to create a regenerative recovery: COVID-19, like the climate crisis, the siting of polluting facilities and the recession impact the poor and people of color disproportionately.
- People and governments can mobilize and change despite our initial reluctance: what people are willing to do, how we work, travel and live all changed far faster than experts believed possible.
- Early intervention is critical and proper planning can prevent worse outcomes.
- Broadband and computer access is critical to ensuring equitable outcomes in many areas beyond public health including education, housing, employment and more.
- Workers in fossil-based energy deserve a just transition as we convert to renewable systems; the approaches of the past that reinforce inequalities based on race, gender and ability must be fixed.

The Series' conversations led to the creation of the Regenerative Recovery Coalition. Now involving more than 150 organizations representing almost \$2.5 billion in state revenue and over 19,000 jobs, the Coalition will work with the state and interested Coloradans to refine and implement the ideas and strategies generated by the Series to deliver a regenerative recovery for Colorado.



A second initiative, the creation of a Colorado Conservation Corps (CCC) similar to the 1933 Civilian Conservation Corps public works relief program was subsequently introduced into Congress by Representative Joe Neguse.² We envision that the work of the Corps will be in service of all the objectives of a regenerative recovery.

When COVID-19 hit, the world of “business as usual” moved to the rearview mirror. We realized that while our old economy worked well for some, it did not provide the same opportunities to many Coloradans. A renewed and renewable Colorado must achieve an economy that works for everyone.

Colorado is a state of diversity: geography, professions, people, industries and cultures. From the ranches of the north to the plains of the east, from the high mountain valleys of the south and the western slope to the urban I-25 corridor and the ski towns of the mountains, we share a desire to build an economy for Colorado that works for all.

We are also a state in transition. Founded on extractive industries, our economy now flourishes because of sectors like the outdoor industry, arts and culture and technology. The burgeoning natural foods industry, leading a rapidly growing national movement, outpaced industrial agriculture, which is declining in Colorado, year over year. The state is becoming more regenerative almost without our awareness.³

In nature, sustainable outcomes are the result of regenerative systems. Fertile soil, clean air and water, and abundance come from diverse ecosystems that renew themselves. Regeneration is the way life works. Living systems rebound from collapse, as mushrooms flourish in decaying logs, and forests regrow after fires. Regenerative systems learn from chaos, finding better outcomes that become ever more resilient. Many native communities relied on this wisdom, creating enduring systems that met their needs while respecting nature.



Regenerative design restores and renews the systems it serves. Energy and food systems built on natural flows deliver greater abundance at lower cost, as they create more jobs and equitable prosperity in our communities. Regenerative principles like circular flows of nutrients and materials, systems that encourage diverse participation, policies that respect the integrity of place and community, applied to our economy can deliver prosperity and inclusion.⁴ Recent large corporate commitments to “become regenerative” demonstrate the rapidly growing transition away from older models.⁵



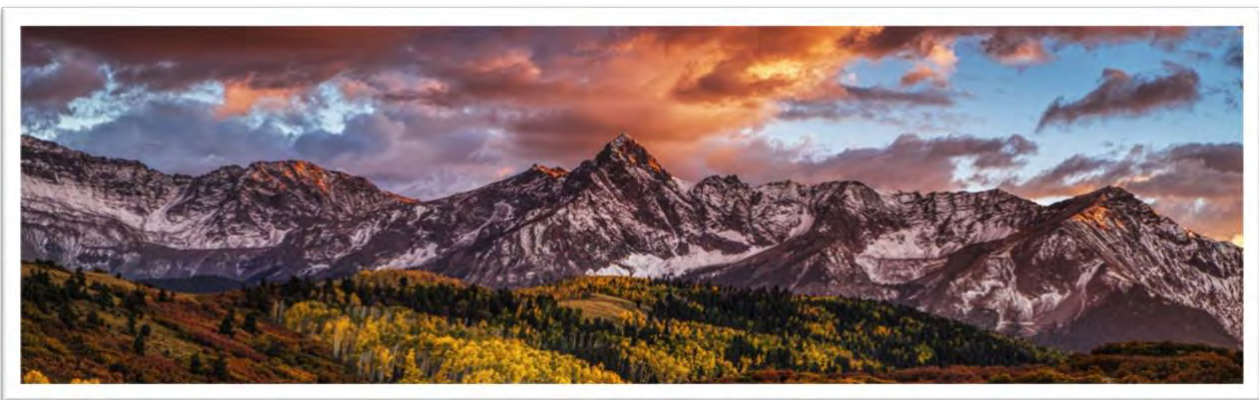
Times of regrowth are opportunities to revisit the practices that got us into this mess, keeping what works as we change what no longer serves us. For instance, we can measure prosperity based on the health of all children, not only growth in the value of distant stock markets. Recovery measures can prioritize the most vulnerable while building into our infrastructure, and governing systems the ability to adapt to change. Efforts to preserve old privileges in times of disruption are recipes for irrelevance.⁶ Reaching our aspirations will require us to embrace the current collective disruption and leverage the many opportunities a rapidly changing world presents us. Doing so will enable us to create the inclusive effort needed to improve our economic outcomes and address critical environmental issues. Recovery will require ending the harm we are doing to people and our environment and a move to systems that serve all life.

We have never done this work before with the urgency we now face. To achieve success, we will have to break down old boundaries, collaborate and learn from each other.

The pandemic is breaking many of society's systems, but it is only one of many crises facing our economy. From climate change to systemic racism and inequality, to loss of biodiversity, our economy faces many headwinds. Built during times of unequal prosperity, our energy, food, infrastructure, economic and democratic institutions are proving to be more fragile than we knew. Some people say that they only want to get back to normal. But for too many Coloradans, 'normal' didn't work.

Implementing the measures listed below will place Colorado among the global leaders in responsibly grappling with these crises. Europe has committed to a "Green Deal."⁷ South Korea,⁸ Costa Rica⁹ and others¹⁰ all have their variants of a "Green New Deal." Cities like Amsterdam are implementing the "Doughnut Economics" model to guide their recovery,¹¹ In the U.S. similar efforts are underway in New York, California, Maine and a variety of cities.¹² California has committed to be emissions free by 2035, banning internal combustion engines and fracking.¹³ Companies from Cargill¹⁴ to McDonalds¹⁵ have joined Unilever¹⁶ and General Mills¹⁷ in committing to help farmers on millions of acres to transition to regenerative agriculture. Recently, Walmart¹⁸ also committed to becoming a regenerative company.

Colorado has the opportunity to join these leaders as we address these global issues in locally appropriate ways and help Colorado build forward.



FUNDAMENTALS FOR A REGENERATIVE RECOVERY

The Colorado Emergence Series meetings invited participants to identify what needs to happen to emerge stronger from the pandemic and create a regenerative future.

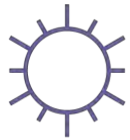
Regenerative Recovery:

COVID-19 economic recovery efforts that builds a robust, localized economy abundantly meeting human needs while equitably providing clean water, air, energy and food.

