



CITY OF GILLETTE

Administration

201 E. 5th Street • Gillette, Wyoming 82716
Phone 307.686.5203 • Fax 307.686.1593
www.gillettewy.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Michael Cole, City Administrator
RE: General Information
DATE: November 17, 2023

The following meetings are scheduled for the week of **November 18-24, 2023**

Tuesday, November 21st

6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers

Thursday, November 23rd

Thanksgiving Holiday - **City Offices Closed**

Friday, November 24th

Employee Safety Recognition Day - **City Offices Closed**

1. Attached please find a **news release** regarding **City Seeks Applicants for Citizen Advisory Boards** dated **November 10, 2023** provided by **Public Affairs Director Toscana**.
2. Attached please find **information** regarding **Sales and Use Tax Collections Increased 14.1 Percent in FY 2023** dated **November 9, 2023** provided by the **State of Wyoming Administration & Information Economic Analysis Division**.
3. Attached please find **Economic Development News** dated **November 15, 2023** provided by **Energy Capital Economic Development**.
4. Attached please find a **flyer** for **Brian McColley's retirement party** on **November 20, 2023** from **3:00 - 5:00 p.m.** in the **City Hall 2nd Floor Community Room** provided by **Police Chief Deaton**.

MHC/adw

News

City Seeks Applicants for Citizen Advisory Boards

Post Date: 11/10/2023 4:54 PM

The City of Gillette is seeking volunteers to serve on its Citizen Advisory Boards. Applications are available [online](#) and in the Administration Office on the 3rd Floor of City Hall, located at 201 E. 5th Street in Gillette. Completed applications can be returned to City Hall in person or via email at admn@gillettewy.gov. Applications must be received by Friday, December 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Applicants will be notified after the application deadline of their confirmed scheduled interview time. For questions, please contact City Administration at (307) 686-5203.

Board of Examiners

Determines acceptable methods and materials in construction in the appeal process, reviews Contractor & Individual Trade License application packages (which include required documents, complaints received) and either approves or denies New and Renewal licensing as indicated by the guidelines in the City of Gillette Chapter 5 Building Ordinances. The board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 12:30 in the Community Conference Room, located on the 2nd Floor of City Hall. All members serve a three-year term. *Three (3) 3-Year Terms Expiring 12/31/2026 (One Builder, One Electrician, One At Large)*

Campbell County Lodging Tax Joint Powers Board

A Joint Powers Agreement to establish the Lodging Tax Joint Powers Board was prepared and approved by Campbell County, Gillette, and Wright and then formally approved by the Wyoming Attorney General on December 5 of 2008. The board is comprised of three City appointees, two County appointees, one Town of Wright appointee, and four representatives from the travel and tourism industry. The board meets the third Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at CAM-PLEX in the Energy Hall Conference Room, unless otherwise noted. No Residency Requirements. *One (1) 3-Year Term Expiring 12/31/2026.*

Public Works / Utilities Advisory Committee

Advises the Public Works Director, Utilities Director, Director of Engineering & Building, and the City Council on utilities, engineering, and public works matters. Responsibilities include periodic review and recommendations of standard construction specifications and engineering design standards; building codes; water, sanitary sewer, and electrical utility policies. The committee meets the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. (except June, July, and August) in the 2nd Floor Engineering Conference Room at City Hall. *Four (4) 3-Year Terms Expiring 12/31/2026. (One Contractor, One Engineer, One Supplier, One At Large)*

Regional Water Panel Joint Powers Board

The Regional Water Panel is a group formed under the Gillette Regional Water Supply System Joint Powers Agreement. The Panel consists of seven (7) appointed persons (three appointed by Campbell County, three appointed by the City of Gillette, and one representative from Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC). The Panel reviews system financing strategies, annual operations & maintenance budgets, annual capital budgets and accepts or rejects rates and charges as proposed by the City prior to adoption by the City. In addition, the Panel provides recommendations to the Participating Agencies regarding requests for water from potential Wholesale Customers outside the Designated Service Area (DSA) and the corresponding expansion of the DSA. The panel meets quarterly in the City West Conference Room. *Two (2) 3-Year Terms Expiring 12/31/2026.*

[Return to full list >>](#)



