

2025

Impact Report



Welcome Letter. **1**
Our Impact. **2**
Our Mission in Action. **3**
Did You Know. **5**
Who We Are. **6**
Contact. **7**



Conservation
Colorado

We believe the future is worth the fight.

AND NOW MORE THAN EVER, ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE AND PROGRESS WILL BE LED AT THE STATE LEVEL.



Throughout 2025, Coloradans have watched as the Trump administration has gutted bedrock federal protections for clean air, clean water, a healthy climate and vulnerable communities. While we work to defend against those rollbacks, now more than ever, we need strong state leadership to step in and protect the values Coloradans care about.

Your advocacy and generosity powered major progress this year. Together, we took action and supported state-level legislation to cut climate pollution, expand access to clean energy and the outdoors, protect our water and wildlife and defend public lands from being sold off. We also stopped harmful proposals that would have set back Colorado's climate progress.

This year, Conservation Colorado celebrated its 60th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of its Latino leadership and civic engagement work, formerly called Protége. We launched a new visual identity and logo, as well as a new name for our work with Spanish-speaking and bilingual communities: Conservación Colorado. By becoming one unified brand, our naming and new logo embody our commitment to Colorado, all of our communities, climate, land, air and water.

At Conservation Colorado, we protect the Colorado we love. What makes us unique is that we not only win policy victories, but also recruit, train and elect conservation

leaders, while organizing in communities to hold those leaders accountable. As the state's largest environmental organization, we bring deep experience and boots on the ground across Colorado to deliver lasting change.

As we look ahead to the 2026 legislative session and to a pivotal election year, Colorado faces a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape our state's future. Voters will elect all new state leadership — including the governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer and key legislative leaders — who will determine the direction of Colorado's climate and conservation progress for years to come.

To meet this key moment, we are doubling down on bold, visionary state action through a multi-year initiative, the Colorado 2027 program, to prepare Colorado to lead the nation in climate and conservation progress during a historic transition of state leadership.

Together, we can protect the Colorado we love. Thank you for being an important part of the Conservation Colorado team!

For Colorado,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Nordini', with a long, sweeping underline.

Kelly Nordini
Chief Executive Officer



Our Impact

In 2025, Conservation Colorado delivered key wins for Colorado's environment and communities. Together, we took action and supported legislation to cut climate pollution, expanded access to clean energy and the outdoors, protected our water and defended public lands from being sold off. We also stopped harmful proposals that would have set back Colorado's climate progress. None of this would have been possible without the critical contributions of our members, partners, advocates, donors and supporters like you.

Here's how Conservation Colorado and the Conservation Colorado Education Fund each made an impact through their own work:



Passed **6 priority conservation bills** into law, including:

Expanded clean, reliable transit and reduce transportation pollution through two key policies

Stopped a bill that would have given tax breaks to energy and water-intensive data centers without environmental safeguards

Secured funding for the Outdoor Equity Grant Program to help historically excluded communities access parks and nature, benefiting mental and physical health



Protected public lands from federal efforts to sell or privatize them



Led and collaborated with **250+ partner organizations** across more than 17 coalitions



Sent more than **15,000 emails** and made more than **560 phone calls** to legislators urging them to act



Graduated 16 fellows from the second cohort of the Boards and Commissions Fellowship who are committed to driving change and advocating for their communities



Brought **28 community leaders** from across the state to the Capitol for two days to learn and meet with legislators for our annual member Lobby and Leadership Training



Flipped or maintained pro-environment majorities on the Aurora, Westminster and Thornton City Councils

In Aurora, **all five of our endorsed candidates won their seats**, toppling the conservative super-majority and restoring a pro-environment majority



Our Mission In Action

At Conservation Colorado, we bring together people, policy and politics to drive change. Each year, we collaborate with thousands of members and hundreds of organizations to advance climate action. See a snapshot of that mission in action:

Colorado State Senator Faith Winter

This November, we were heartbroken to learn that Sen. Faith Winter, a fierce advocate for protecting Colorado's land, air, water, climate and communities, passed away. Sen. Winter was entering her 12th year as a legislator. In that time, she was an exceptional policymaker, especially when it came to transportation and environmental issues. In her tenure, she helped shepherd landmark policies such as setting our nationally leading climate targets, held polluters accountable with the Environmental Justice Act and generated vital funds for our transit system. Before she became an elected official herself, she trained women across the country to run for office and worked as Conservation Colorado's Political Director. As we grieve this immeasurable loss, we extend our deepest condolences to her family and all who loved her.



