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City of Craig, Colorado  
300 W 4th Street  
Craig, Colorado 81625

Dear Peter Brixius, Shannon Scott, Marlin Eckhoff, Melanie Kilpatrick:

**Congratulations** – you are being awarded the **Western Planner 2024: Rural Innovation Award** for your work planning for a coal transition and revitalizing Craig. This award recognizes the innovative work of smaller cities and towns. The challenges facing smaller towns are no less complicated than those in urban areas, and those working to address them are no less creative.

The awards will be handed out at the 2024 WYOPASS/WP Conference, which will be held August 6-9 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The awards event is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7th and will take place during the Evening Reception at the Cheyenne Botanical Gardens. We sincerely hope that you and members of your team can be present for the awards ceremony so you can receive the recognition you deserve.

I would like to ask you to please let me know if members of your team will be attending the conference or not, and if not, is there someone else who will be present to accept the award for you. If you are unable to attend the conference, please provide me with a mailing address so we can ensure that you receive the award after the conclusion of the conference.

Also, our Fall Issue of the WP Journal will be our “conference highlight” issue and it would be wonderful if you would consider submitting an article about your team or their work. For article information please check out our website: <https://www.westernplanner.org/submitting-articles>.

Moving forward, we hope that you will continue your association with Western Planner and, in the coming years, nominate other individuals (or projects) that are working hard to build up the communities of the West.

Again, congratulations and we hope to see you in Cheyenne, Wyoming in August!

Sincerely,

*Loras Rauch, AICP*

President, Western Planner