

Summary of the Innovate Fort Collins Challenge

The Innovate Fort Collins Challenge (IFCC) was a City funded grant program in 2018/2019 that included the creation of an application process, community open house judging, marketing and follow up reporting each project. The program hosted three competitive rounds administering \$436,000 to 17 pilot projects that benefited and advanced the Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals, community engagement and partnerships, City services and operations and long-term sustainability objectives. Projects primarily focused on energy, transportation, waste reduction and behavior change.

The following highlights results from the project partners:

Project Highlights

- Project partners engaged a diverse group of community members and businesses across the Fort Collins region
- All projects combined reduced an estimated 5,700 Metric Ton Carbon Dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}-) with a potential for an additional 16,000 MTCO_{2e}-e reduced over time if projects scale up.
- Project participants and partners leveraged 12:1 in private investment (\$1.3M)
- Only 1 of 17 projects failed during their pilot year and many models have scaled up increasing their positive impacts over time.

Examples of Lessons Learned

- Projects experienced delays and challenges, requiring flexibility and adjustments.
- Overall, there is a strong desire and need to support and fund community innovation.

Testimonials

Community members and project participants valued the opportunities and benefits these projects provided providing these comments:

Poudre Schools Mobile Composter (2018 project)

“At Kinard, we believe the compost project is much more than a utility service. The addition of the on-site composter at our school has acted as a vehicle for student leadership and it has taken learning to a new level.” Chris Bergman, Kinard Middle School

Spring Back CO (SBC) Mattress Set Recycling project (2018 project)

“When I started with SBC I was fresh out of recovery and unsure of my future. The Innovate Grant has not only changed my life, but it has changed the lives of the men I lead.” Roberto Valdez

Pretty Brainy: MISSion Innovation Project (2019 project)

“I am most proud of the work that I have done with Pretty Brainy on planning MISSion Innovation and building the MISSion Innovation App . . . I am proud of these accomplishments because I feel like I am making an impact instead of just sitting back and watching other people fix the problems that I am most passionate about. Working with Pretty Brainy has been one of the most beneficial experiences in my life. . .” Emma Younger, senior, Windsor High School, Boettcher Scholarship semifinalist

EcoThrift: Eco Tool Lending Library Project (2019 project)

“EcoThrift and the Eco Tool library have become invaluable partners in helping us serve our clientele as well as maintain and improve our garden and facilities. We rely often on using tools from the tool library to carry out projects around the cafe and allow our volunteers to complete useful tasks for us. Our homeless customers also often benefit from access to the Eco Tool Library tools through our membership to repair their bicycles and vehicles, helping them maintain their mobility and dignity.”

Landa Parten, Operations Manager, FoCo Cafe

[Add 2019 Summary and condense/hide 2018 but still make available. We can use the same format as we did for the 2018 projects -boxes with pics]

2019 IFCC Projects Summary

- Total greenhouse gas reductions (GHG) for the 2019 project pilot year was **approximately 609 MTCO₂e**.
- There is *potential* for GHG reductions of **approximately 14,594 MTCO₂e** across projects if all actions were to be completed.
- A significant private investment was achieved through this grant program leveraging over **\$1,297,310** from Fort Collins community members, local businesses, non-profits and others.
- All projects experienced varied levels of success, none failing during the pilot year. All projects had triple bottom line benefits to the Fort Collins community and region.
- Many of the projects focused on increasing impact through education, awareness, skill building and behavior change. While these type of projects can produce less direct GHG reductions, this focus moves Fort Collins and the region toward the needed change for embracing sustainable lifestyles, encouraging job and industry growth, and the infrastructure and investments needed to reduce our GHG emissions and transition to become a more sustainable community.

