



Evergy Community Impact Strategy

At Evergy, we're committed to empowering a better future for our customers and our communities. Making a positive impact in the communities we call home is a foundational component of our business. When our communities thrive, so do we.

Creating the strategy – To develop Evergy's Community Impact Strategy and focus areas, we talked to thousands of customers and our employees. We also conducted research on national and global best practices in community investments and effectiveness. We take our role in the community seriously and our development of the strategy reflected that philosophy.

Our strategy centers on making **innovative community investments** in the areas of **environmental leadership** and **community vitality** while also aligning with the needs of our communities and our corporate business strategy.

Employees from across the company agreed these focus areas should be a priority for Evergy. In fact, 1,500 employees participated in surveys and discussions and 85 percent chose environment and community vitality as areas of focus. Along with our employees, our customers agreed Evergy should look to innovation and technology to further our community work. They expect us to be engaged in the community.

Our goal with our community investments is to provide support that addresses the root causes of issues in our communities. Our intent is a shift from traditional, reactive charitable support to programs that are proactive and forward focused.

Our support takes many forms – financial investments, physical goods and services, volunteerism, community leadership and connecting agencies to resources.

Community focus areas moving forward -- While there are thousands of worthy agencies and causes, Evergy community investments will be in two strategic areas: **environmental leadership and community vitality**. While leveraging these focus areas makes intuitive sense, they also built upon best practices and were created by our employees and our communities.



Environmental Leadership – As an energy provider, Evergy is committed to creating a sustainable energy future and minimizing our environmental impact. We do this through education, stewardship and environmental action and activities.

Examples of programs to be considered:

- **Sustainability**
 - **Energy Efficiency.** Programs that raise awareness, encourage, and help put in place energy-saving tools and related efforts such as weatherization. Special priority will be given to programs that target vulnerable customers and communities.
 - **Transportation.** Electric Vehicle education and promotion programs and efforts that encourage the electrification of transportation.
- **Environmental Education**
 - **Education.** Targeted educational programs that are designed to promote sustainable energy practices and new technologies in the renewable energy sector.
- **Conservation**
 - **Conservation and Wildlife Habitat.** Programs, education, and events that raise awareness, encourage and or put in place, measures to conserve, beautify, and regenerate our natural resources and protect our native wildlife are included in this area of support.
 - **Air and Water.** Programs and educational efforts that help maintain clean and quality water and air. Riverway enhancement and betterment are a priority as well as programs to expand public access.
 - **Trees.** Programs that promote education on the important role trees have in lowering the heat index in our areas with a high heat index. Efforts that effectively place trees in areas of high heat will be given priority. Other areas of support include tree placement for energy efficiency, beautification and clean air.

Community Vitality – Evergy is only as healthy as the communities in which we live and work. We invest in opportunities that retain and attract businesses, stimulate local economies, encourage workforce readiness, provide access to opportunities for all ages and backgrounds and basic needs that help people contribute to society.

Examples of programs to be considered:

- **Basic Needs** – While broad in nature, priority in this area will be given to agencies and programs that are innovative and address a myriad of issues that plague our residents in vulnerable conditions. We will also consider social service, disaster and emergency relief, safety and basic children and family support programs as part of this category.



- **Workforce & Career Readiness**
 - ***Workforce recruitment and retention.*** Programs to encourage development and retention of workforce, especially in areas trying to expand business recruitment.
 - ***Career skills and training.*** Programs that help cultivate our future workforce. Priority will be given to programs tailored to utility-related careers and efforts involving historically underserved populations.
- **Economic Development**
 - ***Economic Development and Access to Capital.*** New or existing projects that help prepare communities to retain, expand and attract business. This also includes programs to develop business incubators, develop small business and/or provide access to capital.
 - ***Vulnerable Communities and Customers.*** Support will be strongly considered for social service and other agencies providing holistic support to residents in our service area, with priority given to those addressing bill payment and energy savings programs.
 - ***Arts and Culture.*** Arts agencies and cultural institutions that have a proven track record to increase the economic impact of a community will be considered. Groups and facilities that prove economic impact and ROI will be given priority.

Administrative conditions

Evergy reserves the right to interpret, apply, amend, supplement or revoke, retroactively or otherwise, these guidelines at any time. Evergy may suspend or terminate the Community Giving Program at any time. Evergy also reserves the right to determine whether an organization qualifies for a donation and not to provide a donation to any organization that it may determine in its sole discretion is not an appropriate recipient for charitable funds and/or that violates these guidelines. Evergy reserves the right to grant or deny an organization's participation at any time, for any reason. Decisions of Evergy regarding the interpretation and administration of these guidelines and the eligibility of organizations or gifts are final and are not subject to further review.