

Building Awareness for Establishing Community Support for Response to Environmental Quality Concerns in Garfield County, Colorado: Ground Zero for Colorado's Energy Development Boom

The CARE project in Garfield County is working to create a resident-driven, consensus-based process that will identify the most significant environmental health issues facing Garfield County and put them in priority order. Royce Arbour, Inc., a highly experienced organization, was selected to assist GCPH in facilitating this community process. In addition, Garfield County has entered into a partnership with the Colorado School of Public Health, Center for Public Health Practice, to implement one phase of this work. Significant work recently includes:

- Speaking with City Councils throughout Garfield County, outlining the process and informing them of expected outcomes at the same time, requesting participation and gathering input from them to enhance the outcome of the project.
- Meeting with partners or potential partners to discuss the opportunity for them to assist with the project.
- Development of a dedicated website called Garfield County C.A.R.E.S. (Garfield County Community Action for Responsible Environmental Solutions) for residents to provide input and to watch progress of the project.
- Project has contacted 150 local residents informing them of the Garfield County CARES project and directing them to the new website. The project has over 1000 contacts throughout the project.
- As environmental health issues are identified an issue statement is prepared which will be used at public meetings to convey the environmental health issues and to stimulate discussion around these issues.
- The goal of the project is to assist Garfield County citizens in coming to a county-wide consensus on the most important environmental health issues facing Garfield County.

Garfield County, Colorado

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Garfield County has more than 500 new wells being drilled per year.