The working groups of the Regenerative Recovery Coalition will follow the eight fundamental aspects of a Colorado regenerative recovery:

- Transition Rapidly to Renewable, Distributive, Reliable Energy
- Strengthen and Increase Colorado's Regenerative Food System
- Provide Equitable Access and Opportunities for All
- Build the Industries and Workforce of the Future
- Invest in Natural and Built Infrastructure
- Build Colorado's Circular Economy
- Preserve and Strengthen Democratic Institutions
- Leverage Diverse Partnerships to Demonstrate Regeneration in Action





The global energy system is the prime driver of climate change, a crisis far worse than COVID-19 that is already impacting us. To solve the climate crisis, it is urgent that we transition to renewable energy production combined with efficient use of energy. A conventional narrative says Colorado's economy is based upon extractive industries. That used to be true. Now however, Colorado is getting more jobs from clean energy¹⁹ than fossil fuels, even prior to the COVID-19 crisis. Clean energy delivers more than 66,000 jobs, growing at 9 percent in 2019²⁰ compared to oil and gas extraction at 40,000 jobs.²¹ Fossil fuel jobs fell by 8.4 percent statewide between 2012 and 2017 and have fallen faster since then, losing 10,000 jobs in 2020 alone.²² Arts and culture bring delight to life and are a larger creator of jobs and revenue for the state (more than 100,000 jobs) than oil, gas, coal, mining, timbering and the other extractive industries. Outdoor recreation, which employs almost six times more Coloradans than fossil companies, is harmed by the extractive industries, as climate change threatens our skiing, hydraulic fracking fouls our air, and mining degrades wild lands tourists seek for recreation.

Even before COVID, Colorado committed to achieving a renewable energy system that is distributed and reliable.²³ Renewable energy has been recognized as the cheapest way to meet our energy needs since 2017.²⁴ Recent Xcel Energy bids proved that renewables are now abundant and cheaper than natural gas.²⁵ Participants agreed that this agenda should be accelerated, setting a goal of decarbonizing the state's economy by 2030, considerably earlier than the 2050 date now listed in the state documents.²⁶

Dozens of key priority actions were identified by participants, including:

- Accelerate the work now underway by the Polis administration to achieve bold action on a just and equitable transition to a clean energy economy to reduce pollution, create jobs, improve public health and accelerate the state's science-based emissions targets.
- Support Climate Cabinets Climate Roadmap.²⁷
- Create and implement plans to reduce the largest sources of carbon emissions in the State (energy, transportation, and buildings, industry and agriculture²⁸) as set forth in HB 1261 Carbon pollution reduction plan.
- Ensure sufficient funding for renewable deployment, which could include permanent solar and wind tax credits.
- Establish a renewable electricity plan that would result in all the utilities actually reaching 90-95 percent renewable by 2030.
- Create incentives to encourage installation of battery storage in combination with renewable energy generation at all scales (residential, commercial and utility).

- Prioritize the retirement of fossil fuel plants in or near underprivileged communities first.
- Assist in helping fossil fuel workforce find new employment.
- Establish a plan and preference for widespread electrification of vehicles and buildings, including:
 1. Establish a fair, transparent and streamlined bidding and interconnection process for independent power producers, ensuring that the grid offers authentic community and customer choice.
 2. Increase public investment and funds matching for widespread EV charging infrastructure, while preparing for the advent of autonomous electric vehicles.
 3. Encourage solar deployment on rooftops to deliver at least 50 percent of the solar we need.
 4. Adopt a state building code that favors solar, battery storage and net zero buildings.
 5. Establish funding programs to retrofit older buildings, especially in low-income neighborhoods, as Fort Collins has done.





STRENGTHEN AND INCREASE COLORADO'S REGENERATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS

Colorado has been transitioning to a more regenerative food system for over a decade: revenues from industrial farming have fallen while the state's natural foods industry has grown. COVID-19 made the fragile and inequitable nature of our food system transparent. The pandemic shuttered restaurants to which many farmers traditionally sold their produce, disrupted national and state supply chains and sickened workers.

The transition became apparent as industrial meat production stumbled, while local packers could not keep up with demand. Farmers markets flourished and small-scale production increased.²⁹ Interest in regenerative agriculture, locally based practices that restore soil fertility, capture carbon, improve the nutritional value of crops grown and support the resilience of farms continues to grow rapidly. This matters because agriculture uses 47.5 percent of the state's land, but farm production contributed only \$7.1 billion in both 2016 and 2017, representing just 2.1 percent of Colorado GDP.³⁰ Agriculture has the potential to play a significant role in the state's recovery, creating jobs, ensuring food security and underpinning both rural and urban prosperity. This will require a transition to higher value agriculture, greater support for distributed agriculture production.

Corner Post Meats is a family-run ranch demonstrating regenerative practices in Colorado Springs. In partnership with the National Audubon Society, their ranch is restoring native habitat while raising delicious, grass-fed products that are sold directly to consumers and establishments such as the Broadmoor Hotel.



Colorado Emergence Series participants approved of the Colorado Department of Agriculture's (CDA) commitment to "Support economic opportunity (i.e. market access) and overcome structural barriers (i.e. cost of doing business, financing) in order to keep family farmers and ranchers in business, and allow the generations to follow to build a career in agriculture." The CDA seeks to advance farmer- and rancher-led soil, water and climate stewardship, prevent greater loss of agricultural land and water, and protect essential resources for working lands.

Participants recognized that human health and environmental health are linked and called for state policies to promote regenerative farming styles and methods that restore health and vibrancy to the ecosystem and ensure that such methods have direct (or equal) market access.



Conversations expanded beyond the production of food to address distribution systems, access to markets and ways to support local production and processing of agricultural products. There was extensive support for using agricultural lands to sequester carbon, enhance wildlife and support rural livelihoods as a part of a regenerative future.

The following are key priority actions that were identified by participants.

- Support a resilient agricultural economy to strengthen rural and urban communities by investing in decentralized systems that enhance food resilience. These will augment the vulnerable global supply chains that failed in the pandemic, reduce fossil fuel dependence and keep more money in the pockets of our farmers and ranchers.
- Invest in local food processing for meat, quinoa, peaches, grains, potatoes, sweet corn, etc., to cut transportation and enable more value-added processing. Transport increases costs and reduces nutritional value.
- Ensure ethical treatment of agricultural workers and immigrants.
- Explore use of tax benefits to make local processing more economically viable.
- Ensure the health of Colorado soils and waterways to create an abundant food system that delivers nutrient-dense food to all communities and enhances biodiversity.
- Heal grasslands with managed grazing, mimicking nature in livestock management and maximizing the ability for soils to absorb carbon.
- Encourage carbon farming to help landowners move to more regenerative practices. This also increases soil water holding capacity and lowers operating costs for farmers.
- Increase farmers' understanding of the benefits, return on investment and practices of regenerative agriculture; promote the sharing of best practices and expertise.
- Explore vendor matching to find markets for seconds and other "less than perfect" agricultural products. E.g., peach growers connecting to a cider company.
- Support the Department of Agriculture's block grant proposal. This could allow neighborhoods to design projects that could be replicated and used as educational tools.
- Provide additional money for SNAP to support regenerative farmers.
- Promote agrovoltatics that combine solar gardens with food production.

