

Climate Justice Collaborative

Stakeholder Report Spring 2023

The diverse communities and cities of Boulder County are certainly alert to the effects of climate chaos in our shared region. We also are collectively coming to terms with how the first and most impacted of us are traditionally working-class, Black, Indigenous, Immigrant and communities of color. There is much attention and action related to the disproportionate, inequitable impacts of climate change. Too often, however, action is siloed, short-term, and even competitive. As a result of outdated, short-sighted funding models and approach to community engagement, our efforts of creating a sustainable, healthy environment for all are falling short.

The Climate Justice Collaborative of Boulder County (“CJC”) is a visionary cross-sector agency and community platform that is focused on linking efforts for long-term collective impact on climate injustices.

Most importantly, the CJC is based upon local leadership, knowledge, and experience. We recognize that Boulder County is a leader in the arena of climate action, resilience and equity, and we know that it is a ripe ecosystem to foster improved collaboration to meet critical climate and justice goals.



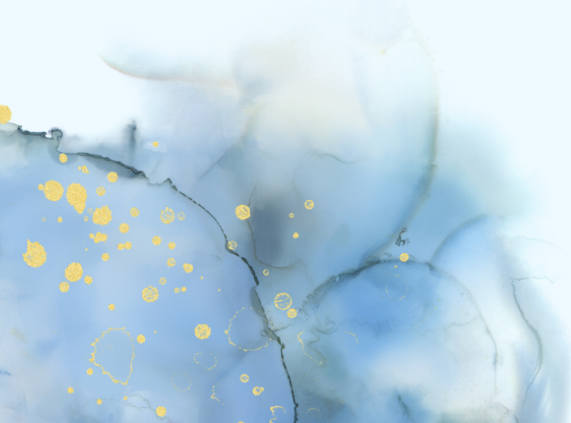

Purpose & Introduction

The CJC's goals are to:

- 1 Deepen its role as an intermediary by supporting community efforts and governmental (and other) institutions to trust disproportionately impacted community members
 - 2 Transfer resources to Frontline community groups for climate action projects
 - 3 Continue to build and provide fertile ground for community-institution dialogue, partnership, events, and shared-learning opportunities. To accomplish these goals, the CJC convenes a council of Frontline community leaders, local government decision-makers, and institutional leaders to create and enact a framework for collaboration toward equitable climate action.
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We are grateful for the opportunity to share how the CJC has progressed since its inception in 2021. The Spring 2023 Climate Justice Collaborative of Boulder County Stakeholder Report serves to update partners, funders, and the community as a whole on the work, progress, and goals of the CJC.

Specifically, this report includes information on the:

- People and structure of the CJC
 - CJC financial snapshot
 - CJC desired objectives & work plan
 - What's next for the CJC
 - CJC in action
 - Opportunities for CJC Stakeholders
 - Recognition, celebration & appreciation
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CJC By-The-Numbers

These represent activity of the CJC since its inception in March 2021

2

multi-session equity and anti-racism trainings

2

de-mystifying grant workshops

4

Council members moved to contracted Steering Committee leaders

8

half-day Council retreats

10

fundors for CJC core funding and projects

16

average members/meeting

19

active CJC Council members

20

BoCo staff member participants in the 2023 Alcance Comunitario Transformativo series

21

in-person Climate Justice Cafecitos

28

consecutive months gathered

33

total Council meetings

200+

feedback sessions with CJC Council members, partners, consultants

\$350,999

invested in the CJC to date

Countless!

spaces created for relationship building, sharing of cultures & building a shared understanding of climate justice

Recent Accomplishments

Created agreements with three Frontline community-led initiatives focusing on climate justice in Boulder County

Renewed contracts with Boulder County and City of Boulder which include a total of \$150,000 investment in the CJC

Contracted for four Steering Committee members, allowing more consistency for CJC leadership