ADMINISTRATION & INFORMATION

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION

Mark Gordon, Governor | Patricia L. Bach, Director | Wenlin Liu, Administrator

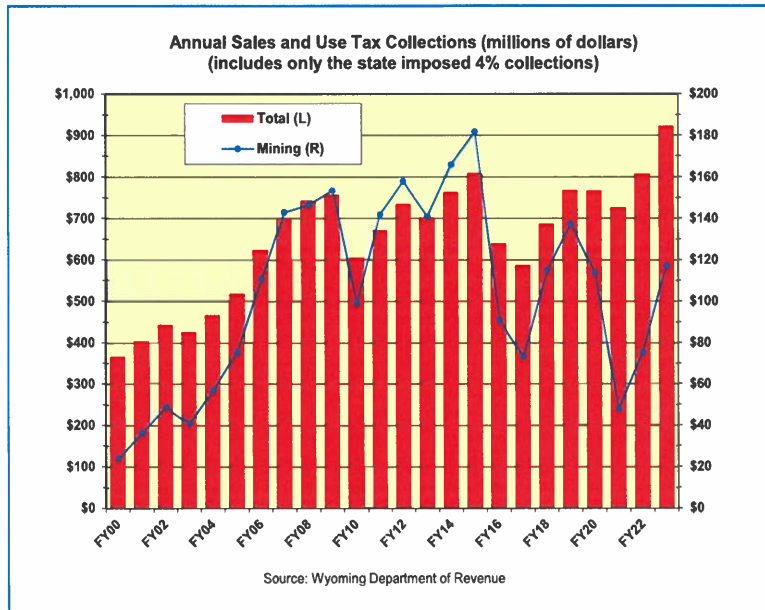
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Contact: Dr. Wenlin Liu, Chief Economist; Emily Johnson, Senior Economist

SALES AND USE TAX COLLECTIONS INCREASED 14.1 PERCENT IN FY 2023

CHEYENNE -- Total sales and use tax collections in fiscal year (FY) 2023 expanded at a strong pace, according to the State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division’s annual publication “Wyoming Sales, Use, and Lodging Tax Revenue Report.” Total sales and use tax collections for FY 2023, reached \$1.2 billion, an increase of 15.0 percent from the previous year. The state-imposed 4% tax collection grew 14.1%, the second consecutive year of a double-digit growth. “With this strong expansion, the amount of total sales and use taxes for fiscal year 2023 reached a new record,” said Dr. Wenlin Liu, Chief Economist with the Economic Analysis Division. “However, it’s still 11.1 percent less than FY 2015 level if measured in inflation-adjusted dollars.” Because locally imposed optional taxes often change during a fiscal year, an accurate comparison should only include the state-imposed 4% taxes to reflect changes in taxable sales over time.



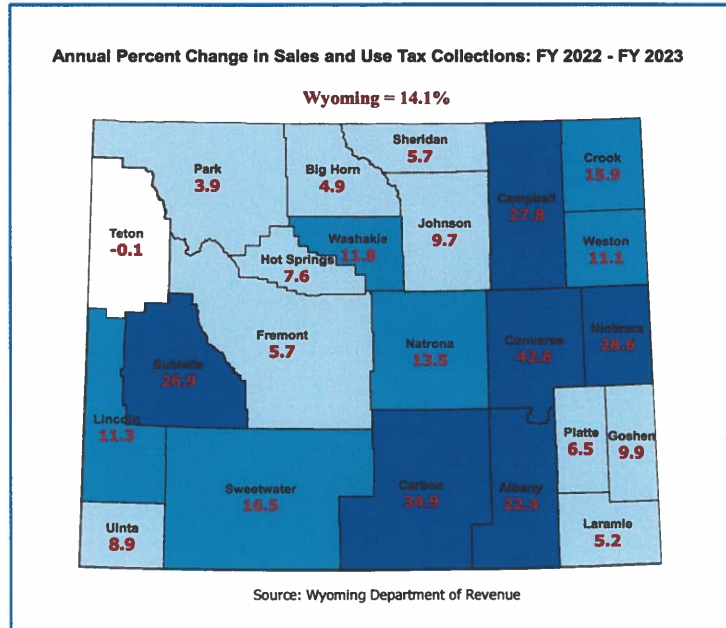
The 48th edition of the report contains sales and use tax collection information categorized by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) super sector. Additionally, the report provides information about sales tax collections for the retail trade sub-sector components as well as for the accommodation and food services sector. Also included in this publication are annual lodging tax collections by county.

As the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic faded, Wyoming’s economy continued to rally in FY 2023, with a lasting rebound of oil & gas drilling, robust payroll job additions, low unemployment rate, and strong income growth. Compared to FY 2022, nearly every major industrial sector experienced an increase in sales and use tax collections. Retail trade (excluding motor vehicles), the largest industry sector in terms of sales tax collections, increased 8.7 percent. Wholesale trade, transportation, and machinery and

equipment leasing and repair industries that act in tandem with mineral extraction operations each grew more than 20.0 percent. Wyoming’s pivotal industry, mining, demonstrated the largest growth of 55.8 percent due to the continued rebound in exploration activities. However, the amount collected from this industry is still 14.8 percent lower than FY 2019. As a result of increased activities in wind power projects and general rate increases in utility gas service, collections from the utilities sector grew 32.7 percent. Finally, sales and use taxes from online shopping (a sub-sector of retail trade) increased 17.4 percent.