Front Line Farming operates over four acres of urban farm land committed to providing food to people of all income levels by sustainably growing affordable local food in the Denver Metro Area. It engages the communities it serves by educating young people and neighborhoods on how to grow food locally. It promotes healthy, active lifestyles, beautifying neighborhoods with edible landscapes and reducing the distance from farm to plate.



- Incorporate resiliency and climate forecasts in water and land planning to better deal with floods as well as droughts and other dislocations.
- Create a network of converted conex containers to grow hydroponic food in food deserts or areas with distressed soils. These can cut harvest variability due to changing conditions from climate change. Hybrids of traditional and hydroponic farming reduce risks from hail, temperature swings, drought and floods.
- Create incentives for regenerative agriculture to ensure rural revitalization, increased food resilience and soil-based carbon storage;
- Explore and develop different regenerative ways to distribute food. including web models (direct to consumer delivery); incentivize farmers to implement these practices.
- Ensure equitable market access for new and small-scale farmers:
 - Educate the public regarding the value of regenerative agriculture and soil health by building and demonstrating the business case for regenerative practices.
 - Establish decentralized networks food production and distribution; right-size systems so they are not too big to fail nor too small to succeed.
 - Ensure food sovereignty for communities, respecting their unique food systems.
 - Ensure that AQCC methane standards for cows do not adversely affect regenerative agriculture practices.





PROVIDE EQUITABLE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The health impacts of COVID-19 are felt disproportionately by Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. To date, Hispanics represent 28 percent of all state COVID cases, while only making up 21 percent of the population. Black and African American cases represent 7 percent while only making up 3 percent of the state population. “We know that social and health care inequities affect outcomes, and that becomes even more apparent in times of disaster,” Executive Director of CDPHE Jill Hunsaker-Ryan said. “There have been generations of institutionalized barriers to things like preventive medical care, healthy food, safe and stable housing, quality education, reliable transportation and clean air. Research shows that these types of factors are the most predictive of health outcomes. There is much to be learned from this disaster, and the uneven effects of COVID-19 on different communities will perhaps be one of the most profound lessons. It’s apparent now more than ever why we must bridge these inequities and even more closely track the outcomes of COVID-19 by race and ethnicity.”³¹

Equity was a key theme underpinning all of the Colorado Emergence Series. The old normal blocked access for BIPOC to all social systems. It entrenched systemic inequity, blocking engagement across all aspects of society, from how we feed people, deliver education, provide health care, and manage the justice system. A regenerative economy is founded on a commitment to address and remove systemic barriers. It establishes the conditions to achieve shared prosperity and provides opportunities for all voices to be heard and participate in decision making.

Series participants offered solutions from investing in community infrastructure, to creating good paying jobs by re-localizing food production, eliminating pollution that has fouled the air and the water particularly in front-line communities, and strengthening the public sector.

GrowHaus serves as a source of fresh food in the Elyria-Swansea and Globeville neighborhoods of Denver where there are few traditional grocery stores within walking distance for many residents. GrowHaus has built trust by using community-based staff who they call “promotoras”, who know families in the area struggling and connect them with the benefits they need.

When COVID-19 hit, GrowHaus received a massive increase in households looking for services. They mobilized their team by packing and delivering emergency food packages to homes at no charge. GrowHaus is currently serving 2,500 residents and partnering with other local organizations, like Bondadosa, Denver Food Rescue, and we Don’t Waste.



The sessions prioritized serving previously ignored communities and strengthening organizations that support equitable access and decision making.

The following are key priority actions that were identified by participants:

- Include diverse stakeholders whenever statewide plans are created, as the city of Denver did when writing its climate action plan³².
- Establish equity and inclusion standards in the trades. Require or incentivize training in equity, diversity and inclusion that employers could take to familiarize themselves with the obstacles of diversifying their workforce.
- Prioritize areas like the Globeville/Elyria and Swansea neighborhoods for regenerative and restorative activities, as these areas have some of the dirtiest water and air quality.
- Prioritize rural communities that have been impacted, e.g. San Luis valley.
- Ensure that the historical barriers faced by farmers of color are eliminated in relation to loan and funding access.
- Ensure that documents containing post-high school information are available in languages including Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic and Spanish to eliminate the language barrier.
- Eliminate the digital divide by delivering universal broadband as a public utility, delivering affordable, reliable, high capacity technology to youth in schools to, especially in rural and BIPOC communities to deliver digital skills training and equip them to join the future workforce.
- Review the “State Blue Book” of 300 Boards and Commissions to make sure the process of selecting board members is inclusive, resulting in more racially and ethnically diverse appointees. At present, regulations on who sits on what boards and review regulatory agendas for agencies are opaque or written in statute.
- Work with groups like: Focus Points, Project Voyce, Colorado Inclusive Economy, Jobs with Justice and The Equity Project to advance racial equity in communities and workplaces.
- Give subsidies for land stewards in indigenous cultures who implement regenerative agriculture.





BUILD THE INDUSTRIES AND WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

Economic forecasts for Colorado were not encouraging. In May, IHS Markit, which provides economic and industry-level forecasts and data, warned that post-COVID “Colorado will be in the top 10 for job losses, fifth worst” in the nation.³³

The real outcome was not fate, but choice: job losses were far less than feared. By August national unemployment stood at 10.2 percent; Colorado was at 7.4 percent, one of the best in the U.S due to government and citizen success in flattening the curve and allowing the economy to reopen.³⁴ The state is still suffering, and communities of color especially so, but Colorado is an entrepreneurial birthplace, known for creating niche markets like hemp and CBD that go on to lead the nation. The shift to clean technology, regenerative agriculture and the other job creation engines offers Colorado the chance to create a more inclusive, resilient life for all. In the wake of COVID-19, the state should invest in the industries of the future, not those of the past.

This is already happening: The relative size and importance of such legacy industries as oil, gas and other extractive industries is overstated.³⁵ As stated above, clean energy employs twice the workers employed in the oil and gas sectors,³⁶ and clean energy employment is increasing, while employment in fossil fuels is falling.

Many of the industries that are actually essential economic engines contributing to the Coloradans’ livelihoods are underappreciated. The University of Colorado’s four campuses employ more than 32,000,³⁷ putting it on par with oil and gas. The IT-software industry cluster employs 58,000 in the nine-county Metro Denver.³⁸ Arts and culture directly employ more than 100,000 statewide.³⁹ Outdoor recreation is the real engine of Colorado’s economy, directly employing almost 230,000. Counting direct, indirect and induced employment, the industry supports a whopping 511,000 jobs in the state, constituting almost 19 percent of Colorado’s labor force. By comparison, oil and gas support 89,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs, almost six times fewer than outdoor recreation.⁴⁰

GreenLatinos is a national nonprofit organization that convenes a broad coalition of Latino leaders committed to addressing environmental, natural resources and conservation issues that significantly impact the health and welfare of the Latino community. It maintains a listing of “green jobs” as part of their outreach.



