



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: January 19, 2024

The following meetings are scheduled for the week of **January 20-26, 2024**

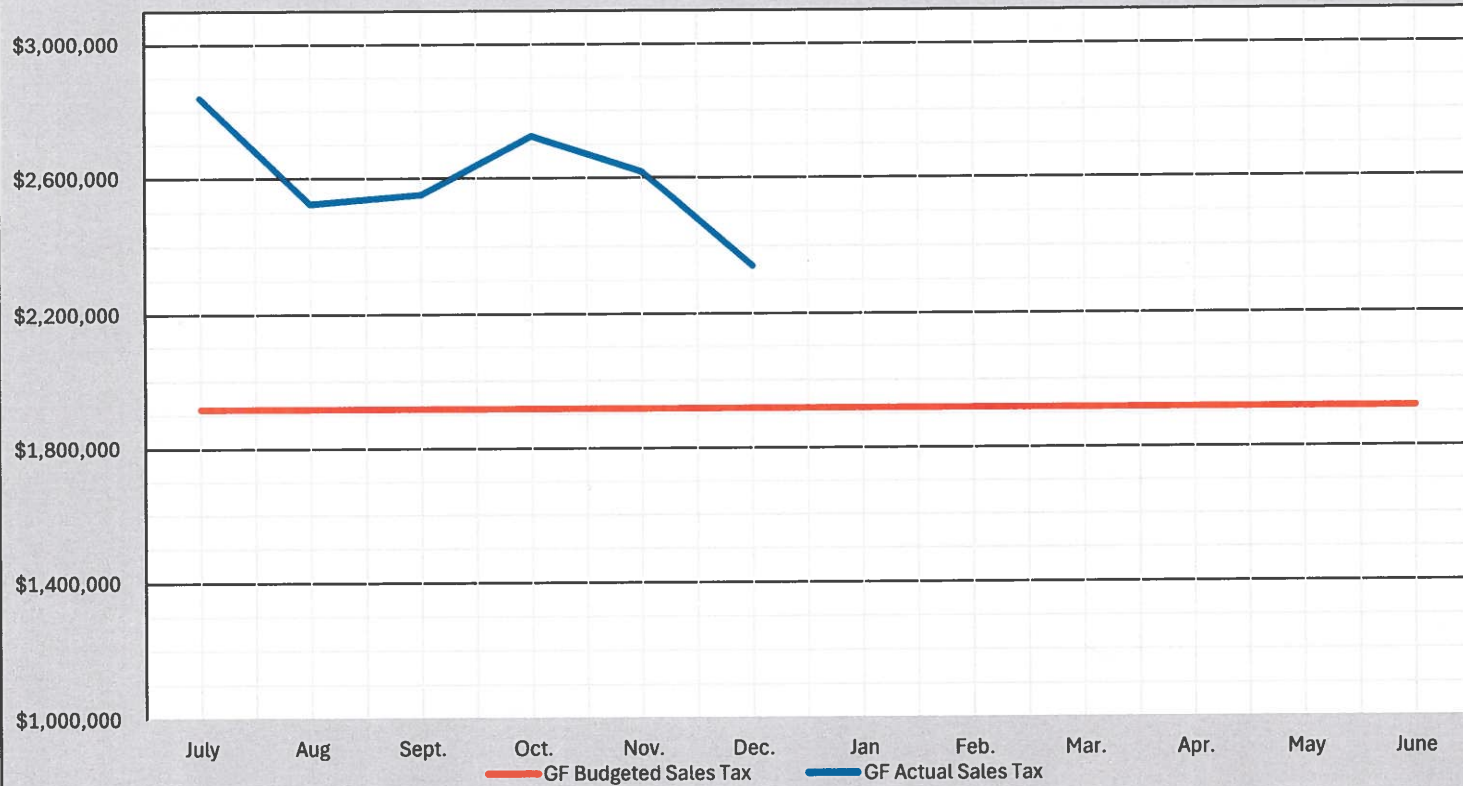
Friday, January 26th

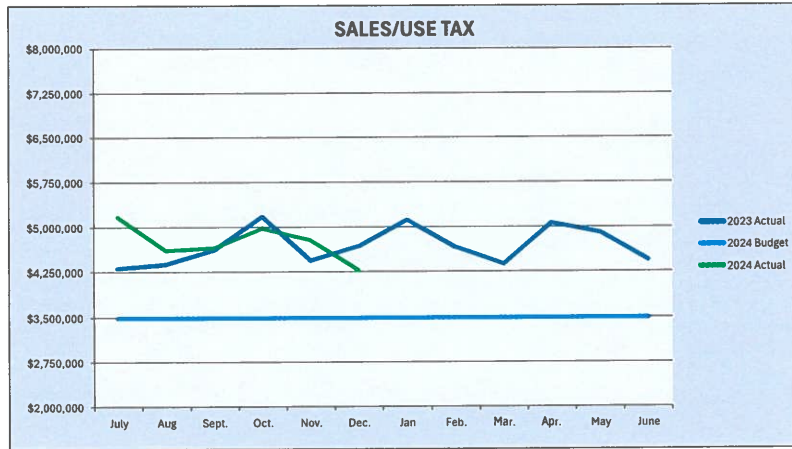
5:30 p.m. City of Gillette Annual Awards Banquet, Campbell County Senior Center

1. Attached please find **current sales tax data** provided by **Finance Director Henderson**.
2. Attached please find **Snow Event Report #5** dated **January 10, 2024** provided by **Public Works Director Wilde**.
3. Attached please find an **agenda** dated **January 11, 2024** and **meeting minutes** dated **November 9, 2023** for the **Parks & Beautification Board** provided by **Public Works Director Wilde**.
4. Attached please find **Economic Development News** dated **January 17, 2024** provided by **Energy Capital Economic Development**.

MHC/adw

GENERAL FUND SALES TAX ACTIVITY-FY 2023/24





| | FY 2023 ACTUAL | FY 2024 ACTUAL | % CHANGE |
|-------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| July | \$4,303,454 | \$5,169,664 | 20.13% |
| Aug | \$4,369,608 | \$4,601,351 | 5.30% |
| Sept. | \$4,608,281 | \$4,645,317 | 0.80% |
| Oct. | \$5,167,662 | \$4,963,895 | -3.94% |
| Nov. | \$4,428,584 | \$4,767,077 | 7.64% |
| Dec. | \$4,668,850 | \$4,266,059 | -8.63% |
| Jan | \$5,107,860 | | -100.00% |
| Feb. | \$4,650,439 | | -100.00% |
| Mar. | \$4,367,029 | | -100.00% |
| Apr. | \$5,057,853 | | -100.00% |
| May | \$4,897,096 | | -100.00% |
| June | \$4,430,150 | | -100.00% |
| TOTAL | \$56,056,867 | \$28,413,363 | -49.31% |

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------|
| FY23 YTD | \$27,546,439 | 3.15% |
| FY22 YTD | \$19,116,102 | 48.64% |
| FY21 YTD | \$14,972,613 | 89.77% |
| FY20 YTD | \$22,876,103 | 24.21% |