Across the state, year-over-year statewide sales and use tax collections increased in 22 counties, led by Converse (42.6%) and Carbon (34.9%) counties. Albany, Campbell, Niobrara, and Sublette counties each experienced over 20.0 percent increases. “These counties benefited from either the continued rebound in mineral activities or wind power projects in FY 2023,” commented Dr. Liu. In addition, persistent and still elevated broad-based inflation across most goods and services played a large role in the overall robust sales and use tax collections.

Teton (-0.1%) is the only county that experienced a decline in collections in comparison to FY 2022. This was mostly attributed to the reduced sales in accommodation and food services. The country’s oldest national park, Yellowstone, was temporarily closed in June 2022 due to the unusual flooding, and then reopened with limited admission until December of 2022.



Total lodging tax collections (including the statewide lodging taxes), \$57.1 million for fiscal year 2023, were down slightly from the \$59.1 million collected in the previous year, or -3.4 percent. The year-over-year change for the state-imposed 3% lodging tax collections was -4.0 percent. Attributing to record breaking outdoor and park visitations, and substantial increase in lodging prices, total lodging sales in the state increased substantially, 47.0 percent in fiscal year 2022. “It was not a surprise that the closure and the subsequent limited admission due to flooding in Yellowstone National Park and the return to normal post-COVID tourism activities reversed the direction in lodging sales for fiscal year 2023.”

Converse County (20.8%) showed the fastest growth, followed by Campbell County (17.5%). A rebound in mining activities were perhaps mostly responsible for the strong increases. Two other counties, Natrona and Carbon also demonstrated over 8.0 percent growth rate, each. Teton County, which collects more than half of Wyoming’s lodging taxes due to its geographical inclusion of national parks, Yellowstone and Grand Teton, experienced a decrease of 7.5 percent from FY22 to FY23. Park County, the second in lodging collections in the state, declined 11.2 percent, and was also affected by the summer flooding event. Overall, 14 counties showed declines in lodging taxes for FY 2023.

The complete report is available online: http://eadiv.state.wy.us/s&utax/Report_FY23.pdf

TOTAL SALES AND USE TAX COLLECTIONS (\$)	FY 2021		FY 2022		FY 2023		% Ch FY22-23
	Total Taxes	4% Taxes	Total Taxes	4% Taxes	Total Taxes	4% Taxes	4% Taxes
ALBANY	46,580,298	30,963,314	45,357,962	30,153,764	55,475,087	36,895,344	22.4%
BIG HORN	10,576,099	8,446,077	12,373,354	9,883,454	12,976,207	10,365,198	4.9%
CAMPBELL	102,645,377	81,982,957	140,016,040	111,887,305	178,857,681	142,947,507	27.8%
CARBON	51,991,772	34,533,963	30,450,550	20,256,406	41,055,838	27,324,624	34.9%
CONVERSE	62,749,858	50,155,332	57,631,254	46,051,138	82,155,011	65,657,605	42.6%
CROOK	8,498,600	6,588,080	11,116,516	7,398,094	12,894,688	8,574,771	15.9%
FREMONT	40,361,569	31,760,807	45,594,258	33,081,710	48,159,394	34,951,989	5.7%
GOSHEN	11,112,345	8,444,734	12,213,338	9,286,317	13,415,085	10,201,194	9.9%
HOT SPRINGS	6,206,982	4,122,580	7,044,354	4,681,613	7,578,643	5,037,712	7.6%
JOHNSON	12,719,514	8,470,908	15,802,978	10,508,702	14,749,640	11,531,836	9.7%
LARAMIE	170,452,094	113,345,496	173,421,211	125,325,044	198,107,078	131,823,350	5.2%
LINCOLN	26,355,168	21,040,812	29,034,210	23,194,302	32,319,413	25,820,996	11.3%
NATRONA	105,540,994	84,315,103	113,775,060	90,885,384	129,152,884	103,173,765	13.5%
NIOBRARA	2,990,103	2,141,497	2,877,763	1,911,960	3,696,254	2,458,000	28.6%
PARK	33,658,551	33,648,266	38,224,190	38,217,768	39,719,588	39,717,754	3.9%
PLATTE	13,708,476	9,095,140	17,863,407	11,879,778	19,019,444	12,651,076	6.5%
SHERIDAN	42,159,605	28,021,137	48,671,756	32,355,036	51,417,092	34,184,309	5.7%
SUBLETTE	13,550,204	13,550,204	16,486,663	16,486,663	20,922,426	20,922,426	26.9%
SWEETWATER	68,456,666	54,619,476	77,473,890	61,894,746	92,936,338	72,089,078	16.5%
TETON	109,120,080	70,318,238	141,412,417	90,906,634	141,086,143	90,805,803	-0.1%
UINTA	22,474,796	17,951,823	24,186,378	19,321,896	26,336,942	21,040,820	8.9%
WASHAKIE	8,382,030	6,693,036	8,974,575	7,168,559	10,036,293	8,016,980	11.8%
WESTON	8,185,083	5,437,898	7,213,402	4,796,908	6,756,340	5,329,407	11.1%
WYOMING	\$978,476,265	\$725,646,878	\$1,077,215,523	\$807,533,179	\$1,238,823,509	\$921,521,541	14.1%