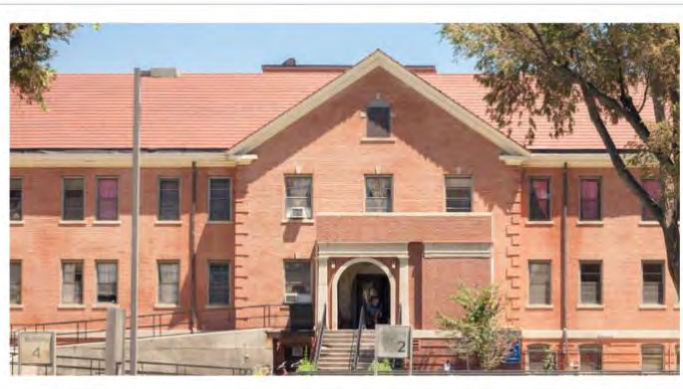
Smart regions identify, map and recruit the industries of the future. If Colorado is to have the economy it desires, it will have to attract the companies we want and train the workforce needed to deliver that regenerative economy.

Participants agreed that the state should prioritize industries that contribute to clean air, clean water, clean energy and pay meaningful wages. Workers need equitable access to training and job placement that enables them to build a flourishing life. Colorado's entrepreneurs need support to launch the new companies that are the job creation engine of any economy.

The following are key priority actions that were identified by participants:

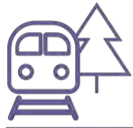
- Recruit the companies of the future, and preferentially invest in creating the industries of a regenerative economy.
- Workforce training to transition from Boomer-generation electrical contractors that are retiring and move people from fossil to renewables; subsidize tuition for people going into renewable energy.
- Provide job skills training to transition oilfield workers to provide careers with meaningful ages without uprooting their families.
- Work with trade associations like Colorado Solar and Storage Association, and community workforce development groups like Activate Workforce Solutions and Focus Points⁴¹ to ensure that educational programs train people for the jobs for which companies will be hiring and de-risk the hiring program.⁴²
- Engage the chambers of commerce of the communities of color across the state.
- Ensure that BIPOC and underrepresented communities are given a priority voice in creating the workforce Colorado will need for industries supporting a regenerative recovery.
- Implement an effective high school vocational program (IT, healthcare, clean-tech, regenerative agriculture, etc.) including apprenticeships for students who do not want to attend traditional colleges.
- Align 2020 talent pipeline report with regenerative jobs, then create the certificate programs to support the skills transition.⁴³

In 2019, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) \$200,000 to fund a job-training program supporting the Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community (SRC). It provides training to help secure full-time environmental employment. The SRC is a recovery-oriented transitional housing program helping those who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and struggling with substance abuse disorder.



- Create certificate programs for the jobs that are needed in the state, teaming with such groups as Solar Energy International and the Sterling Wind technician training program.
- Integrate workforce development programs with more aggressive building codes that mandate greater energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Engage state legislators in conversations about job creation potential of regenerative agricultural practices.
- Encourage and promote agritourism and ecotourism for Colorado's mountain and rural locations.





INVEST IN NATURAL AND BUILT INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure conventionally means “the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities... needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.” The presence of properly located and maintained roads, bridges, airports, rail lines, broadband, power grids, sanitation and buildings are critical to a healthy economy, but they are not all that matters. Even more important is our natural infrastructure, including intact ecosystems that provide our life support systems (air to breathe, water to drink, fertile soil to grow our food and climate stability) underpin all life—all economic activity. This natural infrastructure is essential to Colorado’s economy. Tourism, much of it to enjoy our great outdoors, provides 165,000 jobs and almost \$6 billion in revenue.⁴⁴ With 1.7 percent of the U.S. population, Colorado has almost 8 percent of the nation’s tourism jobs. Outdoor recreation generates 8.3 percent of the state’s workforce⁴⁵, delivering \$28 billion of annual consumer spending, 229,000 direct jobs, \$9.7 billion in wages and salaries and \$2 billion in state and local tax revenue.⁴⁶ The Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) based in Boulder, serves more than 4,000 suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, sales representatives and retailers in the active outdoor lifestyle.⁴⁷

In recoveries from economic downturns, “shovel-ready,” roads and bridges infrastructure projects are often the first investments made. The question participants in the Colorado Emergence Series discussed was, “As Colorado recovers, what are the infrastructure needs of the future?”

Participants agreed that we must ensure that the clean water resources necessary for urban resilience agriculture, recreation, industry and ecosystem viability are protected and enhanced. We must restore damaged lands and parks. This will require Integrating regenerative principles into land planning and infrastructure. The following are key priority actions that were identified by participants:

- Prioritize investment into natural infrastructure including wildlife corridors per the governor’s Executive Order to safeguard wildlife while

The Geos Neighborhood located in Arvada, Colorado combines traditional village living with the most advanced design and building practices to be Colorado’s first net-zero energy development. Colorado’s unique climate enables Geos to use the sun and the earth to produce as much energy as the community consumes, with a total cost that’s equal to or less than ordinary built-to-code homes and businesses.



enhancing public safety,⁴⁸ deferred maintenance and urban green spaces to support our outdoor industries and the health of our communities. Restore damaged natural infrastructure.

- Encourage practices that use agricultural land to protect biodiversity and carbon sequestration, in addition to food production.
- Work with One Earth's Global Safety Net, Department of Natural Resources and conservation NGOS to develop a state land use and conservation plan to ensure Colorado has the adequate and intact ecosystems to sustain life and reduce carbon.⁴⁹
- Repurpose existing infrastructure as use patterns change to avoid stranded assets; e.g. parking lots can be converted to vertical agriculture.
- Promote safe walkable, bikeable communities by closing streets, investing in last mile solutions and ensuring safe transit.
- Create a template plan for making towns more walkable, more bikeable, more accessible to nature and parks.
- Investigate existing zoning regulations that prohibit regenerative transportation options and modify codes to support regenerative practices.
- Adopt a net zero building code and retrofit old buildings;
- Redefine rivers as a public good. Ensure that Colorado has the clean water necessary for urban resilience, agriculture, recreation, industry and ecosystem viability.
- Work with each water basin, the Colorado Water Plan⁵⁰ and State Water Board to prioritize projects needed to fix the supply and 2050 forecasted demand gap. Include multipurpose and multi-stakeholder processes.
- Implement paving alternatives to not use impermeable paving in parking lots if there are soils/ filtration/ wetlands options that support the natural environment.
- Incentivize restoration and reclamation of degraded lands due to industrial operations.





BUILD COLORADO'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Extractive industries helped build Colorado's great economy. But the linear model of taking, making, using and discarding (wasting) comes at an unacceptably high cost. The emerging model of economic prosperity, the *circular economy*, is based on reclaiming raw materials that were used to create products and returning them to usefulness, keeping them from being discarded. Colorado Emergence Series participants discussed opportunities to create jobs through supporting such enterprises as supporting and growing recycling entrepreneurs and material end-markets in Colorado.

Today, Colorado has a small recovery industry reclaiming scrap, but it lacks industry to take that reclaimed material and make new products from it. For example, EcoCycle and others divert some plastic, aluminum and other materials from landfills (Colorado still buries \$265 million worth of aluminum, cardboard, paper, glass and plastic in our landfills every year⁵¹) but nearly all of the paper, metal and plastic recovered get shipped out of state to be made into new products elsewhere, taking those value-added jobs with them.