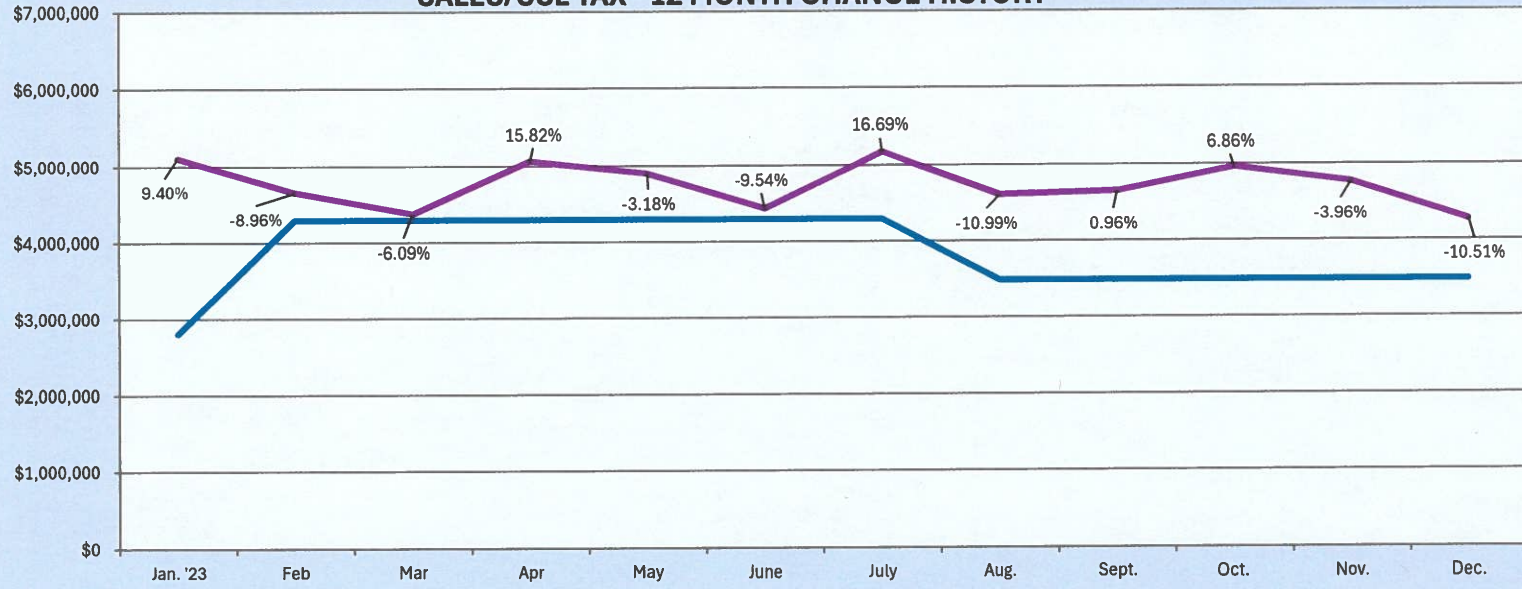
YEAR TO DATE SALES TAX RECEIPTS (DECEMBER):

| FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| \$19,116,102 | \$27,546,439 | \$28,413,363 |

YTD BUDGET
\$20,909,091

% Over/(Under) Budget: 35.89%

SALES/USE TAX - 12 MONTH CHANGE HISTORY



Snow Event Report #5

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Event Start Date: | <u>01/10/2024</u> | Event Start Time: | <u>8:30 p.m.</u> |
| Event End Date: | <u>01/11/2024</u> | Event End Time: | <u>1:00 p.m.</u> |
| Duration of Event: | <u>16.5 hours</u> | Streets First Responder: | <u>Night crew</u> |

Storm Event Overview:

On January 10, 2024, our area was predicted to be hit by a snowstorm. As expected, the snow started falling around 7:30 p.m., gradually intensifying. Recognizing the worsening road conditions, the Streets night crew was called in at 8:30 p.m. to address the situation. The Gillette Police Department was informed about the night crew's arrival to help improve the slippery road conditions.

Wednesday 01/10/2024

At the beginning of the event temperatures were 14 degrees and winds blowing at 15 mph. As the night progressed, the storm grew stronger, causing the temperatures to plummet to 3 degrees by 5:00 a.m., and the wind speed decreased to 10 mph. The night crew focused on clearing priority routes, including East, Central, West, Downtown, and Trouble. Blowing snow continued throughout the night, with an accumulation of 2-3 inches of snowfall.

Thursday 01/11/2024

The Day crew began plowing the roads at 7:00 a.m. when the temperature was -1 degree and there were light winds. Despite the challenging weather conditions, the crew made impressive headway due to the calm winds and the storm passing through the area. Their efforts included clearing the roads and applying necessary materials. As the day progressed, the temperature rose to 6 degrees and the skies cleared. By noon, the Day crew had successfully improved the road conditions to a satisfactory level.

Event 5 was closed at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Number of Pieces of Equipment Used:**Amount of Material Used:**

| | | | | | |
|------------|----------|---------------|----------|------------------|---------------|
| Snowplows: | <u>8</u> | Blades: | <u>0</u> | Ice Slicer lbs.: | <u>70,042</u> |
| 1-Tons: | <u>2</u> | Snow Blowers: | <u>0</u> | Scoria lbs.: | <u>70,042</u> |
| Loaders: | <u>1</u> | Liquid Truck: | <u>0</u> | Brine Gallons: | <u>360</u> |
| Tractors: | <u>0</u> | | | Apogee Gallons | <u>0</u> |

Number of Miles Plowed During Event: 1763**Personnel:**

Night Crew - Jeremy Hagen, Sue Riggle, Will Ellis, Alyssa Watson, Hunter Deaton, Daniel Whelchel, Brandon Gonzales, Leonard Taylor

Day Crew - Valdemar Gonzalez, Amy Berkey, Braxton Riley, Garrett Wolff, Dennis Fleck, Wendy Clements, Dale Warren, Lonnie Meidinger

Subdivision Activities: Parks assisted Solid Waste in running the Thursday trash routes and cleared pathways/subdivisions throughout Gillette during the event.

Environmental Conditions Present:

Snow: 2-3" Drifting: no Rain: No Low Temp: -1 Wind: 10-15 mph

Equipment Issues: plow truck 44 – oil warning wire
plow truck 100 – wire connector/Force system

Items of Interest: During this weather event the Gillette Police Department investigated eleven (11) vehicle crashes. Three (3) of these occurred on a City of Gillette maintained roadways and were influenced by weather conditions.

After Event 5, we experienced a severe cold spell with an Arctic mass of cold weather that moved into our area. By Saturday, January 13th, the temperature had plummeted to -34 degrees, accompanied by wind chills as low as -51 degrees. The freezing conditions led to an increase in trouble calls for Streets "On Call," particularly due to the presence of slick spots on the roads. Our team worked diligently throughout the weekend to address these issues and ensure safe road conditions.