Supported the pilot initiative of the Community-Led Preparedness project

Participated in Harvest of All First Nation's 6-series anti-racism training

Consulted with Michelle Gabrieloff-Parish of Once and Future Green resulting in a strategic plan for the CJC

Completed 4-series ACT Workshop series with Boulder County department leaders

Finalized the Partners for Places 2-year grant cycle, which provided the seed funding for the CJC

Formalized the "three spheres" structure of the Climate Justice Collaborative of Boulder County

Aligned with the Climate Justice Hive of Boulder County to create a prototype of a technology platform that will enhance social movement collaboration

Drafted a glossary of key terms related to equity and climate justice

Co-developed guidelines for CJC-Local Government and CJC-Frontline Group cooperation

Contracted with the City of Longmont to support the Equitable Climate Action Team, then **Transferred** sponsorship to the Longmont Community Foundation

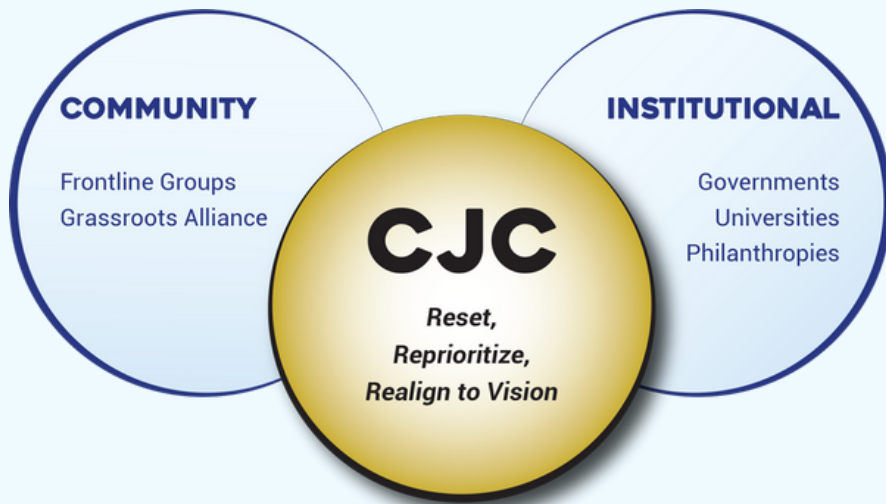
Presented to the Town of Erie staff on climate justice in Boulder County

Co-created a Memorandum of Understanding with the Philanthropiece Foundation, which serves as a founding member of the CJC, as well as fiscal sponsor

**CELEBRATED
2 YEARS OF
COLLECTIVE
ACTION AS
THE CJC !**

CJC Structure

The Climate Justice Collaborative of Boulder County is a collective of people representing the community, academic institutions, grassroots, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, and local governments working together to advance climate justice.



we

Connect Frontline community groups and institutions

we

Create alignment and understanding of climate justice

we

Foster community-driven planning

we

Build capacity for all community members, particularly those who have been historically excluded and faced discrimination and marginalization from traditional structures

we

Facilitate places for these community members to lead climate justice efforts

CJC People

The CJC continues to be guided by a **Council** that meets regularly to provide oversight and direction:

Community Council

CJC members representing Frontline community groups. Guides strategy and decision-making. Implements the ACT Program.

Institutional Sphere

CJC members representing government departments, universities, nonprofits, and other. Supports community-led solutions.

Grassroots Alliance

Representatives of community-led groups and organizations working toward climate justice, aligned with CJC values and vision.

Place-based Foundation

Representatives of Philanthropiece, serving as fiscal sponsor and "nest" for the CJC.