SALES AND USE TAX COLLECTIONS (\$) BY INDUSTRY	FY 2021		FY 2022		FY 2023		% Ch FY22-23
	Total Taxes	4% Taxes	Total Taxes	4% Taxes	Total Taxes	4% Taxes	4% Taxes
Agr, Fores., Fish., & Hunting	317,789	237,157	340,434	252,095	385,435	289,161	14.7%
Mining	60,470,275	47,585,657	95,262,516	74,939,687	149,455,675	116,754,132	55.8%
Utilities	49,317,340	36,636,665	48,055,088	36,268,698	65,997,848	48,113,671	32.7%
Construction	16,241,115	11,904,220	18,189,068	13,622,600	20,561,138	15,011,540	10.2%
Manufacturing	23,308,735	17,789,597	29,847,673	23,058,278	33,064,676	25,526,329	10.7%
Wholesale Trade	90,857,462	67,225,788	66,258,522	50,714,454	80,533,566	61,206,496	20.7%
Retail Trade	396,142,257	293,887,630	451,560,643	338,026,875	496,350,334	367,473,358	8.7%
Transp. & Warehousing	3,714,246	2,721,214	4,701,408	3,489,360	6,826,013	5,057,025	44.9%
Information	17,092,995	12,719,154	15,535,133	11,678,036	14,852,724	10,993,534	-5.9%
Financial Activities*	33,801,432	25,052,897	42,396,819	31,675,389	47,462,883	35,434,662	11.9%
Professional & Busi. Services	7,011,895	5,133,766	8,378,826	6,220,639	8,544,832	6,252,889	0.5%
Edu. & Health Services	406,925	294,204	631,805	448,819	705,533	494,536	10.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	110,383,390	78,006,390	143,393,168	101,401,201	146,924,889	103,103,625	1.7%
Other Services	53,619,289	39,618,974	39,621,127	30,220,774	45,484,608	34,423,693	13.9%
Public Administration**	115,791,119	86,833,565	113,043,294	85,516,274	121,673,355	91,386,890	6.9%
TOTAL	\$978,476,265	\$725,646,878	\$1,077,215,523	\$807,533,179	\$1,238,823,509	\$921,521,541	14.1%

Note: **Total Taxes** include 4% state imposed sales and use taxes and all local optional (up to 2%) taxes, while **4% Taxes** include only the 4% state imposed sales and use taxes.

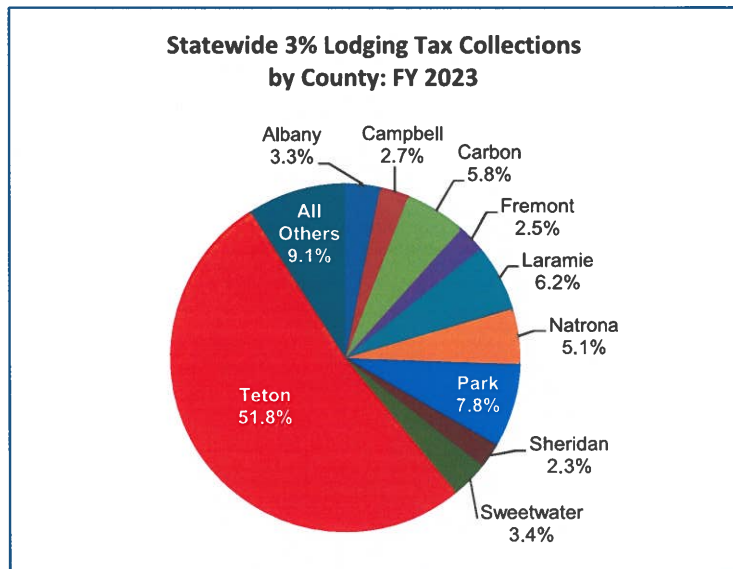
* taxes are mostly from automotive, machinery and equipment leasing and rental.

