Solar Panel Installer

You started your solar panel installation business three years ago and tax incentives and concerns about energy costs are helping your business grow.

You appreciate the new energy that small businesses like yours are bringing to your community, although you are worried about whether these businesses will be able to survive long-term. You would like to see additional outdoor recreation options and support increasing funding for maintaining local ecosystems.

You are member of your community center and enjoy local art and music events.

Teacher

You have been a teacher at the local middle school for five years. You teach social studies and math and lead an environmental club after school.

You are concerned about friction that you see in your community between longtime residents of the community and those who arrived more recently. You have noticed that while there is increasing support for more environmentally-friendly initiatives in your community, there are also those who view those as unwelcome changes.

You have young children of your own and you are concerned with raising them to be caring and involved members of your community.
Wildlife Manager

You moved to the community after college and have spent the last few years helping to monitor and protect animals in the local forests and waterways.

You are concerned about the changes that you have seen in river and lake levels as well as the changes in animal migration patterns. Hunting success rates are decreasing as increased outdoor recreation, wildfire and drought are putting pressure on local game populations. Hunting is a major source of tourism income locally, and you are responsible for maintaining healthy game populations.

You also are also concerned about the whether changes in the forest ecosystems are going to force additional protections that would limit hunting, fishing and other recreation on these important public lands.

High School Student

As a lifelong member of the community, you care very much about it. You are especially like that new public art initiatives make your town a more beautiful and welcoming place. You also like the new businesses that have opened recently.

You are concerned about whether your town will be a place where you will be able to find work in the future since so many local jobs are being threatened by climate change effects. You would like to return to the community after college, but you are worried that the local economy might not remain strong if fires and drought conditions become more frequent.

You play sports through school and have noticed that your outdoor practices are increasingly effected by extreme temperatures.
Water Commissioner

Although you grew up in a neighboring town, your job with the water utility company brought you to this town and now you fulfill the job of helping to allocate water for your region.

You are concerned about the future availability of water to meet the needs of the different parts of your community. You have seen how shortages in recent years have caused economic and social hardship for those in your town.

You have adult children who are teachers in town and you are concerned about whether they will continue to have jobs in the future if farming families are forced to move away.

Healthcare Case Manager

You are a member of the community who also works closely with other communities to coordinate access to the limited health resources in your area.

You are concerned about the increases in the number of people affected by respiratory and heat-related illnesses as well as the difficulty of attracting healthcare professionals to this area to meet the needs of rural patients.

You also enjoy own a vacation rental property and are interested in increasing tourism opportunities in your community.
Emergency Manager

You have been a member of this community for five years, having started out as a volunteer fire fighter and now coordinate fire fighting efforts among networks of emergency responders across the region.

You have seen an increase in the frequency of wildfires in the last decade as well as increases in drought leading to fires and then to flooding. You are concerned about dealing with increasingly costly events with your limited budget.

You also care deeply about protecting natural areas and are alarmed by the devastation that drought and high temperatures are bringing to local forests.

Mayor

Your family has been part of the community since your parents brought you as a child. You grew up here and are now helping your children to raise your grandchildren in this town.

You are concerned that increasingly scarce resources such as water are causing tension in your community that is making it hard to find agreement about how to tackle the difficult problems that climate change is causing. You work hard to balance the needs of farming and ranching families with those of newer residents who are bringing new life and energy to the community.

You are also concerned about planning for your town’s social responsibilities to education and health care.
Large Animal Veterinarian

You are a person who has lived in your community for four generations and you grew up helping your parents and grandparents with their ranch. You decided to become a veterinarian so you could help ranchers in your community.

You are concerned about the availability of quality pasture in your community, as you see the consequences of drought with the families you help. You know that there are new water-saving measures being proposed, but that those will require cutbacks from everyone.

You also help out with the local 4H club and help nurture the next generation of ranchers in your community.

Feed Store Owner

Your store is the heart of the farming and ranching community in your town. You provide supplies and advice as well as a space for social gatherings. Your store is a critical community hub.

You are concerned about the farming and ranching families in your community and the hardships that they face when water supplies are low and heat waves strike. You want to do what you can to ensure that this community can continue to support these farms in the future.

In addition to your store, you also give time to veterans groups and help out with events for ranchers and farmers in the community.
Outdoor Adventure Company Owner

You grew up in this community, exploring the local outdoor adventures with your family. You are concerned about the effects of climate change on the natural areas and resources that your company provides access to. Increases in drought and wildfire have led to decreases in business for you in recent years. You also are an active member of your local school board and you are concerned about the quality of education in your community.

Conservation Biologist

You have been a member of the community for five years, having moved here to work with a non-profit company dedicated to protecting local natural areas. You are concerned about the changes you see in populations of wildlife and plants. The increases in frequency of drought and fire are having negative impacts on the number and health of many species. Your spouse is part of the local arts community, and you also care about having a strong economy in the community to support artist and a diverse community.
Hardware Store Owner
You are a person who has lived in your community for three generations and you grew up helping your parents and grandparents with your store.