To support the work, the Council approved defined roles & responsibilities for our **Steering Committee** members:

Iris Prieto-Medina

serves as the Community Sphere Coordinator

Micha Kurz

serves as the Institutional Sphere Coordinator

Alejandro Murillo

serves as the Intermediary/CJC Sphere Coordinator, with a focus on governance/administration

Marianne Shiple

continues to serve as the CJC Logistics Coordinator (through July 2023)

Desired Outcomes

The CJC continues to make progress on the desired outcomes stated for 2022-2023

Increase **community member participation** on the CJC Council by 25-50%

Increase **diversity/representation and sustained trust** among Council members and representing groups and institutions

Development and use of **collaborative decision making** models

Opportunities for group members to provide **mentorship** to one another and outside groups

Creation of a **racial equity framework** in addressing impacts of climate change

Evidence of **shifting power** from local government to community, specifically with those most impacted by climate change, environmental impacts

Continued support of the City of Longmont's Equitable Climate Action Team (ECAT)

Evidence of impact of model projects

Development of an **online tool** to map resources/assets and facilitate communication and collaboration

The questions that grounded the consultancy were:

How is the CJC positioned to advance climate justice in Boulder County?

What role does the CJC play in the climate justice arena in the county?

What is needed to sustain the work of the CJC for the next 1, 3, 5 years (to 2030 and beyond)?

What capacities does the CJC need to develop in order to meet objectives and long-term goals?

These desired outcomes and other themes were carefully addressed during a six-month consultancy with Michelle Gabrieloff-Parish of Once and Future Green. The consultancy focused on the progress of the CJC since its inception in March 2021, and worked to define a strategic direction for the collaborative.

CJC Work Plan

One of the key outcomes of the consultancy was the development of a system for tracking progress of desired outcomes. In the first half of 2023, the CJC Council co-created and agreed upon a participatory, inclusive approach to evaluate the CJC's strategy. The CJC Work Plan was developed by employing various ways of knowing by encouraging diverse perspectives and lived experiences. The plan is grounded in the community, and used to actively reflect and inform next steps. The process of creating the CJC Work Plan reflects our institutional values, and featured visioning exercises, guided conversations, feedback loops, and consensus building.

We envision that, by 2030, the communities of Boulder County, including each of its ten incorporated cities and towns, have a culture built on the practice of community-led solutions for climate justice. The CJC accompanies and guides the work of Institutional leaders to actively disrupt structural oppressions and invest resources into frontline communities. Trust is evident as the leadership, wisdom and experience of the BIPOC and other historically excluded communities are valued and sought after to reconstruct policies. The CJC fosters climate justice initiatives that are tangible representations of the structure in action as frontline community members identify challenges and design solutions that directly improve their lives. These processes draw on multiple ways of knowing, including design and systems thinking, ecological principles, cultural practices, imagination and creativity. People throughout the county come together across differences, intergenerationally, to foster connection and belonging, cultivating a thriving, just, and resilient society regionally and beyond.

The CJC Work Plan will:

- **Guide** the work of the CJC for 2023 and beyond
- **Support** alignment and clarity for all of CJC
- **Clarify** for members the work and aims of the CJC
- **Communicate** and clarify to broader community what CJC is working on
- **Identify** roles and ways spheres are working together and separately
- **Create** pathways for members to jump into CJC work
- **Assess** capacity—a greater sense of how much work is being done
- **Track** and assess CJC's work