“

Faith was a leader in our movement and a friend to our organization and staff. Thanks to her unyielding fight for the environment and working families, Colorado has stronger climate protections, paid family leave, and more support for the people who keep our communities running.

KATIE BELGARD
CONSERVATION COLORADO'S
VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS



Our Mission In Action (continued)



Conservation Colorado stands out because it invests in people as much as it advocates for policy. The organization builds real relationships in communities, develops local leaders, and connects us directly with the people who are most affected by environmental issues. The Boards and Commissions Fellowship gave me the confidence, skills, and support network I needed to step into public leadership. Conservation Colorado created a welcoming space where I could learn, ask questions, and feel that my experiences mattered.

CARA SHERPA
BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
FELLOWSHIP GRADUATE



Cara Sherpa

Cara Sherpa was a member of the first cohort of Conservation Colorado's Boards and Commissions Fellowship. This six-month fellowship helps diverse Coloradans to serve on boards and committees. Following the fellowship, Cara joined the Outdoor Equity Grant board to fund outdoor educational and recreational experiences for Colorado youth from under-invested communities.



Colorado Fiscal Institute

The Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI) advocates for tax, budget and economic policies that support Colorado families and is a key partner of Conservation Colorado. Progress on many of Conservation Colorado's priorities depends on changes to the state's fiscal policy and TABOR. CFI supports this work by educating the organization on complex tax policies and helping craft legislation that protects both consumers and the environment.



Conservation Colorado is unique because it knows how to translate shared values into effective policy change. CFI has long turned to Conservation Colorado for its deep expertise on environmental policy. It's impossible to talk about the economy, jobs or the budget in this state without understanding how environmental issues impact them. All aspects of our lives in Colorado root from and depend upon our environment.

KATHY WHITE
COLORADO FISCAL INSTITUTE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Did You Know...



WE LAUNCHED A NEW LOGO THIS YEAR! CAN YOU GUESS WHAT IT REPRESENTS?

This logo represents our mission of protecting Colorado's air, lands, water and communities. The green mountains represent lands, the blue waves represent water and the yellow sun represents our climate. The "C" represents Colorado and the communities we serve.

OUR LONGEST-SERVING STAFF MEMBER HAS WORKED AT CONSERVATION COLORADO FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS

Luke Schafer, our west slope director, has been at Conservation Colorado for over 20 years, joining when the organization was still the Colorado Environmental Coalition.

In his time at Conservation Colorado, he has rafted the Dolores River to draw attention to its conservation, testified countless times at the state capitol, and become one of the leading voices for public lands conservation in Colorado.



THIS YEAR IS OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Our love for Colorado and commitment to protecting it began in 1965, when the Colorado Open Space Council (COSC) was founded by a group of passionate community members to protect what they loved about Colorado: our rugged and diverse landscapes, clean air and water and healthy and vibrant communities. COSC eventually became the Colorado Environmental Coalition. In 2013, it joined forces with Colorado Conservation Voters to form the Conservation Colorado family of organizations.



Who We Are (And How You Can Support)

Our mission is to protect Colorado's climate, air, land, water and communities through organizing, advocacy, education and elections. We believe that achieving racial, social and environmental justice is critical to this mission.

The Conservation Colorado family of organizations is composed of six separate entities, each of which brings different tools to the work and allows us to move our state forward in different impactful ways. As the state's largest environmental organization, we are also one of the few in our field that focus on elections, because we recognize the importance of pro-environmental leaders and holding our elected officials accountable.

A contribution to any one of our organizations empowers our mission. However, when you choose to invest in our multiple entities, you strengthen Conservation Colorado's unique ability to bring people, policy and politics together to protect our state's environment and communities. All six entities are legally separate, and any gifts made to one of our organizations are expended strictly in compliance with that organization's IRS status and any additional restrictions associated with the gift.

Education

We educate, organize and build the community voices of Coloradans and leaders through the Conservation Colorado Education Fund.

Advocacy

We engage directly with decision makers at the state capitol to win nation-leading climate justice and conservation policies through Conservation Colorado.

Elections

Elections matter because leadership matters. Through the Conservation Colorado Victory Fund, our independent expenditure committee and our Action Funds which give directly to candidates, we win critical elections to ensure Colorado has pro-conservation state-elected leaders.



Contributions to Conservation Colorado, Conservation Colorado Action Fund, Conservation Colorado Victory Fund, and Conservation Colorado Grassroots Action Fund are not tax-deductible because they are used to support our lobbying and election efforts.



THE FUTURE IS WORTH THE FIGHT

Contact us at:
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Education Fund online at
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