2022-2023 POUNDS PER LANE MILE SPREADSHEET

| Event # | Date of Event | Duration of Event | Temperature | # of Miles Plowed | Ice Slice Lbs. | Pounds Per Lane Mile | Snowfall Total | Emergency Level |
|---------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 10/26/2023 | 20 hours | 4 | 1,978 | 128,631 | 65.03 | 4 | na |
| 2 | 11/23/2023 | 22 hours | 15 | 2,566 | 111,861 | 43.59 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 12/23/2023 | 9.25 hours | 20 | 909 | 40,343 | 44.38 | 2 | na |
| 4 | 1/7/2024 | 17.75 hours | 10 | 1,926 | 80,320 | 41.70 | 4 | na |
| 5 | 1/10/2024 | 16.5 hours | -1 | 1,763 | 70,042 | 39.73 | 3 | na |
| 6 | | | | | | | | |
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| 32 | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 9,142 | 431,197 | 46.89 | 16 | |

ESTIMATED SNOW COSTS - 2023/2024

| Event # | Date | Labor Cost | Equipment Cost | Ice Slice Cost | Brine Cost | Material Cost | Contractor Cost | Estimated Cost of Event |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 10/26/2023 | \$4,204.85 | \$11,646.26 | \$9,004.17 | \$1,613.63 | \$10,617.80 | \$0.00 | \$26,468.91 |
| 2 | 11/23/2023 | \$7,724.64 | \$13,779.44 | \$7,830.27 | \$2,656.96 | \$10,487.23 | \$0.00 | \$31,991.31 |
| 3 | 12/23/2023 | \$2,356.05 | \$4,747.52 | \$2,824.01 | \$690.08 | \$3,514.09 | \$0.00 | \$10,617.66 |
| 4 | 1/7/2024 | \$4,377.76 | \$12,229.45 | \$5,622.40 | \$2,079.36 | \$7,701.76 | \$0.00 | \$24,308.97 |
| 5 | 1/10/2024 | \$4,953.60 | \$13,426.93 | \$4,902.94 | \$1,094.40 | \$5,997.34 | \$0.00 | \$24,377.87 |
| 6 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 7 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 8 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 9 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 10 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 11 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 12 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 13 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 14 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 15 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 16 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 17 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 18 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 19 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 20 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 21 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 22 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 23 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
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| 25 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 26 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 27 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 28 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 29 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 30 | | | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| | TOTALS: | \$23,616.90 | \$55,829.60 | \$30,183.79 | \$8,134.43 | \$38,318.22 | \$0.00 | \$117,764.72 |



CITY OF GILLETTE

Information Technology GIS
P.O. Box 3003
Gillette, Wyoming 82717-3003
Phone (307) 686-5364
www.gillettewy.gov

Unit: Miles

- Unit 25: 173
- Unit 28: 158
- Unit 44: 99
- Unit 100: 212
- Unit 126: 10
- Unit 157: 191
- Unit 162: 25
- Unit 163: 23
- Unit 199: 16
- Unit 150054: 1
- Unit 150055: 34
- Unit 150091: 34
- Unit 150193: 1
- Unit 160203: 192
- Unit 160204: 201
- Unit 210040: 169
- Unit 210216: 192
- Unit 230231: 7
- Unit 230234: 12
- Unit 230235: 13

Crash Locations

Snow Plow Miles: 1,587
One Ton Miles: 101
Tractor Miles: 75

Police Report:
Crashes: 3
Crashes w/Injuries: 0
Citations: 3
Personal Property Damage: \$ 3,000
City Property Damage: \$ 0

THE INFORMATION ON THIS DRAWING WAS OBTAINED FROM RECORD AND DESIGN DRAWINGS. THE CITY OF GILLETTE MAKES NO GUARANTEE REGARDING THE ACCURACY OF THIS DRAWING OR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.



\\file-w cog city\work\GIS Work\Projects\CHRIS\Proj\Projects\PublicWorks\Public Works aprx\Snow Removal All



Snow Event Five
1/10/2024 8:30:00 PM to
1/11/2024 1:00:00 PM
January 12, 2024

Service With P.R.I.D.E.
Productivity Responsibility Integrity Dedication Enthusiasm

Gillette Police Department 2023/2024 Weather Event Crash Report Event #5

| IR# | Date/Time | Location | Injury | Property Damage | Citation | Cause |
|--|----------------|-------------|--------|-------------------|----------|---|
| 702 | 01/10/24 @1357 | 4J / 6th | No | Private > \$1,000 | Yes | Vehicle #1 slid on snow/ice and struck another vehicle in transport. |
| 757 | 01/11/24 @0753 | Walnut / 4J | No | Private > \$1,000 | Yes | Vehicle #1 slid on snow/ice and collided with another vehicle in transport. |
| 758 | 01/11/24 @0740 | Camel / 59 | No | Private > \$1,000 | Yes | Vehicle #1 slid on snow/ice and collided with another vehicle in transport. |
| January 10, 202 8:30 p.m. to January 11, 202 1:00 p.m. | | | | | | |
| During this weather event the Gillette Police Department investigated eleven (11) vehicle crashes. Three (3) of these crashes occurred on a City of Gillette maintained roadway and were influenced by weather conditions. | | | | | | |



**CITY OF GILLETTE
PARKS AND BEAUTIFICATION BOARD
AGENDA
JANUARY 11, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.
PUBLIC WORKS BREAK ROOM**

Members:

**Wes Johnson - Chairperson
Irene Daly - Vice- Chairperson
Mike Castellanos
Cathrine Gallilee
Angi Klamm
Noah Messick
Michele Bradley**

Mission: We are dedicated to enhancing the natural beauty and recreation opportunities in our community by preserving, developing, and promoting our parks and public spaces. By fostering community engagement through innovative practices and responsible stewardship, we strive to create vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive outdoor spaces for all to enjoy.

- I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. November 9, 2023
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- IV. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Review Last Year Activities:
 - a. Adopt-a-Planter
 - b. Just Breathe
 - c. Trash-a-Thon
 - d. Beautification Awards
 - e. Photo Contest
 - f. 4th of July Parade
- V. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Westover Park Proposal
 - B. Pizza Party- Conestoga
 - C. Most Beautiful- Traveling Award
- VI. STAFF REPORT**
- VII. CHAIRPERSON'S / BOARD REPORT**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**



CITY OF GILLETTE

Parks and Beautification Board

611 N. Exchange Ave. • Gillette, Wyoming 82716

Phone 307.686.5320

www.gillettewy.gov

**CITY OF GILLETTE
PARKS AND BEAUTIFICATION BOARD
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 09, 2023
5:00 P.M.
CITY WEST BREAKROOM**

MEMBERS:

PRESENT

| | <u>(YES)</u> | <u>(NO)</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Wes Johnson, Chairperson | (X) | |
| Irene Daly, Vice-Chairperson | (X) | |
| Mike Castellanos | (X) | |
| Cathrine Gallilee | (X) | |
| Angi Klamm | | (X) |
| Noah Messick | | (X) |
| Michelle Bradley | | (X) |
| Meeting Quorum: | (X) | |

STAFF:

Sawley Wilde, Public Works Director
Janie Kuntz, Parks Manager
Dena Holzer, Administrative Assistant

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 by Mr. Johnson.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Castellanos made a motion to accept the minutes from October 12, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Daly. All members voted Aye. Motion passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Westover Park Proposal

Mr. Wilde presented aerial photos of the property. The Parks Board was not interested in moving forward with another neighborhood park.

B. Pizza Party- Conestoga

- a. December 8th at 11:00 am

Mr. Wilde invited board members to attend as staff delivers pizza to Conestoga on December 8th for winning the Trash-a-Thon. Ms. Gydesen will send out an email to members not in attendance of the date.

C. The following businesses were nominated for the Traveling Trophy for Most Beautiful Landscape Award

- a. Senior Center
b. Big Horn Dental
c. RC Ranch Business Center
d. Sportsman's Warehouse

Ms. Gallilee made a motion to award the Senior Center the Traveling Trophy for Most Beautiful. Seconded by Ms. Daly. All members voted Aye. Motion passed. Ms. Gallilee proposed all board members be present to award the trophy once installation has been completed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Devon Addition Commercial Storage Facility
Nothing more discussed.