** reflects taxes from automobiles sales.

Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue

LODGING TAX COLLECTIONS BY COUNTY	FY 2021		FY 2022		FY 2023		% Ch FY22-23
	Total Taxes	3% Taxes	Total Taxes	3% Taxes	Total Taxes	3% Taxes	
ALBANY	1,161,827	239,809	2,253,035	963,548	2,262,552	966,636	0.3%
BIG HORN	65,285	17,032	192,737	101,611	190,785	101,296	-0.3%
CAMPBELL	529,772	165,259	1,594,908	682,656	1,873,543	801,982	17.5%
CARBON	1,036,136	288,948	2,637,478	1,574,883	2,963,549	1,705,555	8.3%
CONVERSE	276,193	69,532	586,388	293,063	723,101	353,906	20.8%
CROOK	207,151	22,660	375,199	161,041	330,244	138,854	-13.8%
FREMONT	904,086	165,876	1,806,750	779,870	1,737,998	748,970	-4.0%
GOSHEN	95,677	19,167	171,583	71,636	171,320	71,718	0.1%
HOT SPRINGS	244,990	49,476	408,906	174,152	418,157	178,197	2.3%
JOHNSON	222,353	43,769	678,487	405,012	649,022	387,992	-4.2%
LARAMIE	1,985,007	412,313	4,448,533	1,893,679	4,287,792	1,833,180	-3.2%
LINCOLN	346,413	113,825	784,458	415,802	805,836	428,355	3.0%
NATRONA	1,722,034	388,565	3,254,289	1,393,414	3,536,579	1,515,250	8.7%
NIOBRARA	54,477	10,614	100,111	49,715	98,998	49,343	-0.7%
PARK	2,542,295	305,803	6,038,811	2,587,368	5,366,081	2,297,394	-11.2%
PLATTE	174,910	42,961	372,954	185,622	342,453	170,715	-8.0%
SHERIDAN	762,512	144,232	1,654,253	704,909	1,606,976	688,355	-2.3%
SUBLETTE	282,539	54,161	705,414	321,635	653,244	299,371	-6.9%
SWEETWATER	1,223,913	243,375	2,250,314	957,774	2,368,264	1,007,017	5.1%
TETON	10,960,649	3,594,129	27,686,423	16,589,638	25,651,641	15,350,699	-7.5%
UINTA	341,976	86,880	719,716	363,238	717,804	357,095	-1.7%
WASHAKIE	132,222	26,927	237,221	101,343	206,195	88,643	-12.5%
WESTON	101,344	14,820	190,663	81,608	181,525	77,758	-4.7%
WYOMING	\$25,373,763	\$6,520,132	\$59,148,629	\$30,853,215	\$57,143,658	\$29,618,282	-4.0%

Note: Total lodging taxes include 3% state imposed taxes, 2% additional statewide taxes (mostly used for local expenditures on tourism promotion), and local optional (up to 2%) taxes. A statewide 3% lodging tax assessment was imposed on January 1, 2021.



Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue



Angela Williams <angelaw@gillettewy.gov>

Economic Development News

1 message

Energy Capital Economic Development <info@energycapital.com>

Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 10:31 AM

Reply-To: info@energycapital.com

To: angelaw@gillettewy.gov

Our Mission: To stimulate and facilitate a diverse economy through business retention, expansion, and recruitment



Economic Development

Energy Capital Economic Development continues to work for the economic betterment of Campbell County. Here are some activities that we would like to share with you.

CEO Corner with Phil Christopherson



Attracting new businesses to Gillette

One of the best aspects of my work at Energy Capital Economic Development (ECED) is that I get to show off our community. We frequently host businesses looking for a new location to expand their operations. It is an honor to provide tours and introductions around the county for these visitors. Our commissioners, council members, business leaders and community members are always very helpful and willing to meet with our visitors. Campbell County continues to draw interest from businesses around the world. In the past several months, we have hosted several businesses interested in our community. With the solid industrial infrastructure, we have many good options and opportunities for businesses searching for a new home.

In October we were able to host two different businesses looking to expand operations into Campbell County. They are looking at other states as well and where they finally decide to expand is not in our control. However, both visits went very well, and we are optimistic. There are a couple of key items that businesses look for when they visit. The top items are 1. Workforce. 2. A building or site that is ready to occupy. 3. Incentives. 4. Support industries. 5. Potential customers and consumers of their product 6. Other similar industries 7. Finally, other business specific items such as power, gas, water, transportation, internet, and more. We have fantastic community amenities here in Gillette. With the Cam-Plex, rec center, sports areas, walking trails, great schools, a fantastic college and more we have a lot to offer as a community. If we did not have these amenities businesses would not even look at us. Most businesses have a long list of items that they consider when seeking a community to expand into. If we do not match everything on their list they do not visit. If we have everything on the list they then compare all of the items with the 5 to 10 other communities they are looking at for their business. Attracting new businesses to our community is a lot of work and takes an incredible amount of effort. However, there are few things more rewarding than helping a new business come to our community.

Businesses usually take a significant amount of time evaluating their options. Weatherby in Sheridan is a good example of how long some of these expansions can take. Weatherby started looking at relocating to Wyoming in the mid 1990's. In 1999 they had decided that Sheridan was where they were going to go, but it took another 10+ years for them to actually make the move. In the meantime, they approached the Wyoming Business Council and looked at the entire state, but eventually confirmed their original choice and settled in Sheridan. The other location they were seriously considering was Bozeman Montana. I am grateful that they chose Wyoming.