CJC Work Plan Streamlined

CJC Workplan- Streamlined													
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AYS	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
		Activity	Priority sphere Comm, Inter, Inst	Leads	Q1 2023 Jan-March	Q2 2023 April-June	Q3 2023 July-Sept	Q4 2023 Oct-Dec	Q1 2024 Jan-March	Q2 2024 April-June	Q3 2024 July-Sept	Q4 2024 Oct-Dec	2025
2		Intro to Workplan link											
3		Support community-based CJ efforts	All	All									
4		CJC role to understand BoCo CJ report + ecosystem mapping, and ensure being done/attended to	Intermediary core	SC & Katie									
5		CJC develops and adopts a work plan starting in 2023	Intermediary core	MGP->SC->All									
6		Develop and solidify CJC mission and vision	Intermediary core	SC & All									
7		Build alignment and understanding of Climate Justice, community-driven planning, and related issues within CJC membership (capacity building)	Intermediary core	All									
8		-Assure all CJC council know all activities of CJC (ex. ACT) (In council for now, newsletter eventually?)	Intermediary core	Marianne, SC									
9		Review past and existing efforts in county, and build CJC membership understanding and familiarity of these	Intermediary core	All									
10		Continued networking and showing up for aligned groups/events	Intermediary core	All									
11		Revisit structures- create own 501c3 or stay with Philanthropice and deepen into solid "intermediary"	Intermediary core	Katie- SC									
12		MOU between CJC and Philanthropice	Intermediary core	Katie, SC					Reassess				Reassess
13		Clarify CJC council member commitment, including: - Time - responsibilities -commitment - Accion -Comunicacion - Aportacion/Contributions	Intermediary core	SC, ALL					Reassess				Reassess
14		Review/solidify purpose for cafecitos	Intermediary core	SC, Katie									
15		HIVE connection: Formally define the relationship	Intermediary core	Micha, SC		MOU			MOU				
16		CJC exploration of HIVE tool & feedback	Intermediary core	All		HIVE launching map/ website tool- April							
17		Create and implement feedback processes for group	Intermediary core	SC									
18		Ensure CJC and govt partners decentering selves (May want to develop list of questions/guidelines)	Intermediary core					Review/assess				Review/assess	