B. Trash-a-Thon
Nothing more discussed.

C. Beautification Awards
Nothing more discussed.

VI. STAFF REPORT

A. None

VII. CHAIRPERSON'S/ BOARD REPORT

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENTS

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Sawley Wilde, Public Works Director
SW/dh



Angela Williams <angelaw@gillettewy.gov>

Economic Development News

1 message

Energy Capital Economic Development <info@energycapital.com>

Wed, Jan 17, 2024 at 10:10 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




Working to make 2024 a successful year

Welcome to 2024. Everyone I speak with is hoping for a good year ahead of us and I am hoping for the same thing. For 2024 we here at Energy Capital ED are planning on a good and productive year and looking forward to advancing our projects to the next level. We have two projects that will be moving into high gear at the Wyoming Innovation Center. We are just coming off of a major success with our 2023

Startup Challenge. We are starting plans for the 2024 Startup Challenge. The FUEL Business Incubator is doing better than ever with three new members already in 2024. And many other projects and activities are moving forward.

We will be holding our annual board retreat in February this year which is a few months earlier than in past years. One of the primary purposes of our annual retreat is to review and revise our strategic plan. Our current strategic plan was developed in 2015 over a series of board retreats and workshops. The prior plan was very complex with multiple goals and objectives. As is the case with many strategic plans it pretty much sat on a shelf and was not used. In 2015 our board determined to develop a long-term plan that would guide and direct the activities of our organization. With that goal in mind, they developed an in-depth plan that has one main page that concisely presents the strategic direction of our organization. We use this plan on a regular basis to guide our activities and direction as we look at projects and take on tasks. Each year since the plan was established the board reviews, revises, and determines if the plan is still relevant. Every year the board has made changes and updates to the plan.

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
|  Long Term Strategic Plan | | | | |
| Mission Stimulate and facilitate a diverse economy through business retention, expansion and recruitment. | | Vision Energy Capital ED is the community leader supporting and promoting an environment that sustains and generates employment and a healthy, growing, and diverse economy. | | |
| VALUES: Advocacy, Leadership, Innovation, Vision, Ethics - ALIVE - | | | | |
| Goal 1: Organizational Wellness | Goal 2: Business Retention and Expansion | Goal 3: Industrial / Business Park | Goal 4: New Business Development | Goal 5: High Impact (Awesome) Projects |
| Strategies 1. Stable Funding 2. Board Structure 3. Community Outreach/Education 4. Compliance / Documentation 5. Reserve Funds 6. Board Development 7. Staff Development 8. Develop and implement plan to become Self-Funded | Strategies 1. Business Outreach 2. Explore Value added for Existing Businesses 3. Advocacy for business, industry, and community 4. Determine Supply Chain Needs for Local Primary Businesses | Strategies 1. Develop and Maintain Inventory of Available Properties 2. Identify Potential Sites for Business and Industrial Parks 3. Identify community needs. 4. Identify and Obtain land to develop ECED owned business / industrial park. 5. Market Business and Industrial Parks 6. Work with local developers 7. Repurpose Mine Infrastructure | Strategies 1. Partner with New Business Development Organizations 2. Recruit New Businesses 3. Assist with Business Grants & Loans 4. FUEL Business Incubator | Strategies 1. Develop / Recruit Large Industrial Plant Utilizing Local raw materials. 2. Develop / Recruit Industry unrelated to local businesses. 3. Work with local Organizations to support their growth and development plans. 4. Work with partners to develop Adequate housing. |
| Energy Capital ED Board Members: Tyler Miller, Jeff Bumgarner, Dale Smith, Faron Ferguson, Tom Brantz, Nicole Wamsley, Dana Miller, Scott Durgin, Jim Hastings, Rusty Bell, Butch Knutson, Shay Lundvall, Matt Shahan, Lori Manning, Hyun Kim, Josh McGrath, Matt Ramey, Janel Oberlander, Gail Lofing, Matt Olsen | | | | |

For instance, last year one of the major topics facing our community was housing. Our board discussed this and determined that the plan should be revised to allow us the opportunity to assist in solving the housing issue. As a result, a new strategy was added under goal number 5: Work with partners to develop adequate housing. Since then, we have been involved in multiple efforts to help with the housing shortage.

Another important event is coming in May. We will be having our annual meeting to report to our members and the community about some of the projects that we are working on. This will be a special event as we are celebrating our 40th year of operation. ECED was founded on November 3, 1984. For the past 10 years we have had a solid track record of projects,

activities, and successes that we will be celebrating. We will also be looking forward to future projects and success. We have invited the governor to come and speak and we hope he will honor us by coming. We also have a very special speaker line-up that we will be announcing soon. Please plan on coming to the event which will be on May 9 from 5 to 8pm at the Cam-Plex.

One last item. The Wyoming legislature will start their annual session on February 12. This year is a budget session and is intended to focus on the next two years' budget cycle. As in years past there will be many other issues facing the legislature.

I wish them the best in the important work they have to do on the state's biennium budget. Whether you agree or disagree with our legislators and the work they do please keep in mind that the work they do is vital to our state. There is tremendous personal and professional sacrifice that our elected officials make to serve us. The time commitment and emotional toll can be tremendous. If you have an issue or a disagreement, please be civil and recognize that our legislators do the very best that they can. Over the past 20+ years I have had the honor of working closely with many legislators from around the state. Some of my best experiences have come after strong disagreements on topics followed by a lunch, dinner, or social occasion with that same legislator. When I was just getting started working with legislators many years ago it was pointed out to me that the legislator that I strongly disagreed with on one issue, may be my strongest supporter on another issue. I have found that to be true more times than I can count. At the end of the day, we all want a better Wyoming and are working for that goal. Where we disagree is how we get there.

Vice President of Operations Update with Mike Shober

Happy 2024!

As we usher in the New Year with joy and anticipation, it's a perfect time to reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the past and set our sights on new horizons for 2024. Whether you're a business owner, a professional aiming for career growth, or an individual seeking personal development, the beginning of the year provides a valuable opportunity to evaluate, celebrate, and plan for success.

Begin your journey to a successful 2024 by reflecting on the goals you set in 2023 (If you made them!). Consider various aspects of your life, such as business, career, finances, health, and personal development. Celebrate your achievements, no matter how small, and critically evaluate any setbacks or shortcomings. This introspection lays the foundation for setting more informed and achievable goals for the coming year.



As you set new goals for 2024, consider all areas of your life. The possibilities are endless, whether it's expanding your business into new markets, launching innovative products or services, streamlining operations for cost-efficiency, adopting a healthier lifestyle, or pursuing personal passions. The key is to set goals that challenge you while remaining realistic.

The SMART Goals Framework:

Experts recommend adopting the SMART goals framework to increase the likelihood of achieving your objectives.

- **Specific:** Clearly define your goals, making them specific and achievable.
- **Measurable:** Establish metrics to track your progress and stay motivated.
- **Attainable:** Set realistic goals that challenge you but are still within reach.
- **Relevant:** Ensure your goals align with your values and overall vision for your life.
- **Time-bound:** Set deadlines for achieving your goals to maintain focus and accountability.

*Reference - <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/dd34e370/P3rW-ImOBECYwj0Y-mBS2w?u=https://www.betterup.com/blog/smart-goals-examples>

Starting the journey towards your goals can be daunting, but you don't have to go it alone. Consider seeking support from a business coach, mentor, or a reliable friend who can help you stay focused and hold you accountable. Collaborating with others enhances your chances of success and provides valuable insights and perspectives.