In closing I want to relate an experience from a few years ago. We had a small group in Gillette from Terrapower. You may be familiar with them as this is the business building the small modular reactor in Kemmerer. Their visit to Gillette was well before that project was announced and they were looking for a location to do some preliminary work for that project. The visitors were from the tri-cities area of Washington state which is a fairly large community and is well regarded as a great place to live. After touring Gillette and visiting businesses, the rec center, the Cam-Plex and much more one of the visitors made a final comment as they were leaving. He said: "this is a wonderful town. This is where I would like to raise my family." His comment has always stayed with me and I agree with his thoughts. Gillette is a wonderful community and we are very blessed to be able to live, work, play and raise our families here.

Vice President of Operations Update with Mike Shober

**Embracing Economic Development:
A Journey of Meaningful Work**

History has always held a special place in my heart. The stories of the past, the challenges faced, and the resilience of individuals and communities have long fascinated me. Growing up, I immersed myself in books on world history, American history, and the Wild West, savoring every detail. As I reflect on my first year with Energy Capital Economic Development in Northeast Wyoming, I am struck by the rich tapestry of history that envelops the community we are part of. The tales of people who arrived here over the past century to make a home in this challenging yet rewarding environment are a testament to the human spirit's enduring quest for progress and prosperity.



Northeast Wyoming is a land of contrasts, where the weather is as tough as the people who call it home. The relentless climate doesn't deter the around-the-clock farming, ranching, construction, and energy industries that thrive here. I am privileged to witness the fifth-generation ranching families and second and third-generation family-owned businesses that have taken root in this land. It's not just about work; it's about creating a lasting legacy, a place where people move in for job opportunities but stay to raise their children and grandchildren.

In this community, we've experienced both hard times and boom times. What stands out is the way we "weather" these events by coming together and working hard to overcome challenges. The early citizens of Campbell County arrived here with the ambition to change their lives and make the area better. They embraced Heraclitus' timeless wisdom, "The Only Thing That is Constant Is Change," and their spirit encourages us to continue striving for positive change.

Our community isn't one to simply sit and maintain the status quo. We're driven by a shared vision of creating a better future for ourselves and future generations. Many like-minded individuals are tirelessly working towards this goal. They invest their time, resources, and passion in improving our community, enhancing our schools, volunteering, and establishing local businesses. I am proud to be part of this collective effort.

This year, I had the privilege of attending the Chamber Awards Event, where we celebrated the history of the Chamber and honored lifetime achievement awards. It was a remarkable evening that showcased the indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment of community leaders, past and present. These leaders have paved the way for us, setting an example of dedication, resilience, and the power of positive change.

My role in Energy Capital Economic Development is more than just a job; it's an opportunity to play a small part in supporting entrepreneurs in starting new ventures, acquiring existing businesses, and helping established businesses expand into new markets and services. Moreover, I have the privilege of introducing our great community to new businesses, ushering in fresh ideas and technologies that will benefit our region.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my work is being involved with various non-profits and volunteers. These organizations are the lifeblood of our community, and through them, I have had the chance to connect with inspiring individuals, businesses, and community leaders. My participation in G.A.L.I. has opened doors to new opportunities and collaborations, further enriching our community and propelling us toward a brighter future.

Being part of Campbell County and Energy Capital Economic Development is a privilege. Together, we share a common goal of making our community better by preserving our history and building a bright future. As we reflect on the achievements of the past, we lead our community towards a promising future, ensuring that the next generation is equipped to carry the "Baton" of positive community business development. The legacy of those who came before us inspires us to work together, overcome challenges, and create a prosperous, thriving community for all.

Office of Economic Transformation

Update by director Rusty Bell

Our office continues to work with Fredrick Mountain Group to present our strategic plan and take feedback from stakeholders. At the time of this update, we have presented to Gillette Community College Trustees, Gillette College Foundation, Wyoming Energy Authority, Campbell County Commissioners and Senator Barlow. On the schedule for upcoming presentations is the City of Gillette, Town of Wright, Town of Upton and Moorcroft, Campbell County Health, Wyoming Business Council, and Campbell County School District.



We are excited to be interviewing this week for a contractor to help build and further promote an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem. This will flourish with the partnership of ECED and Gillette Community College.

Much of OET's work has been attracting outside investors to our community and telling those who may not know about the amazing community we have to offer. This included a speaking engagement with Just Transition Fund and the International Just Transition recently in Washington D.C.

I was also able to tell our story to the National Association of County Officials (NACO) Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities (BRECC) in Jackson, Wyoming October 27th. I have also been fortunate to get some of the potential investors to do site visits and have meetings with business owners in Campbell County. In the initial stages of this effort the feedback is very good. The infrastructure county wide is very critical to having outside investment into job creating opportunities in NE Wyoming. The other feedback that I have received is how nice our community is. A question from one potential investor was "How do you recruit young families to this area, because they should be flocking here?" That is a question we should all think about,

and work on. Housing is likely a large part of that question. I feel the coordination and cooperation with ECED on all the potential projects remains vital. I also want to give a huge shout out to our industries that have been giving tours and taking time to meet with potential investors in our community. They have gone above and beyond in the past couple months to make sure people understand the level of partnership they can expect when they decide to locate in NE Wyoming. There is no better time to plan and prepare for our future than now. Being proactive in our approach to economic development will help us eliminate economic vulnerability.