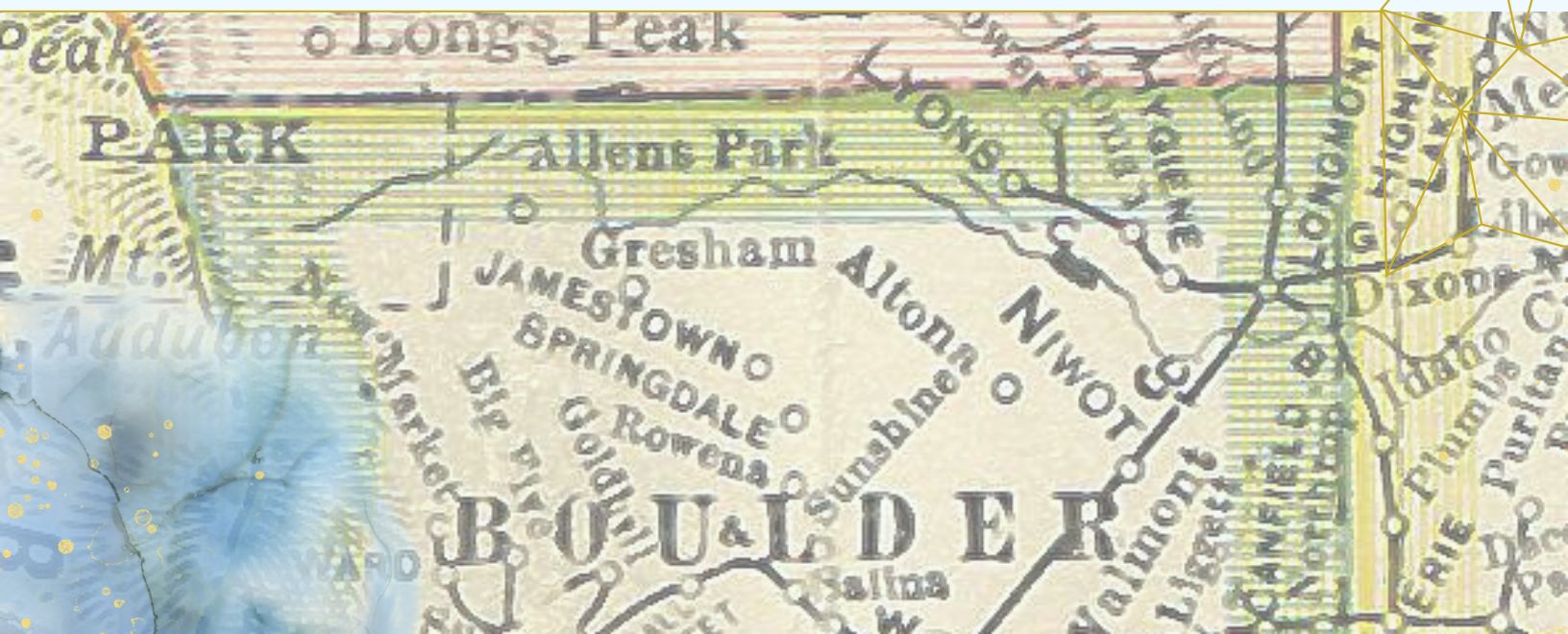
CJC In Action

The time period covered by this report represents the final months of the early stage development of the CJC that was made possible via the Partners for Places grant of The Funders Network with matching contributions from the City of Boulder, City of Longmont, Boulder County and the Philanthropiece Foundation. The majority of work of the CJC has been internal to date as we have focused on building trust and structure. This cautious and patient preparation is positioning the CJC for future growth and community action. In this period, the CJC is focusing on four areas:

1. Serving as an intermediary to foster climate justice in Boulder County.

In action this looks like:

- **Maintaining** a Council of members who collectively guide and make decisions about the collaboration's activities.
- **Convening** monthly Climate Justice Cafecitos to encourage knowledge sharing, learning, and dialogue about climate justice in our community.
- **Hosting** seasonal retreats for CJC council members.
- **Contracting** consultants to support in developing our structure and furthering understanding of equity principles and climate justice practices.
- **Connecting** resources and foster collaboration between Frontline community groups and institutional partners, including local governments.
- **Conducting** research to identify grounding data and evidence of need and priority related to climate justice in our region.

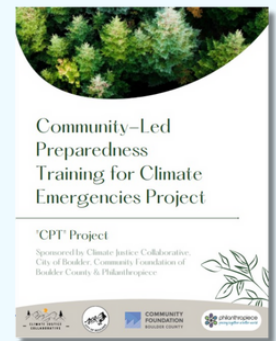


CJC In Action, cont.

2. Supporting Frontline groups and leaders engaged in climate justice efforts.

In action this looks like:

- Recognizing, listening to, and learning with the Frontline groups and leaders currently involved with the climate justice movement, as well as those who are emerging as leaders.
- Partnering with leaders of the **Community-Led Preparedness Training** initiative to launch the pilot project which supports mobile home residents
- to gain skills and the network needed to prepare for climate-related emergencies.
 - Piloted in 2022 for two communities, 28 graduates. In 2022, the CJC invested \$35,000.00 in this project, leveraged the investment with a matching contribution from City of Boulder, and supported in bringing in an additional \$2500.00 from the Community Trust grant of Community Foundation of Boulder County. In 2023 the CJC will continue its partnership with the CPT project, offering a Train the Trainers for community leaders throughout the community that will allow it to scale the course to more communities.
- Partnering with **Harvest of All First Nations**, a Boulder County-based nonprofit led by Indigenous peoples and allies, centering the needs, practices, and wisdom of Indigenous communities in the forefront of land stewardship, climate action, and education. **Preserving cultural knowledge and providing stewards of the land with stipends is part of the economic justice work that will help indigenous communities advance wealth building.**
 - The CJC invested in HAFN's Solidarity and Anti-Racism Learning Program (SARL), a series designed to educate communities and institutions about racism and dismantling internal and external systems of oppression and white supremacy.
 - Additionally the CJC, led by the community sphere, made the decision to contribute \$5,000.00 to Harvest of all First Nations Food Justice and Sovereignty Program, an initiative that provides Indigenous foods education and supports regenerative agricultural practices. The program provides participants with land access, hands-on training, fresh produce and personal development.



CJC In Action, cont.

2, cont. Supporting Frontline groups and leaders engaged in climate justice efforts.