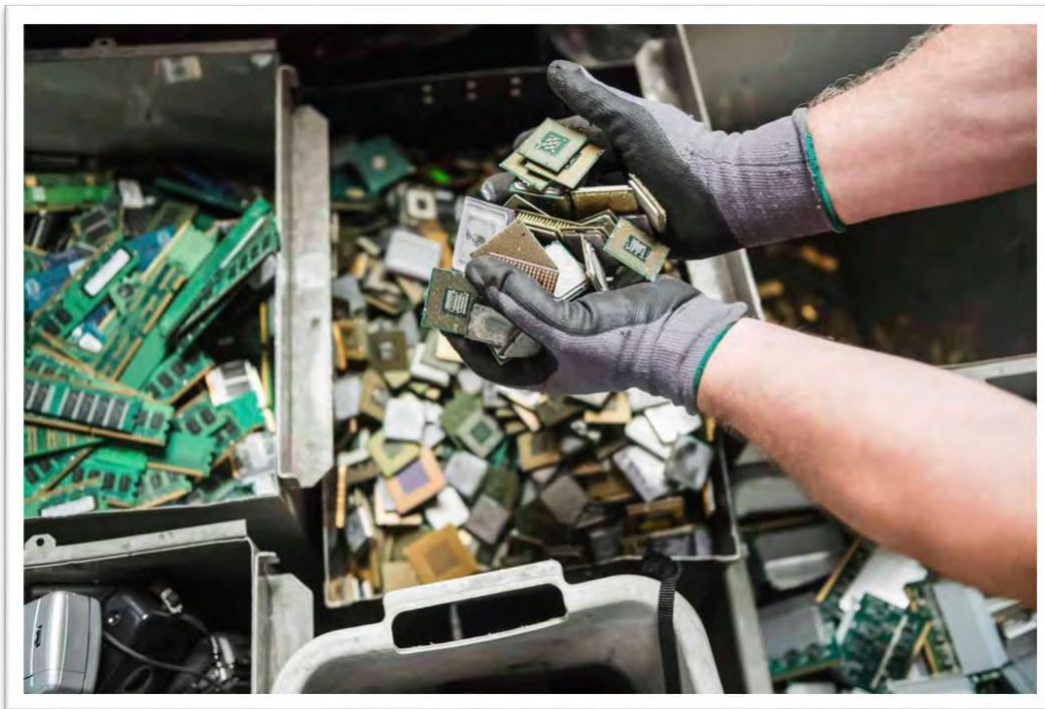
Establishing Colorado as a regional recycling hub can drive an innovation wave of material reuse and create new jobs and tax revenue. Legislation (CO Bill SB20-055) seeks to establish circular material businesses for repurposing materials in packaging, plastics like PET, textiles, electronics, etc. This would replicate the job creation that South Carolina achieved due to the increase of industries tied to material recovery. South Carolina's recycling business has an economic impact of more than \$13 billion, derived from 500 recycling companies creating 2,477 jobs. North Carolina's recycling industry drives \$17 billion in revenues and 17,000 jobs.⁵²

Blue Star Recycler's mission is to recycle electronics to create jobs for people with disAbilities. The organization has provided good paying disassembly and supervisory positions to individuals who may not have been able to secure employment otherwise. By turning what would have been hazardous waste into jobs, in 2019 they diverted over three million pounds of electronics from the landfills and provided \$272,000 in taxpayer savings.



The following are some of the actions identified by the Colorado Emergence Series participants to support a circular economy in the state:

- Promote municipal composting operations for urban and rural operations.
- Encourage efficient and circular flows of materials throughout Colorado's economy.
- Identify and transition away from industries that are polluting.
- Identify programs that eliminate food waste and increase connections to organizations that can distribute food to food banks and other ways to feed people in need.
- Create a Colorado-centric communication campaign to bring awareness to recycling and composting that is easy to understand and targets Colorado residents and tourists. Standardize communication across the state so it is easy to understand and is translated into different languages for all of Colorado's residents.
- Create a trade marketplace for farmers/ranchers and construction workers to share and swap big equipment, thus reducing their overhead and increasing the sharing economy.
- Develop a statewide circular economy app that allows for people to trade and swap gear, clothes, books, electronics and other gear.
- Support gig economy workers by ensuring that the application services that hire them pay living wages and health benefits.





PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

“Real democracy is much more than elections and voting: it also means that everyone commits to fairness and ensuring vibrant and meaningful public participation in decision-making, especially by the most marginalised people. This means responsibility to future as well as current generations of people.”

- Access Initiative

A functional democracy is essential for achieving progress on any of our agendas, yet democratic institutions are under attack across the country. A regenerative recovery must protect and strengthen our democratic institutions, as well as revitalize active and inclusive civic engagement. For democracy to flourish, it must have an educated and engaged citizenry, a free press that is respected and the guarantee to all citizens that they have the opportunity to speak openly and to dissent. Democratic institutions have historically blocked access to BIPOC, resulting in systemic oppression. A regenerative recovery must prioritize access, voice and equitable opportunity to all communities, especially BIPOC. In the third Colorado Emergence Series session, participants discussed what is needed now to ensure that our democracy is healthy and that the changes we want to see implemented can be achieved in Colorado.

The following are key priority actions that were identified by participants:

- Make voting easy, including automatic registration, extending the time frame to return the ballot, direct voter registration during motor vehicle registration, creating a state holiday for voting, and more voting boxes placed in BIPOC communities.
- Ensure diverse voices on Colorado’s 3,000 Boards and Commissions, especially those who cannot now afford to apply or attend meetings.
- Provide information on how families can engage at the state and local levels, and how individuals can

New Era Colorado is the leading voice for young people in Colorado politics and one of the most effective youth civic engagement organizations in the country.

The organization works toward a better Colorado for everyone, not just for a privileged few, and shape our democracy to work better for everyone.



connect to their city, state and federal government.

- Better enfranchise remote communities. For example, the west slope/east slope program that involves remote communities through technology; increases opportunities to participate in giving remote testimony; enabling remote communities to connect to their state government.
- Ensure that logistical, racial and cultural barriers to voting are eliminated.
- Encourage down-ballot engagement by providing education.
- Establish an interesting and hip statewide civics education program for youth and college students, focusing on both issues and inclusive participation.
- Create accessible and multilingual ballot guides that translate legal language on ballots into common wording so voters can better form their own opinions.
- Encourage television networks to promote a website with public accountability that provides information about upcoming elections and counter disinformation.

“Colorado really leads on both fronts [the pandemic and voting security] and can serve as a model for voting under both crises. The first and foremost is the use of mail-in ballots, early voting and the accessible elections we have. For the second, Colorado is one of the safest states in which to cast a ballot.”

- Jena Griswold, Colorado Secretary of State

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MAKING IT HAPPEN: FUNDING A REGENERATIVE RECOVERY

The final session of the Colorado Emergence Series focused on what is required to make the transformational changes needed for a regenerative recovery. Obviously, a regenerative recovery in Colorado will need to be supported by more than government funding, as the state is facing a challenging future. Some analysts estimate that COVID-19 will force a \$6.8 billion deficit on us over the next several years.⁵⁴

All of the proposals put forth by Colorado Emergence Series participants will require resources and funding to implement. Participants suggested a wide variety of funding mechanisms that often extended beyond traditional boundaries and reflected the nature of collaboration required for a regenerative recovery.