For those seeking a valuable resource for starting a business or seeking expert guidance, contact P.J. Burns, the NE Director of the Wyoming Small Business Development Center, would be a great place to start. Contact P.J. at PJ.Burns@uwyo.edu. Her office is conveniently located at [345 Sinclair Street, Gillette](#), within the Energy Capital Economic Development's office.

Make reviewing your goals a priority by scheduling regular check-ins throughout the year. This proactive approach ensures that your goals remain relevant and stay on track to achieve them. Calendar reminders can help you stay committed to the journey of self-improvement and success.

As we enter 2024, armed with reflections from the past and aspirations for the future, let's commit to making it the most successful year yet. Embrace the process of setting and achieving SMART goals, seek support when needed, and remain dedicated to your journey. May the coming year bring you fulfillment, growth, and fantastic success in all your endeavors!

ECED Project Update

What is Economic Development?

By Phil Christopherson.

What is economic development? It is actually a very complex question that cannot be answered with a simple elevator speech. If you do a google search on "What is Economic Development (Link #4 below) you will get almost 2 trillion responses. There are multiple YouTube videos providing explanations (Links 1, 2 and 3 below). With all these resources it helps understand what economic development is and how many communities around the nation do the work. To help people understand the work and goals of Energy Capital ED (ECED) economic development I use the picture below called the Building Blocks of Economic Development.

1. [Simple Economic Development Explained](#)
2. [International Economic Development Council \(IEDC\) video](#)
3. [What is Economic Development - Lego movie](#)
4. [What is Economic Development Google Search](#)



Economic Development Building Blocks

Energy Capital ED's Focus:

Levels 3 & 4

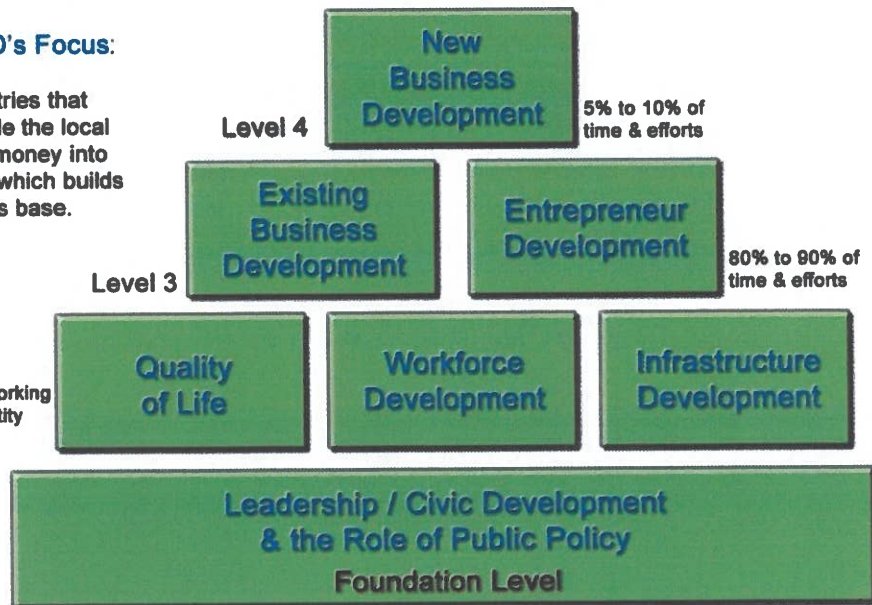
Primary type industries that sell products outside the local area bringing new money into the local economy which builds the overall business base.

Level 2:

Community, State and Local Organizations Working with Elected, Community and Business Leaders

Level 1:

Elected Officials, Community and Business Leaders



The building blocks have been in use in Wyoming for almost 20 years. They were developed in 2006 by the Wyoming Business Council (WBC), The Wyoming Economic Development Association (WEDA) and economic development organizations around the state. I was the president of WEDA at the time and had found in conversations with multiple elected officials that there was very little understanding of what Economic Development was and

how it was done in Wyoming. As a team we developed the building blocks borrowing heavily from some other national organizations.

Over the next couple of months, I will go over the building blocks one block at a time so that you can come to a good understanding of how and why we do the things that we do.

For this first article I want to cover the most important building block. That is the one at the very bottom. That block is the foundation of all others and without strong local leadership and a drive and desire for a strong, diverse, and growing economy none of the other building blocks are possible. If the community does not want growth and a strong economy, then nothing will happen. It takes leadership to make sure that there is a future for our community. We need all types of leaders willing to step up and lead the charge. Business leaders. Community leaders. Social leaders. Education leaders. And yes, even political leaders. The first group of leaders are the ones who get the process started and the political leaders assist with funding and public policy. It takes everyone to get it started and keep it going. As you look around the state there are communities who do not want growth, diversification, and a strong economy. Those communities are happy with things just the way they are and do not want to change. Unfortunately for them, change is coming whether you plan for it or not. Visionary communities realize that change is inevitable, and they work to create the community they want instead of leaving it to chance. That is what economic development is all about: creating your own future.

Campbell county has very strong leadership at all levels and has been very proactive in creating a bright future. That decision was made in the 1970's when the county was impacted by growth due to minerals development starting in the 1960's. Gillette went from a small, quiet town of 6,000 in the 60's to a booming city in the 70's 80's and beyond. A University of Wyoming psychologist ElDean Kohrs studied Gillette in the early 70's and coined the phrase "Gillette Syndrome" (Links 5 and 6 below). This phrase cast a very negative picture of Campbell County.

5. [Wikipedia - Gillette Syndrome](#)
6. [May 16, 2010 Gillette News Record Article - The Gillette Syndrome](#)
7. [Wyoming population from 1870 - 2020](#)

Note that until the 1970's Campbell County had about the same population as Crook and Weston counties. Sheridan county was much larger until the 1980's when Campbell County caught and then surpassed them in size.

The community leaders at that time made a decision to change this reputation and create a strong, livable community that had a good reputation. Many things were done, among which was passing the 1% sales tax that allowed funding for paved streets, clean water, parks, trails and much more. As a community we have successfully taken responsibility for our own destiny by willingly contributing to our future with this 1% levy. This is a very small price to pay for the fantastic amenities that we enjoy.

It has been my privilege to show off our commitment to visitors from around the world. We provide tours to businesses, magazines, political leaders, business leaders and more on a regular basis. They are all impressed with what we have and what a fantastic community we have. One visitor from the Tri-Cities area in Washington state who came in 2015 on a potential TerraPower project said it best. As he was leaving, he told me "This is the community I want to raise my family in."

This foundation level of Leadership is key to all the rest.

FUEL Member Profile

Bear Lodge Electric, LLC
Owners: Tim and Candice Young



Describe what your business does:

We provide all manner of electrical services in NE WY including but not limited to new and remodeled residential, commercial, and industrial projects; solar installation; UL Listed Industrial Control Panels; oilfield construction and support; and wifi networks.

Who are your clients/who benefits from your services?

We love our wide range of clients. We are ready to assist anyone - from individuals who just need an outlet added in their home to industrial oilfield customers who need oil field facilities built.

What are your recent accomplishments?

We recently completed a 14.4kW solar system with 10kWh of battery backup as well as a crude oil filter instrumentation skid.

How do you define success?

Doing what you say you will do.

How has the FUEL Incubator program helped you?