Total IFCC 2019 Project Awards: \$110,000

Total Leveraged Dollars: \$1,308,310

12:1 ratio per City dollar invested



SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS

IFCC AWARD: \$30,000

LEVERAGED DOLLARS: \$990,570 IN PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, \$29,100 IN ADDITIONAL GRANTS

\$10,000 FROM OTHER PARTNERS = \$1,029,670

YEAR 1 PILOT PERIOD REDUCTIONS: 540 MTCO₂E

Solar United Neighbors (SUN) was awarded \$30,000 to support hiring a program director and launch Colorado's first solar co-op. The funding provided critical support to the launch, which included educating and recruiting residents interested in installing solar installations for their homes. The group buying power allowed the solar co-op participants secure a price approximately 25% below the state average. The Fort Collins co-op helped facilitate 48 local installations, totaling 396 kW of solar capacity and nearly \$1 million in local energy investment.



MISSION INNOVATION BY PRETTY BRAINY

IFCC AWARD: \$10,000

LEVERAGED DOLLARS: \$31,850 CASH, \$101,600 IN KIND DONATIONS = \$143,455

PILOT PERIOD REDUCTIONS: 0 MTCO₂E

POTENTIAL REDUCTIONS: 13,130 MTCO₂E

Pretty Brainy was awarded \$10,000 to develop and support the MISSION Innovation project, which sought to develop interest, participation and relevant projects with young women innovators and problem solvers to address climate change. This project hosted a 24-hour innovation marathon for climate action and the building of a scalable mobile application to encourage sustainable behavior change. This project successfully engaged 375 individuals, 12 partners and collaborators.



Eco Tool Library by EcoThrift

IFCC AWARD: \$25,000

LEVERAGED DOLLARS: \$0

PILOT PERIOD REDUCTIONS: 9 MTCO₂E

The Eco Tool Library (ETL) project received \$25,000 and was developed to meet community demand and ambition to reduce consumer waste and increase community resilience through knowledge and tool sharing. As a direct result of the IFCC funds received, the ETL has transitioned from concept to reality, including a built-out storage and office space, an extensive, diverse and rapidly growing inventory of more than 400 tools, and an active and growing membership base. One of the goals of the ETL is to inspire the Fort Collins community to be more collaborative as we aim for greater sustainability in our resource utilization. Individual members have used tools to work on homes, both large and small, vehicles, meet HOA landscaping requirements, and build amazing DIY projects.



SHE'S IN POWER BY C3E

IFCC AWARD: \$37,000

LEVERAGED DOLLARS: \$38,000 CASH, \$86,185 IN KIND DONATIONS = \$124,185

PILOT PERIOD REDUCTIONS: 0 MTCO₂E

PROJECTED REDUCTIONS THROUGH 2020: 13,130 MTCO₂E*

***BASED ON 10 FULL PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION**

Colorado Clean Energy Cluster Education and Empowerment (C3E) was awarded \$37,000 to establish a new component to their She's in Power initiative (SiP) to pilot hands-on, project-based mentorship. Individuals from the clean energy industry were paired with women who will shape the clean energy economy's future. Mentor (Energizer) and mentee (Sparks) teams launched their own Power Projects, each with the goal of measurably reducing greenhouse gases emissions in Fort Collins. Ten distinct projects were developed by 12 Sparks (women high-school aged and older) and 11 Energizers (men and women in the clean energy industry). These projects focused opportunities to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy.



TACO 'BOUT SOLAR

IFCC AWARD: \$8,000

LEVERAGED DOLLARS: \$11,087 IN KIND DONATIONS

PILOT PERIOD REDUCTIONS: 0 MTCO₂E*

POTENTIAL REDUCTIONS: TBD

The Taco 'Bout Solar project by Renewablue provided neutral, third-party solar education to Fort Collins residents and the real estate community. The main purpose of this project was to create a non-biased resource for homeowners that are considering solar PV and provide them a road map with clear and concrete steps. This roadmap is to assist them in making a good decision on whether solar PV was right for their situation. Another large success is was the Realtor training. The appetite from local Realtors to learn more about solar was huge. Since those trainings, additional solar training classes for Realtors have been developed to meet that demand. This is a great indication that our community is shifting toward a better understanding of the total value of solar in our market.

For more information about 2018 and 2019 projects ([link to longer pdf summaries](#))