You are concerned about the number of people moving out of your community due to the increasingly hot summers and severe winter storms, as well as decreases in tourism that brings customers to your store.

You also are an active member of your church and volunteer with the local firefighters.

Healthcare Professional
You moved to this community a year ago to fill a position with the local clinic, and you came with your spouse and children.

You are concerned about the number of people affected with environmentally-related illnesses: heatstroke, asthma, dehydration. You worry about the future health of vulnerable people in your community.

You also enjoy outdoor activities in your community and love getting into the wilderness for long weekends with your family.
Landscape Professional

You run a landscaping company and you and your small team work with local homeowners and businesses to care for their yards.

You have been trying to convince your clients to plant drought-tolerant species, but you are concerned about how common hot and dry conditions are becoming during the summers.

Your team also includes many seasonal workers and the housing and cost-of-living increases in your community are making it hard for you to keep your team together.

Gas Pipeline Technician

You and your spouse have lived in the community for ten years. You both work for a company that is building and maintaining gas pipelines across the state.

You are concerned about the local economy and whether people in the community will continue to find good-paying jobs like yours.

You also worry about how increases in days of extreme hot and dry weather as well as winter storms are affecting older people in your community. You had planned to bring your parents out to live in your community, but know that the dry climate would be hard for them.
Homeowner
(new to community)

Your spouse took a new job in this community and you moved here six months ago with your family. You are concerned about the future of your community and the availability of schools, hospitals and jobs for your family. You want to become more of a part of the community, and plan on looking for volunteer and social events to become more engaged.

Your hobbies include spending time outdoors hiking and biking with your family.

Homeowner
(with historic connection to community)

Your grandparents and great-grandparents were part of this community, and you have deep connections with the people who live here. You are concerned about how the community is changing with traditional jobs like farming and ranching being less important and more tech and tourism-related jobs becoming common.

Some members of your family are requiring more health services as they get older, and you are concerned about the availability of medical facilities.
Air Quality Specialist

You are a person who lives in the community, but regularly travels for work to other communities in Colorado.

You are concerned about how the increases in drought and heatwaves are negatively affecting the quality of air and water. You have seen how dust and ash from fires are often present during the summers, even when the wildfires are far away.

You also work with local health care providers to monitor and anticipate air quality decreases that would harm people with respiratory conditions.

Cattle Rancher

You have been part of this community for seven years, having moved here when you bought a ranch. You and your spouse have two children who help out around the ranch.

You are concerned about both the current difficult conditions on your ranch and the potential for your ranch to support your children in the future. Several times in the past few years you have had to sell off cattle early because you didn’t have water to support their pastures.

You also enjoy fishing and are concerned about the changes in river levels and low fish populations in drought years.
Small Farmer

Your farm was started by your grandparents and you still maintain the land in the traditions that they did, although you use modern farming practices and pay attention to advances in farming science.

You are concerned that climate change will make your farm less competitive against large corporate farms.

You also coach soccer for local kids and volunteer time to help with a community garden.

Regional Farm Manager

Although you don’t live in the community, you travel to it regularly and have many long-standing relationships with local farming families.

You are concerned that restrictions on water use will increase costs for your farmers that will hurt them on the international market, where most of your products are sold. You are also interested in increasing efficiency for your farmers and would support infrastructure projects that could move water to your farms more directly and with less waste.
Extension Agent

Your work in the region brings you to the community regularly and you have helped many local farming families to address concerns about their farms.

You closely follow current agricultural research and climate modeling forecasts. You are concerned that many farms and ranches in the area will not be able to afford the technology and water resources necessary to survive in the coming decades.

You support a diverse regional crop base and would like to see local farms experiment with more crops that might be more drought resistant but worry that uncertainty about the future will make them hesitant to do so.

Organic Farmer

You come from a farming family of long-standing in the community, but have decided to branch into organic farming to meet demand from local restaurants trying to provide organic options.

You are concerned about water availability for your small farm, but also about having enough available laborers in the community to meet your needs. Prices for homes and land continues to increase and housing for workers is becoming scarce.

You hope to start a family in the next few years, but need to be sure of the success of your farm’s business future first.
Technology Professional

You have lived in the community for two years. When you first moved to town, you worked for the local restaurants, but have now completed an online degree and work remotely for a large technology company.

You are concerned about the lack of affordable housing in your community. You now have your own home, but struggled to find an apartment when you first moved to the community. You see your friends and other young adults struggling with the same issues.

You also care deeply about hiking and camping in the nearby wilderness areas and want to see them preserved and protected in the future.

Firefighter

You have been a volunteer firefighter for the community and the local wildland fires for three years.

You are concerned about the long-term trends that are projected for increases in drought and fire conditions for your region. Your position requires that you take long breaks from firefighting for damage to your lungs to heal, and with longer fire seasons, you are beginning to see respiratory effects in your lungs and in the lungs of other firefighters.

You also work in the local health clinic as an Emergency Medical Technician and have noticed that health effects from both winter and summer storms are increasing for people in your community.