The following are key priority actions that were identified by participants:

- The Regenerative Recovery Coalition should create an investment strategy for funding regenerative recovery.
- The Polis administration and state legislature should support authorization for cities/counties/regions to create local public banks/green banks to support local needs and create a business plan for creating a state bank.
- Create a process for evaluating spending and effectiveness of projects against a regenerative Colorado vision.
- Implement permanent solar and wind tax credits. This can be done at a state level, as well as federal.
- Support campaign to suspend and/or repeal TABOR to support investments in a regenerative recovery.
- Seek federal community block grants for regenerative projects.
- Create three partnership pillars: allocate state and federal recovery dollars to seed pilot projects, activate foundations to launch projects and create proof of concept, then use to attract private sector funds to scale.
- Strengthen the Clean Energy Credit Union.
- Provide additional money for SNAP to support regenerative farmers.
- Invest sufficient funds into public lands to ensure their ecological integrity, including strengthening existing infrastructure.
- Explore the creation of a sharing economy for farming capital equipment. Encourage cooperative structures. Empower farmers to build local coalitions.
- Explore use of tax benefits to make local processing economically viable and seek ways to invest in local food processing.
- Create financial mechanisms and market structures that support regenerative outcomes; for example, encourage Slow Opportunities for Investing Local (SOIL) chapters.
- Compensate farmers and ranchers for conservation initiatives to get buy-in. Use federal money for water smart and conservation programs for farmers.



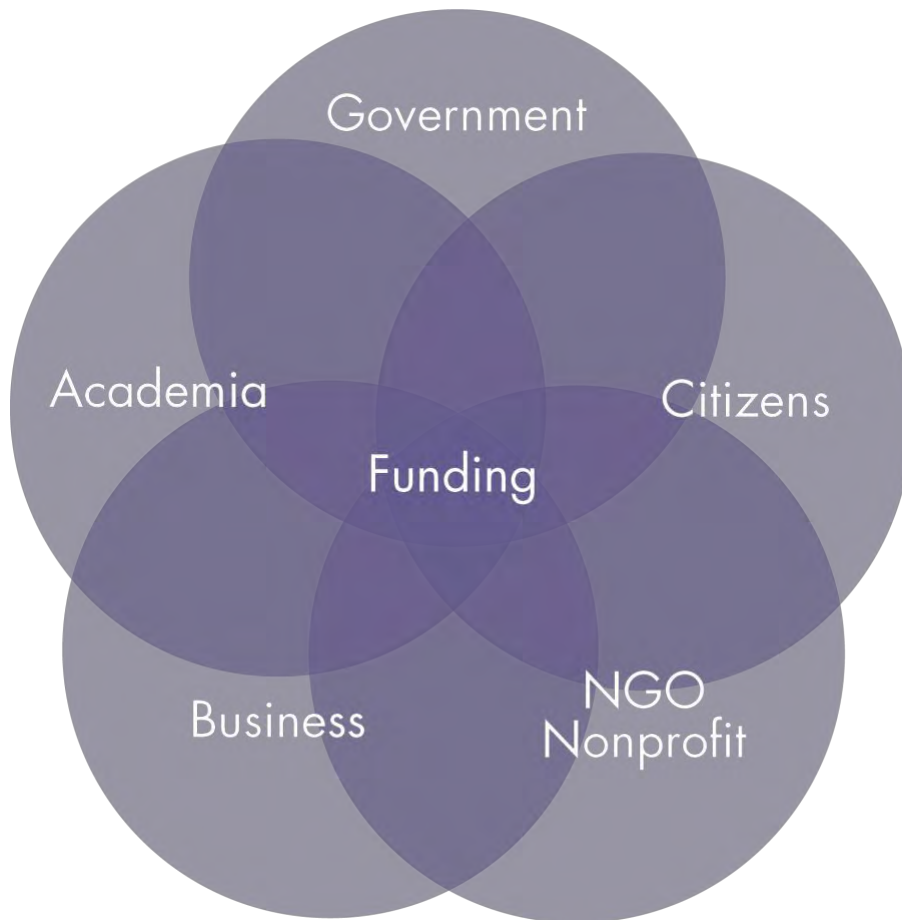
- Support young people getting involved in agriculture by classifying it as public service, and a method for repaying or forgiving loans and increasing the social status of agriculture work.
- Use Water for Colorado’s list of projects when seeking infrastructure funding and ensure that the funding from sport betting money remains in use for the Water Plan.
- Establish a state commitment that federal dollars will go preferentially to BIPOC communities. Start with the recently signed small business stimulus bill.
- Have the business community provide support, resources and a scholarship fund focused on BIPOC students.
- Have the business community offset costs at two-year institutions as part of a plan to encourage four-year schooling.
- Engage the business community to provide support for the students of color to navigate the educational/training system, especially for first-generation students.





LEVERAGE DIVERSE PARTNERSHIPS TO DEMONSTRATE REGENERATION IN ACTION

Establishing a regenerative recovery is an urgent priority. It will take efforts on a scale we're not used to. But there really is no choice. That is why the Regenerative Recovery Coalition is being built. As of October 1, 2020, the Coalition has 155 members representing over \$2.5 billion in annual revenue and more than 19,000 jobs in Colorado. The Coalition has members from diverse sectors including for-profit, nonprofit, media, academia, state and local governments and individual citizens. Many members have helped to shape the strategies outlined in this report, all have signed on in support of the regenerative recovery and are now ready to get to work to build Colorado forward.



A sample of Coalition members include:

- Business for Water Stewardship
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- Denver Zoo
- Focus Points
- The Equity Project
- Mile High Connects
- New Era Colorado
- South West Energy Efficiency Project
- Boulder Organic Foods
- Brendle Group
- Cornerstone Capitol
- Montanya Distillers
- Switch Automation
- Group 14
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs
- Denver Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency Office
- San Miguel County

As the initiatives identified above are implemented, these demonstration projects will share information. The Coalition will seek partnerships and collaboration across diverse boundaries. Making it happen will also take creative approaches to funding and supporting these efforts. If we are successful, we all win.