- Partnering with **Brujula Comunitaria (“Community Compass”)**, a grassroots group of Latina leaders based in the City of Longmont who are guiding processes toward systemic changes, oriented to improve the social and economic wellbeing of the community in the context of climate change.
 - Brujula Comunitaria empowers communities through life experiences, increases access to information that serves, protects, and celebrates diversity and equity, develops community-led projects, and consolidates alliances with various community actors to develop processes of social transformation. Their current projects are focused on: family diet/health, food security, energy equity in manufactured home park communities, and mental health.
 - The CJC supports and sponsors Brujula Comunitaria, raising over \$20,000.00 since Fall 2022 to further their efforts. Brujula is aligned with Hunger Free Colorado/Healthy Schools Initiative, Growing Gardens, Boulder County’s Behavioral Health Access Systems, and the City of Longmont’s SOLL Program (Sustainable Opportunities, Lifestyles and Leadership). Special congratulations to the Brujula Comunitaria for their recent award from the Denver Foundation’s Strengthening Communities grant.



CJC In Action, cont.

3. Building leadership of community members of color within the CJC.

In action this looks like:

- Co-Founding, with Once and Future Green, the Alcance Comunitario Transformativo (“ACT” or Transformative Community Outreach), a subgroup of the CJC Council. ACT creates and facilitates community building and training opportunities for government staff/leaders to better understand and begin enacting community-driven climate planning processes within their departments. While this activity supports building the capacity of community leaders, it simultaneously supports people working in government and other institutions to improve community engagement processes.
- From February through March 2023, twenty leaders from nine different Boulder County departments participated in the inaugural ACT workshop series. In over 220 collective hours, participants listened to community member stories, learning of one another’s experiences, challenges, and barriers when it comes to community engagement. All participants and facilitators (government staff and community leaders) gained more clarity of the systemic challenges that keep government employees siloed in their work and the limits to authentic community engagement. The City of Boulder Climate Initiatives department is also interested in the ACT workshops and plans are in motion for this year.



CJC In Action, cont.

4. Working with government partners to map best levers to support institutional transformation, existing resources for community groups, partnership opportunities, and alignment with national priorities and funding resources such as the Justice40 commitments.

In action this looks like:

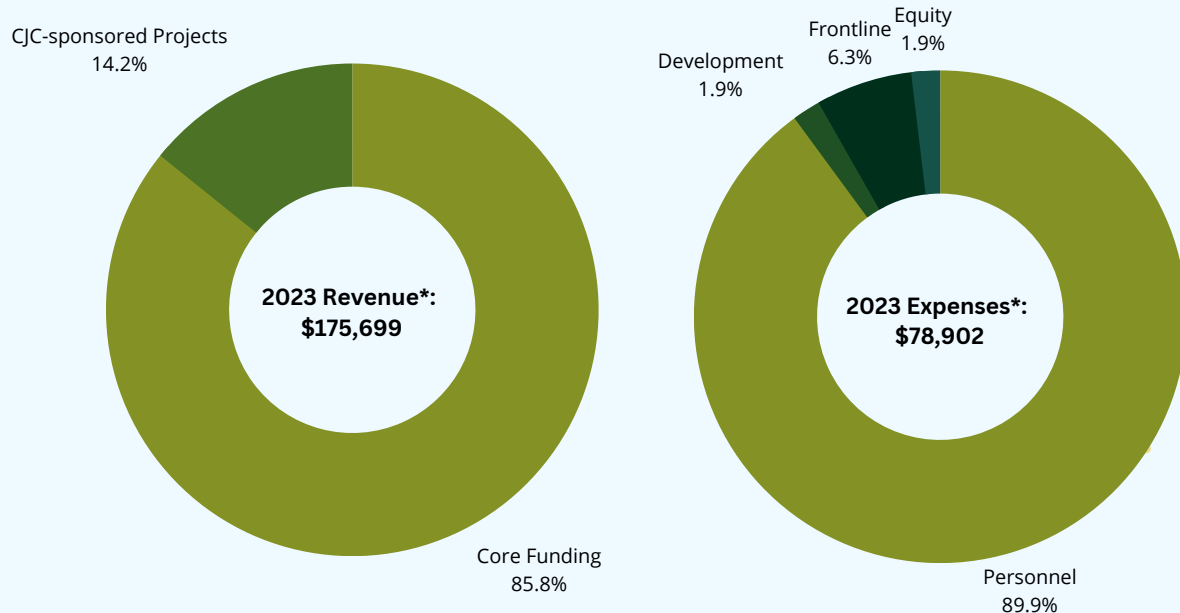
- Partnering with the Climate Justice Hive of Boulder County (the “Hive”) to systematically collect, map, and compile data. The Hive is developing a user-friendly technological tool to display and effectively illustrate the data. The CJC Council is providing guidance and feedback to the developers about how to make it easily accessible and how it will serve to foster collaboration and connection for climate justice in Boulder County.
 - The Hive collects and provides extensive information about departments, services and programs provided by local government sector, starting with Boulder County during the first half of 2023, and moving on to working with the Cities of Boulder and Longmont during the second half of the year. In addition, the Hive maintains a repository of information about the other arenas of organizing for climate justice such as: Food & Farming and Faith Based Congregations. During the second half of 2023 the Hive intends to extend its mapping efforts toward Housing and Homelessness and other organizing arenas. Information is gathered and reassembled to provide relevant illustrations of helpful opportunities for coordination and collaboration across sectors, agencies, and communities.
- Preparing for a countywide strategy to set a positive tone for collaborative networking toward climate justice, starting with CJC<>Local Government relationships. To this end, the CJC and the Hive worked with staff representatives from three different government organizations to successfully develop guidelines for working together, to be used as a model and a template with which the CJC will establish connections with municipal partners across Boulder County.



