



# Loveland seeks homelessness solutions

## *City and community partners explore new options to address local homeless*

Mirroring trends at the national and regional levels, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness is rising in Loveland. An estimated 125-150 people were living without shelter in the city toward the end of 2020.

Like many Front Range communities, Loveland is working to navigate solutions through a Continuum of Care model. The City and partners provide shelter, supportive housing, and affordable housing to community members in need. Loveland's affordable housing program is robust, allocating more than \$3.4 million in City funds for fee waivers to build affordable units over the past three years. Even with this affordable housing investment, the needs of those without shelter continue to grow.

### Did You Know?

Livability is one of eight focus areas in the City's Strategic Plan and means that all people in our community have shelter and access to opportunities and experiences that enrich their lives.

### Current City efforts

While the rise in homelessness remains a challenge for many communities, the associated health, safety, legal, and financial implications have guided Loveland's response.

### Addressing unauthorized encampments

Since 2018, Loveland has managed health and safety conditions for unauthorized sites and the public through its Encampment Clean-up Program. The City monitors these encampments using a tiered system to track cleanliness and potential risk. Hazardous items, including fire-starting materials, human waste, discarded items, and drug paraphernalia are removed regularly. This process requires weekly staff and contractor visits, costing about \$70,000 annually.

Loveland's clean-up program ensures that the City manages unauthorized encampments lawfully. Recent encampment court cases have focused on the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. This has largely prevented the government from criminally citing someone for sleeping on public property if they have nowhere else to go. Absent a fully-operational homeless shelter and accessible storage units for personal belongings, strict encampment enforcement could put the City at risk. Current CDC COVID-19 restrictions also state that camps shouldn't be removed unless absolutely necessary to limit the spread of the virus.



A tent sits among the grass at King's Crossing Natural Area, currently Loveland's largest unauthorized encampment area.

### Shelter

In 2021, the City began funding a nightly winter shelter costing about \$200,000 to operate from November to March. The shelter is open from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. at 137 S. Lincoln Ave. and can accommodate a maximum of 22 people. With its shelter filling up nightly, the City is exploring church partnerships to add more rotating emergency nightly shelter space. The House of Neighborly Services offers a day center on a first-come, first-served basis where residents in need can access showers, laundry, and other services.

### On the horizon

A comprehensive approach to combatting homelessness is coming as the City works with Homeward Alliance to develop its first homeless strategic plan. This plan, coupled with the City's partnership with Archdiocesan Housing to build St. Valentine Apartments, the first large-scale supportive housing development for unhoused individuals in Loveland, is a bright spot for the future.

"While we have some measures in place now, we are taking a more comprehensive look at every viable angle to avoid displacing some of our community's most vulnerable individuals while also better protecting our residents' access to safe, clean public spaces," said City Manager Steve Adams. "It is truly a complex issue to solve and requires many partners and resources to identify what is best for Loveland. We recognize that this is a difficult topic for our residents and are excited to continue working on policy direction with our city council."

### Be Part of the Solution

The City has launched a webpage to focus on homelessness in Loveland. Find FAQs, opportunities to ask questions, how to notify us of issues and more.

[lov.gov.org/homelessness](https://lov.gov.org/homelessness)



# Pulse celebrates 2021 accomplishments, looks ahead to 2022

2021 was a heckuva year for your community-owned, 100% fiber-optic Internet, Voice, and Television service provider!

In June, network construction crews hit one million feet of boring! That's about the distance between Loveland and the Great Sand Dunes in southern Colorado. Over the summer, Pulse successfully partnered with the Federal Government's Emergency Broadband Benefit program to deliver financial relief for connectivity to households in need. Also, with Thompson School District and a grant received from the State of Colorado, the utility built infrastructure and began service for one of the most underserved groups of students in the community.

All the while, the project has stayed on schedule and on budget - and every day new subscribers are opting in to enjoy the most reliable, robust Internet, Voice, and Television services they've ever enjoyed. You can see what the community is saying at: [LovelandPulse.com/NextDoorReviews](https://www.LovelandPulse.com/NextDoorReviews).

In the New Year, keep an eye out for service in many more areas of town, increased product offerings, visiting with us at events, and more. Stay in touch with us by joining our Early Interest list at: [LovelandPulse.com/EarlyInterest](https://www.LovelandPulse.com/EarlyInterest).

It's hard to contain our enthusiasm about the rollout of this important utility - and we're so excited about what 2022 (and beyond!) will bring for our community!

PulseTV is now live - and Lovelanders in Pulse-serviceable areas can sign up for service online at [LovelandPulse.com/GetMyGig](https://www.LovelandPulse.com/GetMyGig).

PulseTV came to life in October, which allowed residents in serviceable areas to finally make the switch they've been waiting for. November 2021 marked the half-way point of core network construction, and saw the launch of the online check availability and sign up tool, found at: [LovelandPulse.com/GetMyGig](https://www.LovelandPulse.com/GetMyGig).



The Pulse team enjoyed the 2021 Corn Roast Parade, and distributed almost 700 award-winning Pulse-in-Progress coloring books to Loveland kiddos.