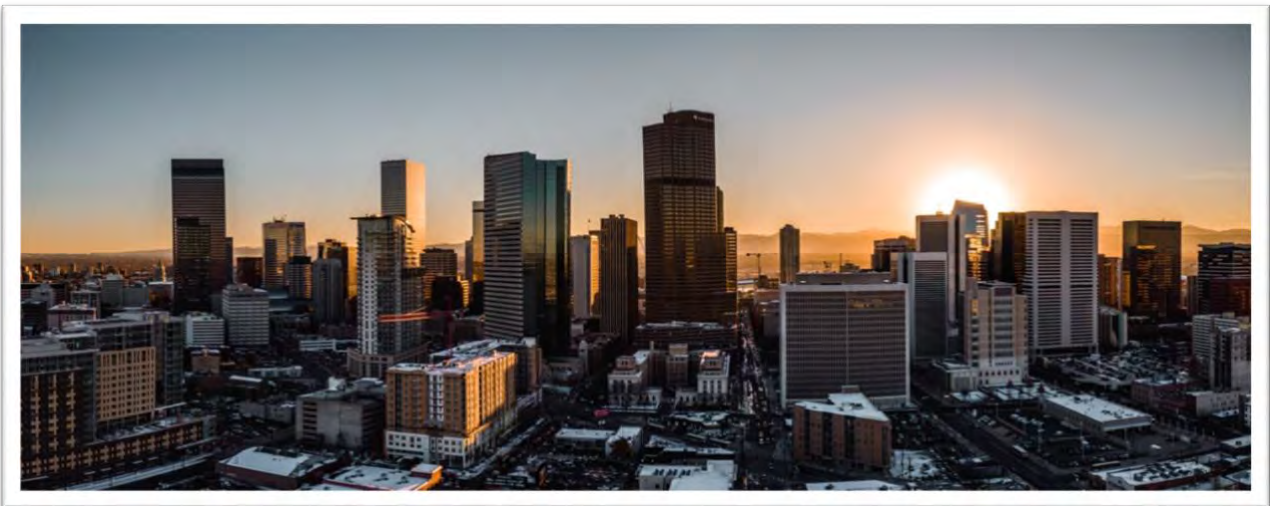
**A gap analysis is currently underway to identify who is missing from the Coalition to ensure diverse and effective engagement, targeted recruiting will then follow. Two priority areas for engagement are with rural Coloradans and increasing the racial and ethnic diversity of the Coalition members.*

METRICS

Creating a regenerative recovery needs timely and effective feedback in order to amplify successes or implement course corrections. One of the first tasks of the Colorado Regenerative Recovery Coalition and its membership will be to establish and test metrics by which to judge the success of the actions suggested above.

During the Series, participants discussed possible metrics for success, including:

- Job creation, i.e., unemployment decreases to rates that are pre-COVID-19.
- Growth in regenerative jobs. We need to establish a baseline metric of the number of jobs currently in the 'regenerative' category and analyze future potential for such jobs.
- Number of people retrained for the regenerative economy.
- Amount of renewable energy generated per year until 100 percent renewable energy is achieved by 2030 or sooner.
- Amount of the state's energy that is supplied by renewable sources in various sections (transportation, industrial, residential) and track progress to the state's renewable plan.
- Conversion of acreage to regenerative agriculture.
- Number of farmers' markets.
- Reduction of individuals who are food insecure.
- Increase in number of engaged youth.
- Involvement of communities of color in leadership and decision-making.
- Air quality; attainment of federal air quality standards throughout the state.
- Increase in amount of state's land protected.
- Broadband availability in all neighborhoods; broadband supplied to every part of the state.
- Every community is electrified (transportation, built infrastructure).
- Diversity celebrated in all communities.
- All Coloradoans have access to quality health care.



NEXT STEPS

The Alliance will continue to lead the regenerative recovery movement and coordinate the Regenerative Recovery Coalition that we are creating together. The next steps include:

- I. Formalize partnership with the administration
 - A. Secure the commitment of the governor's office to a regenerative recovery.
 - B. Continue conversations with the following departments to identify a best partnership structure for the next phase of this work. Include other applicable departments:
 1. Department of Local Affairs
 2. Office of Economic Development and International Trade
 3. Colorado Energy Office
 4. Inter-agency Climate Team
 5. Department of Higher Education
 6. Department of Labor
 - C. Establish effective meeting cadence to ensure this work supports the priorities of the administration while advancing a regenerative recovery.
 - D. Establish relevant Coalition working group membership from key offices within the administration.
- II. Establish long-term funding streams
 - A. Identify where The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding or other recovery dollars may be allocated for pilot projects.
 - B. Continue to build key philanthropic partners and develop the concept of catalytic funding to endow the regenerative recovery movement in Colorado.
 - C. Apply for federal, state and private grants to support this work.
 - D. Seek corporate sponsorship and major donor gifts.
- III. Communicate the regenerative recovery narrative
 - A. Create a public-facing narrative.
 - B. Create and implement media and marketing plan to engage a wide and diverse audience.
 - C. Collect and share stories of inspiration and impact.
- IV. Advance key policy initiatives for the 2021 legislative session
 - A. Identify key policy priorities from the administration and legislature for 2021 and map to the regenerative recovery strategies.
 - B. Meet with key policy leaders and Coalition members leading into the 2021 session to collaborate on policy initiatives.
 - C. Activate the Coalition policy members during the 2021 session to pass key policies that support this work.
 - D. Begin to map 2022 and beyond policy needs.
- V. Build, activate and support the Regenerative Recovery Coalition
 - A. Complete gap analysis of Coalition members to identify who is missing, identify and recruit key members to ensure diverse representation and essential participation across all eight of the fundamentals to a regenerative recovery.
 - Focus on racial, geographic and industry diversity



- B. Establish effective working groups of the Coalition for each of the eight fundamentals to a regenerative recovery.
 - C. Host plenary session of all Coalition members Q4 of 2020.
 - D. Activate working groups Q4 2020 into Q1 2021.
- VI. Create regenerative zones/pilot locations throughout Colorado representing the diversity of the state.
- A. Q1- Q2 2021 identify key pilot projects for each working group.
 - B. Pilot projects will be selected to accelerate implementation of strategies in the report and baseline metrics will then be established for each project.
 - C. Impact metrics will be tracked year-over-year to determine success, impact and scalability.
 - D. Working groups tasked with advancing each pilot project and collecting metrics.
- VII. Inventory and engage businesses and organizations already pursuing regenerative activities in Colorado.
- A. Agriculture
 - B. Energy
 - C. Businesses
 - D. Government agencies
 - E. Nonprofits
 - F. Individuals
- VIII. Replication model
- A. Document process and outline replication model of other states and localities.
 - B. Research and connect with other recovery efforts in the US and abroad that share similar values.



CONCLUSION

The world is changing. 2020 gave us a glimpse of change at scale. This time, when our world has been upended and things are slowed and sped up at the same time, is the perfect time to change, because everything already is changing.

The Alliance Center partnered with the Polis administration, Natural Capitalism Solutions and Greener Solutions to host over 200 individuals from diverse backgrounds across Colorado to rethink how we can repair Colorado's economy and move forward in ways that are regenerative of our people, natural resources and economy. This Series sprang from the recognition that we must seize this unique moment in time to create a better life for all, as we protect the vast and beautiful resources in our state.

As we emerge from the shards of the old normal, we need to craft an economy that is about more than just goods and services. Building forward cannot be based on the old system. Our differences must become our strengths. Coloradans can lead the nation to show how a regenerative future will happen. It is time to enable everyone in Colorado to thrive.

Achieving this will require moving through three distinct steps:

- I. Stop the harm.
 - Transition to renewable, distributed, reliable energy.
 - Build Colorado's circular economy.
 - Ensure healthy, community-led regenerative food systems.
 - Invest in natural and built infrastructure.
 - Use workforce development to reverse inequity and structural poverty.
- II. Create conditions for healing and prosperity.
 - Commit to equity, diversity and inclusion.
 - Prioritize decentralized and local solutions.
 - Strengthen democratic institutions.
 - Prioritize equity and prosperity.
 - Build the workforce of the future.
- III. Learn along the way: It's an imperfect journey.
 - Build on what's working today.
 - Create regenerative opportunity zones.
 - Form partnerships; collaborate with a common goal.