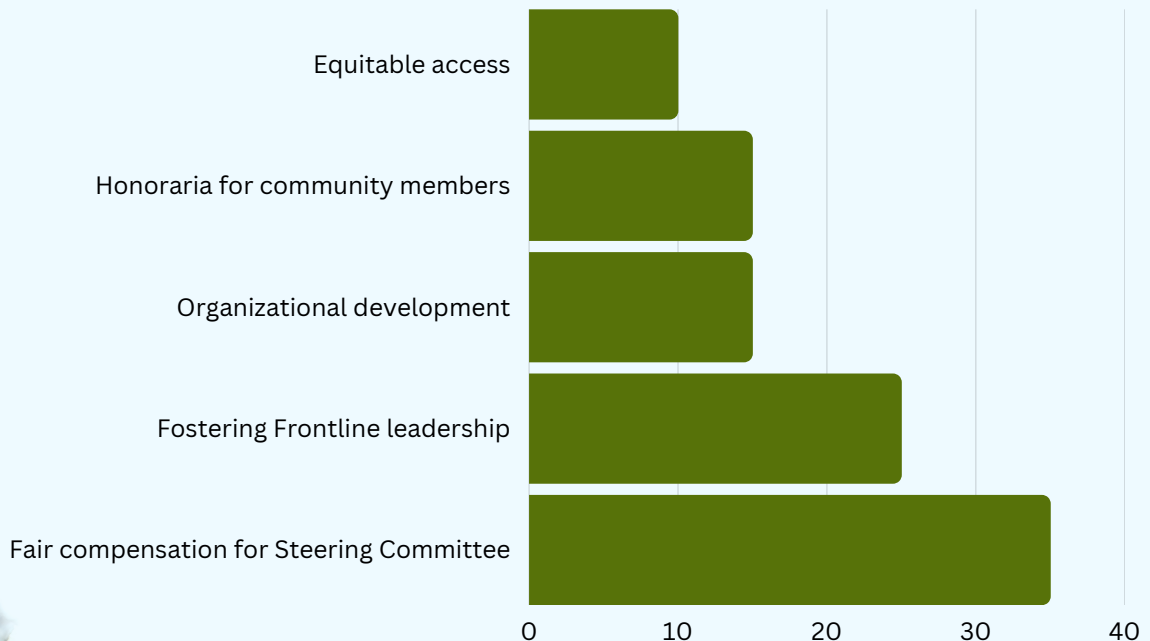
CJC Financial Snapshot

2023 working budget total: \$210,420

(*As of 6/30/2023)