ECED Project Update

FUEL Business Incubator

The FUEL Business Incubator was started in 2018 with the purpose of building our entrepreneurial ecosystem here



in Campbell County. People willing to take a chance and risk it all on a business venture are very important to our future. Without entrepreneurs and new businesses starting our future would be very bleak indeed. Since its inception FUEL has endeavored to attract new businesses of all types. We are unique among business incubators as most incubators are interested in specific types of business and do not accept all ideas. For instance, some are tech centered and if your business is not hi-tech, hi-growth they will not consider you for membership. Our first steering committee, when developing the mission for FUEL, made a conscious decision to accept all businesses regardless of size or mission. The only restriction that they placed was that they wanted to help businesses with a plan for growth and expansion that will provide jobs and employment opportunities. The steering committee recognized the value of lifestyle type businesses but wanted to promote job growth and employment opportunities over lifestyle businesses. At FUEL, we want to help our businesses get started, grow, and eventually grow out of our facility.

Note: a lifestyle business is one where the owner makes a good enough income to support their lifestyle, but do not want to grow beyond that and hire or employ other people.

FUEL has had over 30 members. Some have failed, some have succeeded, and most are still working to grow and expand beyond the incubator. It is important to recognize that a business idea may fail, but a true entrepreneur does not quit, but is soon back with another business idea. The idea of failure is scary to most people, but many of our entrepreneurs want to "Fail Fast, Fail Cheap." This means that if a business concept is not going to work, they want to find out early in the process before they have invested a lot of money. This allows them to move onto the next business concept that may have a better chance of succeeding. Entrepreneurs are hardworking, persistent, optimistic yet realistic and determined to succeed. They are great people to know and have as friends.

FUEL has two types of memberships. Outreach and Inhouse. An outreach member does not need an office and is working from home or another location. They do want the networking, mentoring and other services offered. Frequently an outreach member is working from their home or garage and needs a professional place to meet clients. As an outreach member they have full use of our conference and meeting rooms and can even have their mail delivered to our building. An in-house member has, in addition to everything that an outreach member has, an office in our building with 24/7 access. This provides a place for them to work with that has internet, meeting and conference rooms, a private office and much more. Though it is not required or expected it is very common for an outreach member to become an in-house member as their business grows.

If you want to know more about FUEL and the incubator stop in and visit. Our hours are Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm. Many of our FUEL members will be here and happy to talk with you. We will be having an **open house on Thursday, December 7 from 11AM to 3PM**. This is our annual Christmas event where each FUEL member decorates their door and competes for a prize. We partner with ABATE Stuff the Bus and votes are tallied for each door by counting the number of toys each door has donated. You can vote too. Bring a toy (or several) and put your gift in the box by the door that you like the best.

Finalists for Energy Capital Start-Up Challenge Announced



ENERGY CAPITAL
START-UP CHALLENGE

IMPACT 307, Wyoming's business incubator network, and Energy Capital Economic Development are pleased to announce the finalists for the 2023 Energy Capital Start-Up Challenge entrepreneur competition. The following is a brief summary of each finalist, including the company name, the entrepreneurs, and their business idea:

Wind Turbine Blade Recycling, Cameron Anderson and Jess Anderson – Developing a company that will recycle wind turbine blades that have reached-end-of-life and produce usable materials as an alternative to landfill disposal.

Baldacci Guitars, Conner Baldacci – Startup manufacturer of high quality, custom electric guitars that allow guitar players and tour artists to achieve a range of sounds without having to swap out different guitars.

Rather Be Fishing Tackle, Ray Bergeman – Developer of a fishing device that helps attract fish and get them feeding, increasing the chances of getting bites and catching more fish during outings.

Ag Innovations, Shondah and Randall Otwell – Creator of a low power water rippling product that keeps stock tank water open for livestock in extreme winter temperatures to support the ranching and agriculture industries.

Inflatrix, Mark Thoreson – Developer of a high-tech polymer inflatable device used by dentists to make the placement of dental fillings simpler, more efficient, and more comfortable.

The Energy Capital Start-Up Challenge, in its first year, attracted 36 applicants that represent a wide variety of business ideas that seek to operate in Gillette and the northeast Wyoming region. A judge panel made up of area entrepreneurs and local professional service providers reviewed the applications and selected nine plans for a semifinal round that was held on November 10. Each semifinalist had an opportunity to present their ideas and meet the judges in person. The five finalists mentioned above were then selected by the panel.

The finalists will spend the next month working with IMPACT 307 and Energy Capital Economic Development to continue development of their plans and responding to judge questions and feedback that were provided during the semifinal round. In addition to the possibility of seed funding, Pitch Night will allow each of them to showcase and promote their ideas to a live audience.

