

# 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 the area of 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. We want to shift from traditional, reactive charitable support to a program that is 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 were also built upon best practices and 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:***

- **Conservation.** Programs, education, and events that raise awareness, encourage and or put in place, measures to conserve, beautify, and regenerate our natural resources.
- **Energy Efficiency.** Programs that raise awareness, encourage, and help put in place Energy efficiency tools and related efforts like weatherization. Special priority will be given to programs that target underserved populations and communities.
- **Air and Water.** Programs and educational efforts that help maintain clean and quality water and air.
- **Trees.** Programs that promote education on and execution of placing trees in proper areas for energy efficiency, beautification and clean air.
- **Transportation.** Electric Vehicle education and promotion programs and efforts that encourage the electrification of transportation.
- **Education.** Targeted educational programs that are designed to promote sustainable energy practices and new technologies in the renewable energy sector.

**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:***

- **Economic Development.** New or existing projects that help prepare communities to retain, expand and attract business.
- **Arts.** Arts agencies and facilities that have proven to increase the economic impact of a community. Groups and facilities that can prove the tourism draw and an economic ROI will be given priority.
- **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.** Programs and policies that are proven to move the dial on equity issues affecting underserved people/communities fall into this category.
- **Entrepreneurship.** Programs that help stimulate economies through incubators or foster business development and work to lower barriers to business.



- **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.
- **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 communities and our citizens and prevent them from becoming producing citizens of our community. We will also consider social service, utility assistance programs, disaster relief, safety and basic children and family support programs as part of this category.

### **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.