

POPULUS

DENVER

Populus Denver Announces Drylands Agroecology Research, Denver Urban Gardens and Colorado Grain Chain as H1 2026 Recipients of the Populus Stewardship Grant

Carbon Positive Hotel Awards Funding to Colorado Environmental Organizations Through its Biannual Stewardship Grant Program

DENVER (August 2026) – [Populus Denver](#), a carbon positive hotel that celebrates and protects the natural world, is pleased to announce [Drylands Agroecology Research](#) (Longmont, Colo.), [Denver Urban Gardens](#) (Denver) and [Colorado Grain Chain](#) (Longmont, Colo.) as the H1 2026 recipients of the Populus Denver Stewardship Grant. Launched in 2025, the [Populus Denver Stewardship Grant](#) is an ongoing philanthropic initiative that commits 1% of the hotel's topline revenue to supporting people and projects advancing environmental stewardship across forests, food systems, built environments, and communities throughout the greater Denver and Mountain West region.

Through its biannual, employee-led grant cycle, Populus Denver team members reviewed applications submitted by regional environmental organizations and voted to select recipients whose work resonates with them most. The process reflects Populus Denver's commitment to increasing team agency and fostering a culture of environmental stewardship by empowering employees to play an active role in directing the hotel's philanthropic impact. The H1 2026 recipients will receive funding to advance initiatives that strengthen ecosystems, expand access to fresh food, and promote regenerative agricultural practices throughout Colorado.

The biannual grant process is one of two complementary funding tracks, alongside the year-long Stewardship Partner initiative, which was introduced earlier this year with the selection of [Wildlands Restoration Volunteers](#) as Populus Denver's inaugural partner.

"We are incredibly proud to continue building on the Populus Denver Stewardship Grant as a pillar of our commitment to the environment and our community," said Jon Buerge, Chief Executive Officer of Urban Villages, creator of Populus Hotels. "Having already supported impactful organizations across Colorado, we remain dedicated to deepening our investment in the land and the people working to protect it. Each of the selected organizations represents innovative approaches to environmental stewardship, and we are honored to help advance their work."

Receiving the highest number of employee votes, Drylands Agroecology Research (DAR) was selected for its Soil Water Stewardship Pilot, a three-year initiative designed to improve soil health and water retention on Colorado farms through regenerative practices including terracing, swale construction, agroforestry, and rotational grazing. Stewardship Grant

funding will support the program's first year, helping to increase climate resilience, improve soil water retention, and reduce irrigation needs for Colorado producers.

Denver Urban Gardens (DUG), which has spent more than 50 years cultivating community gardens and food forests across Denver, was selected to support the creation of a new food forest at the Clayton Early Learning Center. Last year, the organization grew more than 650,000 pounds of food through its network of gardens and orchards, all of which was donated to help address food insecurity while expanding access to fresh, culturally relevant produce throughout the city.

Colorado Grain Chain (CGC) was selected for its work advancing regenerative, locally grown grains as the foundation of a more resilient regional food system. The organization connects Colorado farmers producing climate-smart grains with regional markets, creating new opportunities for producers while increasing consumer access to locally grown products. Grant funding will support the production of a documentary film highlighting regenerative grain systems and their role in strengthening Colorado's agricultural communities and long-term food resilience.

The H1 2026 recipients represent the continued impact of the Populus Denver Stewardship Grant, which has supported organizations including [Manna](#), [SustainEd](#) and [Cal-Wood Education Center](#) in advancing conservation, environmental education and regenerative food systems across Colorado. Following the program's success in Denver, the Populus Stewardship Grant has expanded to [Populus Seattle](#) as part of Populus Hotels' broader commitment to putting the health of the planet first.

Across the collection, sustainability initiatives include sequestering more carbon than the hotels emit over their lifecycles, operating on 100% renewable electricity, planting a tree for every night's stay through the One Night, One Tree program, offering low-waste dining concepts, and creating guest experiences that foster a deeper connection to the natural world.

To apply and learn more about the Populus Denver Stewardship Grant, please visit <https://populusdenver.com/grant/>. For more information about Populus Denver, please visit www.populusdenver.com or follow along at [@Populus_Denver](#).

ABOUT POPULUS HOTELS

Populus Hotels is a collection of carbon positive hotels centered around a deep and authentic reverence for the natural world. Each hotel is designed to reflect and celebrate the region's locale and natural beauty, while serving as a new benchmark for environmentally forward hospitality. All Populus Hotels sequester more carbon than they emit throughout their lifecycle, use 100% renewable electricity, and plant a tree for every night's stay through the One Night, One Tree Program, allowing guests to effortlessly experience responsible hospitality. Populus Hotels is owned and created by Urban Villages, a leading developer and environmental steward. Populus Hotels is comprised of the award-winning Populus Denver and Populus Seattle. For more information, visit www.urban-villages.com.

ABOUT CRESCENT HOTELS & RESORTS

Crescent Hotels & Resorts is an award-winning hotel management company known for

operating exceptional hotels, resorts, and food & beverage experiences across the United States and Canada. With over 120 properties, Crescent specializes in upper-upscale, luxury, independent, and lifestyle hospitality, including destination resorts and acclaimed restaurant concepts.

Crescent is among a select group of management companies approved to operate luxury and upper-upscale properties across the Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, and IHG brand families, complemented by its independent and lifestyle portfolio through the Latitudes Collection. Crescent's clients include leading REITs, private equity firms, and major developers. Learn more at [Crescent Hotels & Resorts](#) and [Latitudes Collection](#) or connect with Crescent on [LinkedIn](#).

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