The FUEL Incubator program has been a terrific networking tool within the community. We have made numerous connections that have helped to expand our sphere of influence and our customer base.

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

I find joy in taking an idea or concept and a pile of materials and turning them into something beautiful and functional.

What is the most important thing you have learned in the last 5 years?

Faith & family are the most important things in life.

Three Campbell County projects receive funding from the Wyoming Energy Authority – a total of six projects were funded:

The three Campbell County projects are:

1. The [Black Hills Energy \(BHE\)](#) and [Babcock & Wilcox \(B&W\)](#) project
2. [Cowboy Clean Fuels \(CCF\)](#) (Energy Capital ED has been working with CCF for 4 years to bring this project to fruition.)
3. [Membrane Technology and Research, Inc. \(MTR\)](#)

Governor Gordon approves all six Wyoming-based energy projects recommended for cost-share funding.

CHEYENNE, WY, January 16, 2024 – The Wyoming Energy Authority (WEA) announced today that Governor Gordon has approved six separate projects to receive Energy Matching Funds. The total awarding for all six projects is \$37,513,104 – leveraging over \$120 million in both federal funding and private capital for an investment of over \$157 million in Wyoming-based energy projects.

The Wyoming State Legislature appropriated funds to the Office of the Governor in 2022 to leverage Wyoming-based projects that are seeking matching funds for private or federal funding for research, demonstration, pilot projects or commercial deployment projects related to Wyoming energy needs,

including but not limited to, carbon capture utilization and storage, carbon dioxide transportation, industrial carbon capture, coal refinery, and hydrogen production, transportation, storage, hydrogen hub development, biomass, biochar, hydropower, lithium, processing and separation, battery storage or wind and solar energy.

“Wyoming continues to show why it is a leader in energy innovation,” Governor Gordon said. “This round of projects -- made possible by the Legislature funding the Governor’s Energy Matching Fund -- benefits our core industries and sets our sights on new forms of energy development and economic growth. We are successfully leveraging state funds at a greater than one-to-one basis for technologies that create Wyoming jobs and additional investment.”

“The caliber of these six projects shows how Wyoming is truly positioned to be a trailblazer for the future of the energy industry,” said Rob Creager, Executive Director of the WEA. “Not only do these companies want to work with our state’s incredible natural resources, but they want to work with our communities and experienced workforce. Each of these projects uses a valuable Wyoming resource and, through ingenuity and effort, works to create a future where Wyoming-made energy is very much still front and center of the market.”

[Black Hills Energy \(BHE\)](#) and [Babcock & Wilcox \(B&W\)](#) have been awarded \$15,995,451 – in two phases of funding – for their project that converts coal from the WyoDak mine into low-carbon hydrogen and single-stream CO₂. With the award, BHE and B&W will complete the planning and design package for a facility that will demonstrate the groundbreaking chemical looping process, BrightLoop, to produce fifteen metric tons of hydrogen a day. If the phase that is designed with this grant is constructed and is successful, the final completed project would serve as the foundation for expanded hydrogen production using Powder River Basin coal, not only from the WyoDak mine but from other sites across Wyoming, creating new value streams for one of Wyoming’s legacy resources.

“Black Hills Energy is proud to continue to be a part of Wyoming’s all-of-the-above energy strategy,” said Mark Lux, Vice President of Power Delivery for Black Hills Energy. “Support of innovation from the State of Wyoming and Wyoming Energy Authority sets the tone for an exciting energy future for Wyoming.”

The WEA previously awarded BHE and B&W a grant for a feasibility study for the BrightLoop technology. “We’re excited that this important project is advancing to the next phase, and we thank the State of Wyoming and the Wyoming Energy Authority for supporting these efforts as we work with our partner, Black Hills Energy, to advance Wyoming’s clean energy future,” said Babcock & Wilcox Chief Technology Officer, Brandy Johnson.

[Cowboy Clean Fuels](#) received \$7,792,653 in funding for their “Triangle Unit Carbon Capture and Storage Project.” The company is an early-stage clean energy and climate tech company with offices in Gillette, Wyoming, and

Denver, Colorado. Established to commercialize technology developed at the University of Wyoming, Cowboy Clean Fuels uses biomass as feedstock for low-carbon renewable natural gas. The project, which uses the byproducts of sugar beet refining as feedstock injection, dilutes the byproducts unavailable for human consumption and injects them into deep coalbed methane wells and related nonproductive natural gas infrastructure. The feedstock is naturally converted into CO₂, which gets permanently sequestered by hydrostatic pressures, and methane, which can be brought to the surface and then to market. This project has potential for both Wyoming's energy and agricultural industries.

"Cowboy is thrilled to be building its first commercial renewable natural gas and carbon sequestration project in the Powder River Basin," said Ryan Waddington, Co-Founder and CEO. "The Triangle Unit Project represents the culmination of years of research and development at the University of Wyoming, and we appreciate the support from the Wyoming Energy Authority to help make the project a reality."

Casper, Wyoming-based [Flowstate Solutions](#) received \$2 million in funding for their project, "CO₂ and Hydrogen Pipeline Safety: AI-Driven Leak Detection," which addresses leak detection failures in Wyoming's oil and gas operations, hydrogen transportation, and carbon capture and sequestration efforts. Using an innovative AI-driven leak detection solution, Flowstate's all-Wyoming team aims to enhance pipeline transport safety and efficiency for Wyoming's core energy sectors. By providing advanced leak detection for CO₂ pipelines (captured from coal plants and used in EOR activities) and natural gas, the technology ensures fewer disruptions, reduces product loss and revenue impacts, and helps companies comply with regulations.

"Leak detection for these pipelines is a looming problem that has been a challenge in the industry for various reasons," said Jerad Stack, CEO of Flowstate. "We are at a point where technology is emerging that can provide a needed breakthrough. However, extending this technology will require research investment. These funds provide the stimulus necessary to surmount some of those challenges and, in doing so, ensure that this critical infrastructure is operated in a way that is safe for our citizens and our environment."

[Membrane Technology and Research, Inc. \(MTR\)](#) received \$8 million in funding for their Large Pilot Project at Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station in Gillette, Wyoming. In this project, MTR is advancing its innovative membrane-based post-combustion carbon capture process through the final pre-commercial stage of development. The goal of this project, which is partially funded by the Department of Energy, is to design, build, and operate a 150-tonne-per-day large pilot CO₂ capture system at the Wyoming Integrated Test Center (WITC) using a 10-megawatt-electric (MWe) equivalent slipstream of flue gas from an active coal power plant, achieve a greater than a 90% CO₂ capture rate, and produce pipeline quality CO₂.

The successful operation of MTR's Large Pilot will validate this innovative carbon capture approach. It is also an integral step for another MTR project at

Dry Fork Station recently awarded by the DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstration (OCED) that covers Phase I of a full-scale, integrated carbon capture and storage program. This overall effort will position Dry Fork Station as a low-carbon-emitting, base-loaded generation asset well into the future, showcasing a successful and affordable capture option for industries utilizing Wyoming coal.

“MTR’s Large Pilot capture plant represents the culmination of a fifteen-year federal program to develop innovative, second-generation capture technologies. This award supports the construction and operation of MTR’s membrane-based capture plant at the Wyoming Integrated Test Center, where it will be the largest capture plant of its kind when commissioned next year,” said Brett Andrews, President of MTR Carbon Capture. “Without question, the Wyoming ITC is the best place for MTR to demonstrate our capture process to the world. Wyoming leads the way for decarbonization. We look forward to showcasing the effective, robust and economic capture of CO2 from Powder River Basin coal-derived flue gas, and we thank the WEA for this award and for their continued support.”