## Order Your Valentine Yard Heart

Loveland Parks & Recreation wants to make Valentine's Day as sweet as candy by bringing fun to residents. Surprise someone you love by having heart art delivered to their yard. Heart art starts at \$30 with different packages available. Delivery or pick-up is available. Visit [lovgov.org/webtrac](https://www.lovgov.org/webtrac) keyword search LOVE.



## Celebrate Black History Month

February is Black History Month, dedicated to celebrating the achievements of African Americans. All month long the Loveland Public Library has special events for all ages including presentations by outstanding guests, activity kits, food-related activities, special storytimes and more. Come honor Black history with the library!



**FEBRUARY 11 & 12**

**LOVELAND Sweetheart Festival**  
LOVE LOCKS & LIGHTS

[VISITLOVELAND.COM/VALENTINES](https://www.VisitLoveland.com/Valentines)

The **EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT** is now the **AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM**

You may be eligible for discounted Pulse broadband service!  
Get the details at 970-541-4990 or [www.LovelandPulse.com/ACP](https://www.LovelandPulse.com/ACP)

City of **LOVELAND** PARKS & RECREATION **AGE 14+**

**SUMMER JOB FAIR**

**SAT, FEB 19 10A - 12P**

CHILSON RECREATION CENTER  
700 E. FOURTH ST., LOVELAND

**APPLY ONSITE!**

- SPECIAL EVENTS
- SUMMER CAMPS
- CONCESSIONS
- GUEST SERVICES
- AQUATICS
- ATHLETICS
- GOLF
- PARKS

**MORE INFO: [lovgov.org/jobs](https://www.lovgov.org/jobs)**

City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. City Update is also available on the City's website at [www.lovgov.org/cityupdate](https://www.lovgov.org/cityupdate). Your comments are welcome. Please call (970) 962-2302, or email [oce@cityofloveland.org](mailto:oce@cityofloveland.org). The City of Loveland is committed to providing equal opportunity and does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender. The City will make reasonable accommodations for citizens in accordance with the ADA. For questions, please call (970) 962-3319.



# WELCOME! LWP ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR



The City of Loveland hired expert utility professional Kevin Gertig as Loveland Water and Power’s (LWP) new director. Kevin brings over 40 years of utility experience to this role, having previously held 10 different positions covering a broad cross-section of the utility industry. Gertig assumed the duties of director on Saturday, November 13.

“Kevin brings extensive leadership skills, applied technical experience, and a strong environmental and regulatory background to the director role, which are necessary to solve the complex issues that surround our utilities,” said Loveland City Manager Steve Adams. “We are honored to have him serve the City in this role and continue LWP’s strong leadership to fulfill a critical function for the community.”

Most recently, Gertig worked as the senior project manager leading the City’s new Customer Information System implementation. His background in utilities

includes extensive experience in utility management, applied research, design build, operations and maintenance, utility finance, drinking water quality and process control analytical capabilities.

“I am delighted to grow my involvement with the City of Loveland and such a dedicated and professional group of utility employees. Together, I look forward to achieving our vision of providing reliable, resilient, and responsive utility services for the community now and into the future,” said Gertig.

Gertig oversees the work of LWP, including short and long-range planning, coordination with the City Manager’s Office and city council and the work of more than 170 employees that keep Loveland’s water, power, wastewater and broadband utilities running safely.

Gertig takes the helm as Joe Bernosky, the City’s former water and power director, retires. Bernosky led LWP for four years as the department successfully completed large-scale projects, including the water reclamation facility expansion, participation in the financing and initiation of construction of Chimney Hollow Reservoir, Circuit 911 power upgrades to the Big Thompson Canyon and the creation of Loveland’s newest utility, Loveland Pulse.

## TAKE CONTROL OF HIGH UTILITY BILLS...



LARIMER COUNTY  
**CONSERVATION  
CORPS**

SIGN UP FOR A

### FREE HOME EFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

through Larimer County Conservation Corps today!



A team of Corps members will:

- Conduct an inspection of your home’s insulation, appliances, windows, toilets and heating/cooling system.
- Install efficiency measures based on your home’s needs including, LED light bulbs, water-efficient showerheads, smart thermostats and high-efficiency toilets.
- Educate you about water and energy efficiency practices and services

visit [larimerworkforce.org/energy](http://larimerworkforce.org/energy) or call **970-498-6660**

200 WEST OAK STREET, SUITE 5000 | FORT COLLINS, CO 80521

*This limited-time offer is only available January through May.* \*Must be a Loveland Water and Power utility customer to qualify



## UTILITY NEWS



Loveland Water and Power

**MAIN SWITCHBOARD**  
**970-962-3000**

**UTILITY BILLING**  
**970-962-2111**



visit us online... [lovelandwaterandpower.org](http://lovelandwaterandpower.org)

Since 2012, average electric use per person had gone down by 8.3%

How has this helped Loveland?