The tragedies wrought by COVID-19 crisis seem all consuming. Yet it is essential that we prepare to address other life-threatening issues, from global loss of biodiversity to inequalities of our economic system to the dangers to our democracy to the myriad challenges of the climate crisis. Many people long only to return to "normal." The Alliance Center convened this Series because there can be no return to what once constituted normal.



This is an interstitial moment—a time between. It is a powerful time, a time to lean into executing a regenerative, resilient and promising future.

Our task now is to build on recommendations in this report and identify the best path to implementation, working together to deliver a regenerative recovery for Colorado. Participants in the Colorado Emergence Series have begun the hard work to craft a plan that ensures a better future for all Coloradans. In partnership with the Polis administration, the Coalition will tackle the biggest issues facing Colorado. As we go forward, we commit to creating a regenerative economy based on equity and inclusion, diversity and shared prosperity on a healthy planet.

It's not Impossible. It just hasn't happened yet.



APPENDIX

The Colorado Emergence Series Process

In April of 2020, The Alliance Center announced the Colorado Emergence Series, six separate facilitated meetings. Experts in the respective areas were surveyed to determine participants to be invited. Every effort was made to ensure geographic, ethnic and industry diversity.

Participants were sent a document prior to the meeting that provided Colorado specific statistics, background information on the topic and examples of regenerative progress.

The meetings were held virtually on Zoom and were approximately two hours in length. Each session was facilitated and carefully structured to provide subject matter content, brainstorming time in break-out rooms and then an opportunity to report back to the plenary session. The participants also used the Zoom chat function to provide additional content, ideas and discussion during each session.

Each session was recorded, and AC staff kept careful notes of all recommendations, intentionally non-attributed. The actions and recommendations provided were summarized into meeting proceedings and sent to each participant for review.

Analysis of Recommendations

The Colorado Emergence Series yielded over 250 recommendations for action to support a regenerative recovery for Colorado. Many of the recommendations reached beyond the topic of the session. Many had implications that positively impacted different systems. The authors of this report designed a system to catalogue all of the participants input.

A [Google Sheet](#) was created and all of the recommendations were entered by session and the suggested timeline (now, six months, one year +). The following are the steps that were followed to prioritize and aggregate the Series action items.

- **Step 1:** Recommendations were reviewed and duplicate recommendations eliminated.
- **Step 2:** Each recommendation was reviewed for breadth of impact to determine the number of sessions to which the recommendation was relevant. This was tallied as “Session Frequency.”
- **Step 3:** Each recommendation was given a “*Priority Impact Score*,” which was the result of *Ease of Implementation* (scored from 1-5 with 5 being the easiest to implement) multiplied by *Impact Score* (scored from 1-5 with 5 having the most impact). All recommendations with a score of 12 or higher were considered High Priority Impact and noted in red. Recommendations that were scored with 4 or higher in Ease of Implementation for Impact Score were also included.
- **Step 4:** Each recommendation was reviewed to determine who should be responsible for implementation and if local or state policy changes were needed.



- **Step 5:** Each recommendation was then carefully reviewed for patterns and affinities and were organized according to the Fundamentals for a Regenerative Colorado.

Contributors to the Report

- Hunter Lovins, President and Founder- Natural Capital Solutions
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- [Colorado Emergence Series participants](#)

Glossary of Terms:

Agrovoltaics: solar photovoltaics arrayed so that crops can be grown or animals pastured under the cell arrays.

AQCC Methane Standards: Standards on methane emissions set by the Air Quality Commission of Colorado.

BIPOC: Black, Indigenous, People of Color.

CDOT: Colorado Department of Transportation.

Circular Economy: concept created by Walter Stahel that calls for minimum materials design and construction, recovery of scrap materials, recycling and reuse of end of life products and materials.

Climate Cabinet: Governor Polis’ group of agency heads who are responsible for implementing climate protection in Colorado.

Climate Roadmap: Governor Polis’ plan for climate protection in Colorado.

COSSA: The Colorado Solar and Storage Association.

Decarbonization: eliminating the use of fossil carbon throughout the economy to reduce emissions of CO2 that are driving the climate crisis.

Distributed Energy: small-scale renewable energy installations that are spread out to where the energy is used. It includes, rooftop solar, garage scale batteries, small wind generators.

DNR: Department of Natural Resources.

Doughnut Economics: concept put forth by economist Kate Raworth of an economy that operates below the scientifically determined planetary boundaries, yet ensures enough material sufficiency for all people to achieve dignity. The resulting “safe and regenerative operating space for humanity” is the sweet, doughnut-shaped economy that delivers a world that works for everyone.

Ecosystem Viability: intact ecosystems have integrity that enables them to be sustainable, because they are regenerative. Human intervention that chops up ecosystems, eliminates species, removes too many resources destroys the viability of the ecosystem.

Equitable Access: ability of all people regardless of race, age, gender or other distinctions to get the goods and services that they need from the system.



Food Resilience: ability of the agricultural system to withstand disruptions to production, the supply chain and equitably and affordably distribute nutritional food to everyone who needs it.

Food Sovereignty: ability of communities to decide what sorts of food they will grow, eat and sell.

Green New Deal: Congressional resolution to reduce fossil fuel use, cut greenhouse gas emissions as it guarantees high-paying jobs in clean energy industries. Europe, South Korea and Costa Rica, among many other jurisdictions, have committed to similar or more aggressive Green Deals.

Hydroponic Food: Food that is grown in sophisticated water-based systems without soil that can use up to 90 percent less water than conventional methods.

Land Stewardship: The conservation of the property's natural resources and features over a long period of time.

Natural Infrastructure: Strategically planned and managed network of natural lands, such as forest and wetlands, working landscapes and other open spaces that conserves or enhances ecosystem values.

OIA: Outdoor Industry Association.

Opportunity Zones: A designation and investment program created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 allowing for certain investments in lower income areas to have tax advantages.

Regenerative: to regrow or be renewed or restored, especially after being damaged.

Regenerative Agriculture: Farming and grazing practices that start with soil health. It achieves, among other benefits, climate protection by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity; resulting in both atmospheric carbon reduction and improved water cycles.

Regenerative Economy: A regenerative economy aligns itself with living systems principles, patterns of systemic health, self-organization, self-renewal and the laws of physics. It is founded on a commitment to address and remove the systemic barriers that created the inequalities of the past. It establishes the conditions to achieve shared prosperity on a healthy planet and provides opportunities for all voices to be heard and participate in decision making.

Regenerative Food Systems: An approach that actively reinstates and regenerates the environment, ecosystems and food systems that have been destroyed or devastated by conventional industrial agriculture.

Regenerative Recovery: COVID 19 economic recovery efforts that builds a robust, localized economy abundantly meeting human needs while equitably providing clean water, air, energy and food.

Regenerative Zones: Building on the model of Opportunity Zones, a designation for a town, municipality or region to receive special funding to demonstrate regenerative recovery projects.

SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - a US Department of Agriculture program that provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.

Structural Poverty: The state of being poor because of weaknesses in the economy that does not give people a chance to earn a sufficient income.



Citations

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