[The University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources \(SER\)](#) was awarded \$2,750,000 in funding for their pilot project that tackles the large quantities of water produced by oil and gas wells by adequately treating it so it can be used for generating hydrogen.

Steam methane reforming is a well-established technology to produce hydrogen, requiring methane and clean water. The team from SER will design, build, demonstrate and field-test a supercritical water desalination and oxidation unit, integrated with steam methane reforming functionality, to ultimately produce one ton of hydrogen a day using produced water at a cost of around 15% below existing methods.

The technology will be designed at the University of Wyoming and Los Alamos National Labs in Santa Fe, NM, manufactured in Cheyenne, and deployed at the Williams Echo Springs gas plant in Wamsutter. After completion of the award, the University of Wyoming will own the containerized pilot and use it to facilitate other awards and provide demonstrations and outreach to companies and communities interested in the hydrogen economy.

“We were able to earn selection for the award from the Department of Energy thanks to the state support through the Energy Matching Funds,” says Charles Nye, Research Scientist at SER and Co-Principal of the project. “The EMF model is an excellent example of the important partnership between state, federal, non-profit, and private entities to advance compelling research projects in Wyoming that address critical energy needs.”

For an independent but complimentary project to the SER pilot project above, [Williams Companies](#) received \$975,000 for their feasibility study to assess the development of a saline CO2 storage hub, also located at their Echo Springs gas plant in Wamsutter. The Echo Springs CarbonSAFE Storage Complex Feasibility Study aims to prove the ability to sequester CO2 safely in the region’s geological formations by drilling a stratigraphic test well and high-

quality model and developing all foundational documents for a Class VI permit to enable further development of the site.

Williams, an experienced midstream natural gas company with expansive operations in southern Wyoming, is partnering with the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources on this project. The project has the potential to extend the economic viability of the Echo Springs gas plant and encourage other industry development in the region, which can also capitalize on CO2 storage.

“Williams is proud to be a part of this study, which is the critical next step toward the development of a commercial-scale carbon capture and storage complex adjacent to our natural gas processing assets in southern Wyoming,” said Williams Vice President of New Energy Ventures Brian Hlavinka. “I’m optimistic about the outcome of this project and appreciate the ongoing partnership and support from the University of Wyoming’s research team and the state of Wyoming.”

To learn more about the Energy Matching Funds, including submission guidelines and information, please visit woenergy.org/energy-matching-funds.

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About Wyoming Energy Authority

The Wyoming Energy Authority advocates for, facilitates and advances Wyoming’s energy economy to grow a secure and prosperous future for Wyoming’s energy and natural resources. Focusing on an “all-of-the-above” energy mix, the WEA’s strategy includes products from our legacy fossil industries, along with the newer players of renewable energy and emerging opportunities in hydrogen, advanced nuclear, geothermal, and rare earth elements. The WEA was created in 2020 by the Wyoming State Legislature by merging the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority and the Wyoming Pipeline Authority.

This article is from a January 16, 2024 WEA press release.

Letter to the Editor from Rob Creager, Executive Director of the Wyoming Energy Authority in the Cowboy State Daily:

Link to article: [December 21, 2023 - All types of energy are needed: Cowboy State Daily](#)

We Need All Kinds of Energy To Meet Rising Demands

As it stands, 80% of the world's energy comes from coal, oil and natural gas resources. Wyoming produces 40% of our country's coal and ranks 8th overall in crude oil production and 9th in natural gas production.



To the editor:

This past week, fossil fuels made headlines as delegates at the UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai announced an empty deal to transition “away from fossil fuels in energy systems.” As it stands, 80% of the world's energy comes from coal, oil and natural gas resources. Wyoming produces 40% of our country's coal and ranks 8th overall in crude oil production and 9th in natural gas production.

While the debates over the virtues of fossil fuels have taken up a lot of headline space, we here in Wyoming know better. There is a glaring omission to this so-called deal – but it is something that I, as the Executive Director at the Wyoming Energy Authority (WEA), am laser-focused on.

The demand for energy is heading inexorably in one direction – upward. Not by a little, but by a lot. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) has been projecting that world energy consumption [will grow close to 50% by the year 2050](#).

The simple truth is that we will need all kinds of energy to meet these rising demands and to do so in a way that does not compromise reliability or affordability. From coal to wind to natural gas to nuclear, more is more.

Luckily, Wyoming has abundant natural resources and the can-do mindset to capitalize on this challenge. From fossil fuels to world-class wind, to the largest uranium reserve in the nation, and newly discovered rare earth elements, we have it all. We have an opportunity to steer our country to a new energy future as an honest, reliable and pragmatic partner. We have an opportunity to show, not just tell, our country's leaders and anyone else who will listen that the future of energy is a future that embraces not just one source or another.

Through investments that support research, development and innovation, the Wyoming

Energy Authority's goal is to advance the production of Wyoming-sourced energy. The WEA was created in 2020 by merging together the scopes of the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority, the Pipeline Authority, and the State Energy Office – effectively consolidating the state's energy agencies into one entity

designed to coordinate across the energy spectrum to advocate, facilitate and advance our energy economy effectively. We believe that supporting a broad, diversified energy portfolio is critical to Wyoming's future.

As Governor Gordon accurately portrayed Wyoming's approach in a recent "60 Minutes" interview by saying, "We want to be part of the solution. There are some really remarkable things that if we stop talking about what we shouldn't do and start talking about what we can do and how we can embrace that future." This is the future that the WEA will champion.

One of the ways we are achieving that future is through the Energy Matching Funds (EMF), appropriated by the Wyoming Legislature and delegated to our office by Governor Gordon. This source of cost-share funding is intended to spur innovation and to provide incentives to energy projects looking to site in Wyoming.

The first two projects awarded by the EMF demonstrate exactly how this state can improve and advance our legacy forms of energy while embracing new forms, all while increasing the resiliency of our energy economy. The first is BWXT Advanced Technologies' microreactor assessment project. The vision of this nuclear project is to assess the viability of not just producing nuclear power but creating the full nuclear value chain from manufacturing and deploying a microreactor fleet to supplementing Wyoming's existing power generation. This approach is attracting the attention of Wyoming's trona and manufacturing industries – both L&H Industrial in Gillette and Tata Chemicals in Green River recently partnered to collaborate with BWXT AT and bring a whole of Wyoming approach to this emerging industry. If these microreactors prove successful, this project could both generate crucial manufacturing jobs for Wyoming and help one of our most valuable industries remain competitive on a global market.