Saved customers money on their utility bill

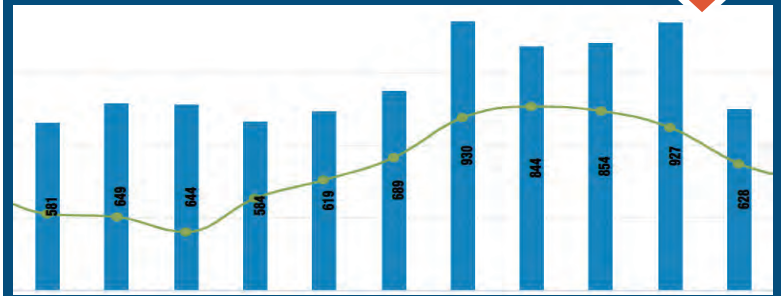


Reduced the community's carbon footprint



Delayed capital costs for infrastructure improvements

## VIEW YOUR WATER AND ELECTRIC CONSUMPTION ONLINE!



With the My Account portal, you have the tools to compare your utility usage month-by-month and year over year. Use the temperature and precipitation toggles to discover how weather is impacting your bill. Plus get access to digital copies of your bill!

With the My Account portal, you're in control of your utilities.

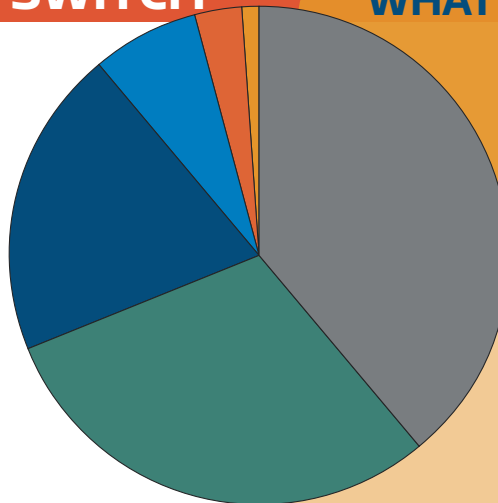
Create an account today at [MyAccount.lovgov.org](http://MyAccount.lovgov.org)

## FROM SOURCE TO SWITCH

Loveland Water and Power provides more than 35,000 homes and businesses with affordable, reliable electric service.

Do you know how electricity reaches the 74 square miles of Loveland territory?

The electricity that powers your home comes from wind, solar, hydro, natural gas and coal produced in several locations that travels over more than 6,700 miles of power lines.



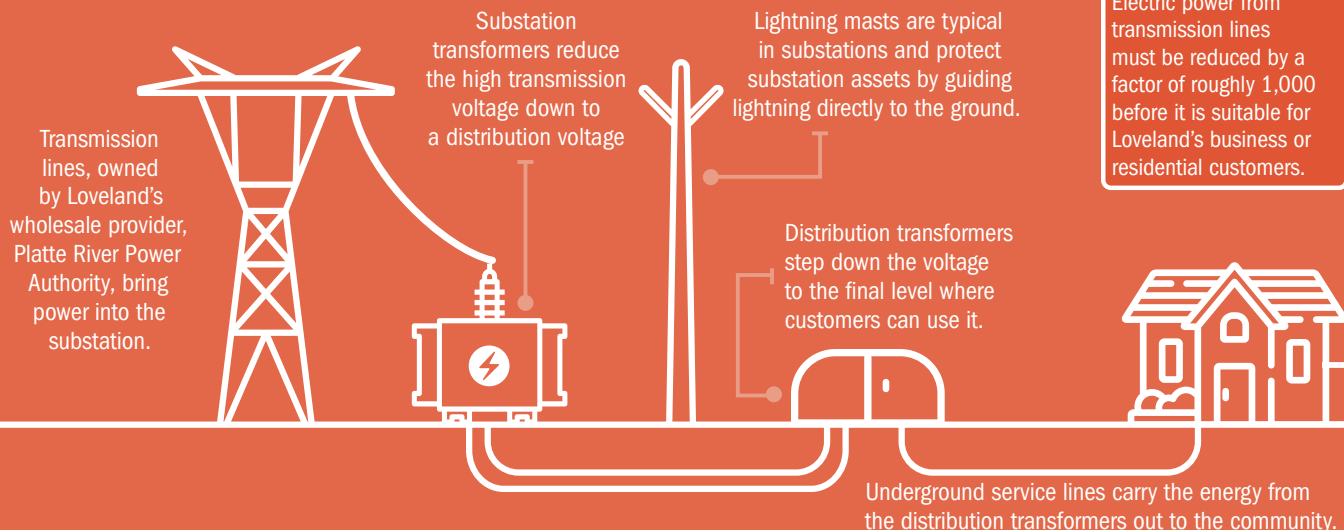
## WHAT POWERS LOVELAND?

Platte River Power Authority, a not-for-profit and community-owned public power utility, generates and delivers power to Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland

### PRPA ENERGY GENERATION PORTFOLIO 2021

- 39% COAL**
- 30% WIND**
- 20% HYDROPOWER**
- 7% PURCHASES/OTHER**
- 3% SOLAR**
- 1% NATURAL GAS**

## THE TRANSMISSION OF POWER



THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD IN LOVELAND USES ABOUT 700 KWH PER MONTH.

Learn more about your utilities at [lovelandwaterandpower.org/about-us](http://lovelandwaterandpower.org/about-us)