The CJC prioritizes investment in:



What's Next

Co-create
a grassroots
alliance of
Frontline
community
groups
working
toward
climate justice
to harness
collective
voice and
leadership

Collaborate
on resource
mobilization,
with a focus on
Justice40
opportunities

Continue
collective
learning,
understanding,
and convening
shared
objectives for
climate justice

Develop
a membership
structure for
institutions to
connect and
leverage
climate justice
efforts

**MORE
CONVENING,
DIALOGUE
AND ACTION
FOR CLIMATE
JUSTICE !**

Opportunities for CJC Stakeholders



Make a financial contribution to further one or more of the CJC's next steps. Currently, the collaborative is seeking \$35,000 to complete the 2023 budget. We are also in the process of building champions for 2024-2023 to deepen and sustain our work.

- Contact our fiscal sponsor Philanthropiece at hello@philanthropiece.org to underwrite the work of the CJC.
- Make a direct contribution [here](#).



Share your group or organization's knowledge of climate justice, the work that you are doing, questions you are asking, and recent successes and challenges at an upcoming Climate Justice Cafecito.

- Email us at cjcboulder@gmail.com to schedule a date to present at an upcoming cafecito!



Give the gift of time! Dedicate a percentage of your team and staff time to the CJC; write it into job descriptions!

- Contact Steering Committee members to plug in.

Conclusion

recognition, celebration, appreciation

In recognition of:

Lolita Elsa Morales Kurz, baby girl of Myrna Morales and Micha Kurz Ben David, for reminding us all of the power of community, for strengthening our spirit of solidarity, and for reinforcing our shared purpose.

In celebration of:

Garry Sanfaçon, Co-Founder and Council Member of the CJC, for his retirement as Boulder County's Recovery Manager. Garry, you brought conviction of purpose and commitments to service to your community to the CJC, and we commit to continuing to weave those values into the fabric of our collective work.

and

Marianne Shiple, Co-Founder and Coordinator of the CJC, for her professional transition to Climate Justice Program Coordinator for Boulder County's Public Health Department. Marianne, you infuse grace, love and skill into all that you do, and we commit to carrying those values forth in all of the CJC's relationships!

With appreciation for:

- The Frontline community members who guide and motivate this work, sharing their lived experiences and wisdom.
- The CJC Steering Committee members, courageous leaders of our movement: Alejandro Murillo, Iris Prieto-Medina, Marianne Shiple, and Micah Kurz.
- The Funders Network for continued support via the Partners for Places grant.
- Boulder County Commissioners and Office of Sustainability, Climate Action and Resilience, with special thanks to Susie Strife, Marina LaGrave and Anthony Ochoa.
- City of Boulder Department of Climate Initiatives, with special thanks to Jonathan Koehn, Emily Sandoval and Carolyn Elam.
- Climate Justice Cafecito guest speakers, including: Sonia Sarabia and Hanna Recht of 9to5; Susana Rodriguez, Marda Kirn, and Maya MacHammer of the Watershed Collective; and Michelle Gabrielloff-Parish of Once and Future Green.
- Community Language Cooperative, Leticia Abajo from Deshaciendo Nudos, and Silvana Munro from Absolute Translation for activating language justice!
- Champions of the CJC-supported community initiatives Community-Led Preparedness Training and Brujula Comunitaria: Community Foundation of Boulder County, Denver Foundation, Hunger Free Colorado, Boulder County Behavioral Health Access Solutions, and the Wealth Redistribution Center.
- Philanthropiece Foundation for serving as a core thought partner, member organization, and fiscal sponsor of the CJC.