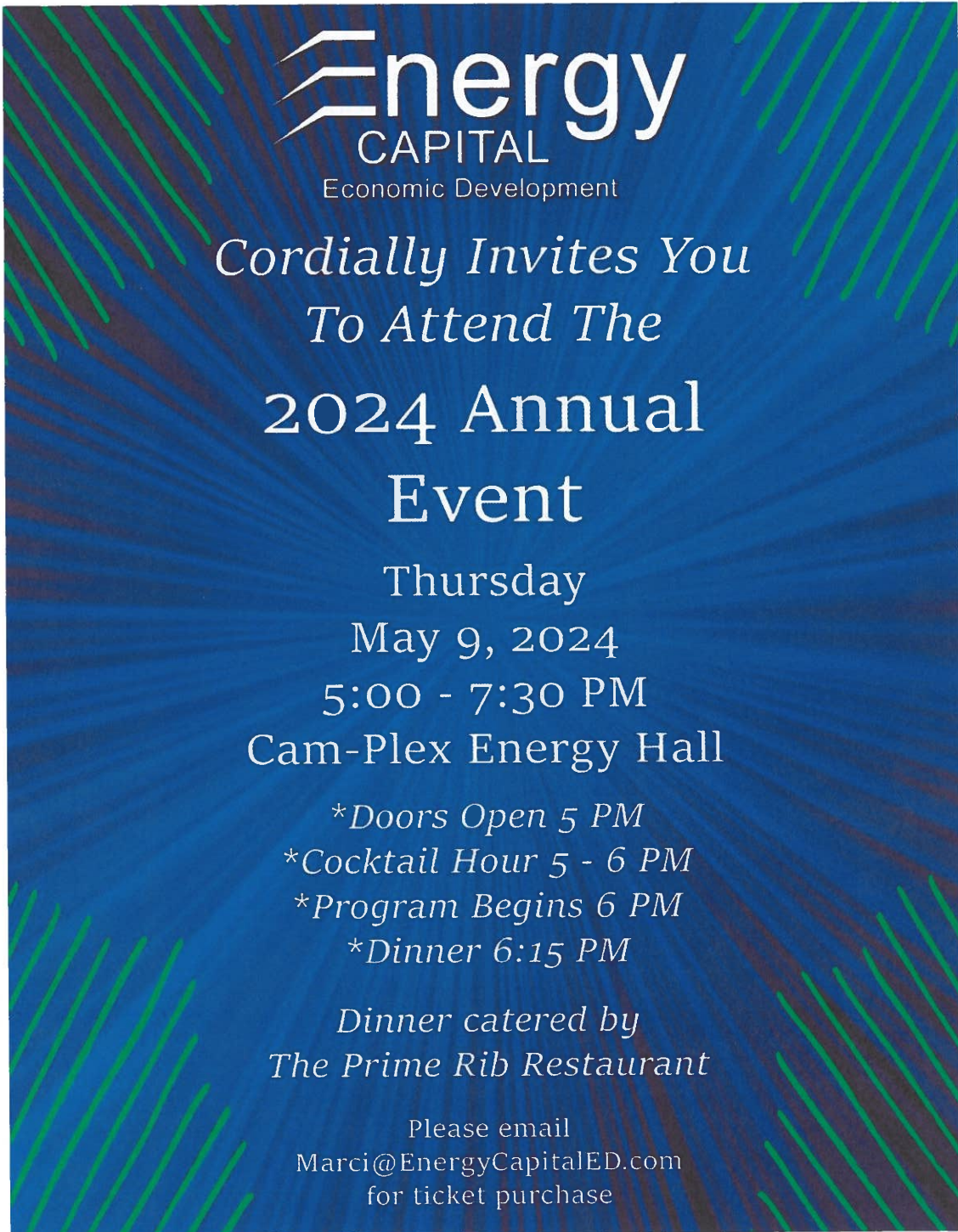
The second project capitalizes on Wyoming's pioneering efforts around Class VI well primacy. This project will drill three wells designed to inject carbon dioxide permanently underground. The Sweetwater Carbon Storage Hub, a public-private project between the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources, Frontier Carbon Solutions and the federal CarbonSAFE initiative, intends to develop a permanent carbon management solution for Wyoming's fossil fuel industry, prolonging it for future generations. Projects like this are vital for our fossil fuel industry, and Wyoming will continue to be a leader in this space.

With this groundbreaking funding source, we have a unique opportunity to support the future of Wyoming energy – and the nation's energy – *today*. The first round of Energy Matching Fund projects received \$19.1 million, leveraging \$52.2 million of federal or private funds. The second round of projects is in the process of achieving approval. Those numbers are even more robust: the recommendation is to fund \$37.5 million worth of projects, leveraging \$127.1 million.

The answer to our world's urgent energy needs will not be solved by excluding entire categories of energy systems. This is not an either-or solution but an everything-we-have solution. Fortunately, Wyoming has a lot to work with in terms of resources and willingness, and we are determined to use it.

Sincerely,

Rob Creager
Executive Director, Wyoming Energy Authority

The graphic features a dark blue background with a pattern of diagonal green and white lines. At the top, the logo for Energy Capital Economic Development is displayed in white. The text 'Energy' is in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with 'CAPITAL' in a smaller font below it, and 'Economic Development' in an even smaller font at the bottom of the logo. Below the logo, the invitation text is centered and reads: 'Cordially Invites You To Attend The 2024 Annual Event Thursday May 9, 2024 5:00 - 7:30 PM Cam-Plex Energy Hall'. A list of event details follows: '*Doors Open 5 PM', '*Cocktail Hour 5 - 6 PM', '*Program Begins 6 PM', and '*Dinner 6:15 PM'. Below this, it states 'Dinner catered by The Prime Rib Restaurant'. At the bottom, it asks to email 'Marci@EnergyCapitalED.com' for ticket purchase.

Energy
CAPITAL
Economic Development

*Cordially Invites You
To Attend The
2024 Annual
Event
Thursday
May 9, 2024
5:00 - 7:30 PM
Cam-Plex Energy Hall*

**Doors Open 5 PM
*Cocktail Hour 5 - 6 PM
*Program Begins 6 PM
Dinner 6:15 PM

*Dinner catered by
The Prime Rib Restaurant*

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Upcoming Community Events

- 1/18 - [January Mixer- True Colors Cosmetology School](#)
- 1/18 - [CAM-PLEX Cinema Series: Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs](#)
- 1/20 - [2nd Annual Dodgeball Tournament](#)
- 1/20 - [2024 Annual Campbell County Charity Chili Cookoff](#)

- 1/24 - [Plant Cutting Swap and Houseplant Propagation](#)
- 1/25 - [Mike Henke Culture Catalyst Workshop Hosted by The Chamber of Commerce](#)
- 1/27 - [Lego STEM Challenge Family Day](#)
- 1/27 - [22nd Annual Art Matters Auction & Gala Fundraiser](#)
- 1/28 - [2024 Wedding Expo - Bash.Co Bridal & Formalwear](#)
- 1/30 - [Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood LIVE: King for a Day!](#)
- 2/1 - [Eggs & Issues 2024](#)
- 2/3 - [GARF's Chuckles for Charity Game Show Gala](#)
- 2/3, 2/9, 2/10, 2/16, 2/17, 2/23 & 2/24 - [Gillette Wild Hockey](#)
- 2/4 - [Restore, Renew, Lean into Winter](#)
- 2/7 - [Ribbon Cutting for Healing Hearts Hospice](#)
- 2/8 - [Digital Business Card Masterclass](#)
- 2/13 - [Chamber Speaker Series- Legacy Wealth Planning: Tom Lubnau & Alison Gee](#)
- 2/13 - [Downtown Galantines Day Wine Walk](#)
- 2/14 - [The Princess Bride: CAM-PLEX Cinema Series](#)
- 2/15 - [February Mixer - Healing Hearts Home Health](#)
- 2/17 - [CNC Plasma Cut Key Rack MakerClass](#)
- 2/20 - [Chamber Perks February 2024](#)
- 2/22 - [Dinosaur World Live](#)
- 2/23 - [Pulling for Kids, Red Wagon Gala](#)
- 5/9 - [ECED 2024 Annual Event](#)

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