Each finalist will present at the Energy Capital Start-Up Challenge Pitch Night, scheduled for **December 12, 5:30 PM, at the Gillette College Presentation Hall**, with an opportunity to win business funding from the \$50,000 seed fund established for the event.

The public is invited, and attendance is free. We are currently looking for a Sponsor for our Audience Choice award of \$1,000. Contact Dana Miller if you would like to be a sponsor. dana@energycapital.ed.com

Board Profile: Faron Ferguson



How did you get involved with Energy Capital Economic Development?

I believe what ECED does and wanted to be more informed and help the cause.

Why is economic development important for Gillette and Campbell County?

It is essential for Gillette to diversify its economy as demand for coal shrinks.

What's the biggest opportunity for the Energy Capital Economic Development organization?

To be an incubator for developing alternative uses for coal.

What do you personally enjoy most about being involved with Energy Capital Economic Development?

Seeing successes such as the Innovation Center.

What's the most important career lesson you've learned so far in life?

You are wrong just about as often as you are right so when you are right, make it count.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to Team Rope and play cards.

FUEL Member Profile

Beez Baby Boutique

Owner: Faith Coats

**Describe what your business does**

Beez Baby Boutique aims to provide a carefully curated selection of delightful, high quality baby apparel. After our daughter was born in March 2023, we realized the need for infant apparel stores in our community and decided to start our business. We have a store located in Gillette Wy, as well as setting up at local events while maintaining a strong online presence to provide children's clothing to anyone in need!

Who are your clients/who benefits from your services?

Our Clients range from parents of infants & toddlers, to the friends and family members of

little ones too! Parents and the child benefit from our services. We are what moms want & what kids need!

What are your recent accomplishments?

Our most recent & BIG accomplishment has been opening our new store location in Gillette, Wy.

How do you define success?

I define success by always striving to go after your dreams, never giving up, and doing what you LOVE!

How has the FUEL Incubator program helped you?

The Fuel incubator program has helped us in many ways, some including help with our market research, website analysis, and giving us a space to be able to open up our store locally!

At the end of the day, what makes you feel good about what you do?

What makes us feel good about what we do, is giving the community a much-needed selection for baby clothing & being someone our daughter can be proud of!

If you could travel to any time and place in history, where would you go?

I would go to the late 1960's to see Marilyn Monroe, and then catch The Beatles before John Lennon was murdered and see Freddy Mercury from Queen!



FUEL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

DEC 7TH

11 AM - 3 PM

JOIN US FOR HOLIDAY TREATS AND CHEER

BRING A NEW,
UNWRAPPED TOY TO
VOTE FOR YOUR
FAVORITE DECORATED
DOOR AND HELP
ABATE STUFF THE BUS



COME SEE SANTA



ENERGY CAPITAL
ENTERPRISE CENTER
345 SINCLAIR STREET



● ● ● Made For Gillette Business, By A Gillette Business

Workshop

Defining Your Target Audience

Free Lunch | Networking | Education

14th
DECEMBER
Noon to 1pm



Speaker
Adelita Duryea

Entry
\$15

**Claim Your Pass Now
By Visiting Our Website:**

307-391-0857
www.foodforthoughtworkshops.com
sproutandscalemarketing@outlook.com



Upcoming Community Events

- 11/16 - [November Mixer- Campbell County Health](#)
- 11/16 - [CAM-PLEX Cinema Series: Robots](#)
- 11/17 - 11/19 - [Festival of Trees](#)
- 11/19 - [Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis](#)
- 11/20 - [Service of Memory and Hope](#)
- 11/24 & 11/25 - [Gillette Wild Hockey](#)
- 12/1 - [Cirque Dream Story](#)

- 12/1 & 12/2 - [New Life Wesleyan Ladies Craft Show](#)
- 12/2 - [Parade of Lights](#)
- 12/5 - [THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS: Lost in the Solar System](#)
- 12/7 - [FUEL Holiday Open House](#)
- 12/8 & 12/9 - [Gillette Wild Hockey](#)
- 12/10 - [World Ballet Series: Nutcracker](#)
- 12/14 - [CAM-PLEX Cinema Series: Home Alone](#)
- 12/15 & 12/16 - [Nick of Time Tradeshow](#)
- 12/19 - [Wooden Christmas Ornaments Painting](#)
- 12/31 - [21st Annual Kissack Water & Oil's New Year's Eve Buck & Ball](#)
- 1/9 - [Chamber Speaker Series](#)

Visit our website



VISIONARY[™]
Business Class Internet

High-speed internet at the ECED Enterprise Center is provided by [Visionary Broadband](#).

Energy Capital Economic Development | P.O. Box 3948, [345 Sinclair](#), Gillette, WY 82718

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Cheers!

Join us for

Brian McColley's

Retirement Party

November 20th 3-5 pm

Community Conference Room at City

