



**COLORADO**

**Department of Public  
Health & Environment**

April 24, 2024

Senator Kevin Priola  
Chairperson, Senate Transportation and Energy Committee  
Colorado Senate

Dear Senator Priola,

I am writing on behalf of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to express our support for House Bill 24-214, proposed by the Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA). SB24-214 aims to establish a central office focused on sustainable state operations. This office will play a critical role in advancing internally-focused sustainability efforts across state agencies, maximizing the utilization of federal funds available through the Inflation Reduction Act, and positioning Colorado as a leader in sustainable state operations.

Since the first state executive order on Greening Government was signed in 2005, CDPHE has been a leader in reducing the environmental impacts of our agency's operations. From our 2015 baseline, we have reduced water use by 38%, petroleum fuel consumption by 34%, and total greenhouse gas emissions by 33% with 10% of our total energy use coming from a solar garden. While we have made great strides in our efforts to reduce impacts, having an internally focused office to support sustainable operations, processes, and facilities across the executive branch, as proposed in SB 24-214, will build on these successes.

The establishment of a dedicated office focused on improving the sustainability of state government operations is a commendable initiative that aligns with CDPHE's mission to protect and improve the health and environment of all Coloradans. DPA is well-positioned to provide critical leadership in support of the new office and advancing greening government goals of our state by:

- providing leadership and accountability for sustainability initiatives within state agencies;
- developing baseline metrics for environmental impact reduction; and
- leveraging federal funding opportunities for clean energy investments.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this important matter. We urge you to support House Bill 24-214 and its establishment of a central office focused on sustainable state operations, which will undoubtedly benefit the health and well-being of all Coloradans and contribute to a more sustainable future for our state.

Sincerely,

Trisha Oeth  
Director of Environmental Health and Protection





**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Natural Resources

April 23, 2024

Senate Committee on Transportation & Energy  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: SB24-214 Implement State Climate Goals

Dear Chair Priola and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) supports SB24-214: Implement State Climate Goals. The Department of Personnel & Administration (DPA) is seeking authority to establish a central sustainability office with a concerted focus on greening state government and maximizing the use of federal tax credits available through the Inflation Reduction Act. Creating a sustainability office will establish the State of Colorado as a leader in sustainability as it continues to progress towards critical environmental goals that will serve as a touchpoint for statewide efforts.

DNR values our collaboration and coordination with DPA through the Greening Government Leadership Council and sees this bill as an opportunity to ensure continued coordination to achieve the State's greening government goals. For example, as a department with a large fleet of state vehicles, DNR looks forward to continued coordination with DPA regarding electric vehicle charging infrastructure funding, projects, and usage. We also look forward to continued collaboration on water reduction initiatives including water-wise landscaping at state facilities such as "Colorado-scaping" the State Capitol to help offset the 740,000 acre foot water shortfall outlined in the Colorado Water Plan. Finally, a number of DNR divisions have responsibility for managing property and welcome DPA's assistance with phasing out \$1.4 million of gas powered equipment with electrified equipment that meets multifaceted statewide needs in the ozone nonattainment area.

DNR appreciates DPA's leadership in meeting our greening government goals and views SB24-214 as an important step in that direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Gibbs'.

Dan Gibbs,  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources

SB24-214

Implement State Climate Goals

CoPIRG Letter of Support

On behalf of the consumer advocacy group, CoPIRG (Colorado Public Interest Research Group), I'm writing to indicate our support of SB24-214, Implement State Climate Goals.

This bill would provide funding for the newly formed Colorado Office of Sustainability, which resides in the Department of Personnel and Administration. This office has the opportunity to align sustainability measures across 20 state departments and save taxpayer money.

The office will set best sustainability practices across agencies that can save money and reduce pollution, from things like office paper and garbage bags to lightbulbs and landscaping practices. Spearheading bulk ordering will ensure all departments are getting the best prices for the most sustainable products, reducing operating and energy costs while saving taxpayers money.

Additionally, the office will be in a position to monitor and measure the impact of these measures on the state in the form of dollars saved, reduced ghg emissions and other targets around clean air and sustainability. By seeking and applying for federal grant funding, the office can also help secure additional funding for state agencies.

By coordinating the planning and constructing of the state's electric vehicle charging infrastructure, the office will accelerate EV adoption across state departments, helping the state meet its ambitious climate reduction goals and improve local air quality.

Assisting agencies to transition from gas-powered to electric equipment will also put Colorado on the path to better air quality, while impacts like improved recycling rates and better water reduction initiatives will help prepare the state to meet future challenges.

Just as we have one department of law that provides economies of scale benefits for state legal work instead of individual legal departments in each office, the Office of Sustainability will act across departments to help get everyone to use the most sustainable practices and at the most competitive prices.

From generating taxpayer savings to improving air quality and public health to mitigating climate change - this bill improves the quality of life here in Colorado. Please vote yes on



April 24, 2024

Senate Transportation & Energy Committee  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, Co 80203

Dear Members of the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee,

I am writing to you in support of SB 24-214, specifically in creation of a centralized Office of Sustainability at the state level.

At Denver Public Schools, I have seen firsthand the benefit of a centralized sustainability office in terms of saving schools money and providing necessary leadership for sustainability efforts. Through a centralized office, Denver Public Schools Sustainability Team saves DPS schools over \$5M annually through energy performance contracting, LED retrofits, community solar partnerships, and other sustainability measures.

The first step of many sustainability initiatives, whether its energy consumption or waste diversion, includes ensuring adequately trained staff. An office leading the charge may develop training in waste diversion, energy efficiency, water saving measures, and more for state employees. Furthermore, this Office could create accountability systems and monitor progress of the state's environmental measures.

I also see a significant benefit this Office can play to the overall health and environmental justice of Colorado. Efforts like electrifying lawn equipment will lead to significant ozone emissions reductions, leading to a safe and healthy environment for all our residents.

A centralized office at the state level is critical to furthering operational savings and reducing the impact to the climate. As the Executive Director of Sustainability for Denver Public Schools, I frequently meet with facility managers and key personnel across schools seeking to understand their facility needs. This Office could play a similar role in engaging stakeholders across state governments. Without a centralized leader, innovation and shared pilot project successes are lost. The entirety of Colorado's state government needs a united force to tackle the present day's toughest climate problems.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LeeAnn Kittle".

LeeAnn Kittle  
Executive Director of Sustainability  
Denver Public Schools

**Senate Transportation & Energy**

**04/24/2024 01:30 PM**

**SB24-214 Implement State Climate Goals**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Missy Espinoza Against themselves	VOTE NO. We do NOT need this.