



## GreenCO 2025 Legislative Priorities

### **Pesticide Legislation Overview for the 2025 Session**

- The pesticide issue has been a recurring topic in recent legislative sessions, and 2025 will be no exception. GreenCO will remain proactive and committed to:
- Support common-sense legislation that maintains state preemption and aligns with industry best practices while opposing any efforts to shift pesticide regulation to local control.
- Reject non-research-based bans on pesticides.
- Closely monitoring and oppose any initiatives that increase regulatory burdens related to pesticide use.
- Educating the General Assembly about the importance and safe use of pesticides.
- Continue to collaborate with larger coalitions and like-minded organizations to advocate for balanced pesticide legislation.

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### **Industry Regulations and Business Practices**

- Continue working with state agencies, legislators, and stakeholders to resolve the Backflow Prevention issue. Support legislation developed in the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee during the interim.
- Policy Incentives: Advocate for incentives over mandates when shaping green industry policies.
- Construction and Contractor Protections: Support efforts to reintroduce construction defect legislation in 2025 to reduce overall construction costs and promote affordable housing solutions. Endorse measures that provide enhanced liability protections for contractors and collaborate with business coalitions to address any arbitration-related legislation introduced in the upcoming session, ensuring fair and balanced outcomes for the green industry and construction sectors.
- Wage Issues: Monitor legislation that deals with minimum wage, wage protection, and wage theft, ensuring fair practices for both employers and employees.
- Tax Expenditures: Vigilantly track any proposed cuts to business tax expenditures.
- Worker's Compensation: Stay engaged with any legislation related to worker's compensation and its potential industry impacts.

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### **Water Policy**

- Legislative Engagement: Continue educating and collaborating with legislators, state agencies and stakeholders on water-related policies affecting the industry. Recent legislation, including turf

#### **GreenCO Member Associations**

ASLA Colorado • Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado • Colorado Nursery & Greenhouse Association • Colorado Arborists and Lawn Care Professionals • Garden Centers of Colorado • International Society of Arboriculture, Rocky Mountain Chapter • Rocky Mountain Sod Growers Association

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replacement programs and technology mandates (including new irrigation regulations), will remain focal points.

- Best Management Practices (BMPs): Promote awareness of GreenCO BMPs and highlight the environmental and economic benefits of landscaping in Colorado.
- Drought Response: Partner with state agencies and the General Assembly to address ongoing drought conditions/issues.
  - Build coalitions with businesses and like-minded organizations to tackle drought-related challenges.
  - Serve as a resource for legislators and officials, offering solutions to mitigate drought impacts.

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### **Infrastructure Funding**

- Legislative Support: Advocate for continued funding to address and improve Colorado's infrastructure.
- Budget Monitoring: Closely track state budget developments and proposed infrastructure-related legislation.

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### **Sales & Use Tax**

- Legislative Oversight: Monitor all sales and use tax legislation, including proposals from the Sales & Use Tax Simplification Task Force.
- Task Force Participation: Maintain active participation in the Sales & Use Tax Simplification Task Force.
- Uniform Definitions: Continue to support efforts to develop a standardized set of definitions for sales and use tax across Colorado.

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### **Education & Workforce Development**

- Vocational Funding: Advocate for increased funding for vocational and adult education programs to address workforce shortages in skilled trades and technical careers.
- Employer Incentives and Job Development: Support tax credits and legislation that foster job creation in the green industry by encouraging businesses to hire K-12 students, returning military personnel, or underemployed individuals. Emphasize incentives for companies that provide training in essential skills such as irrigation, horticulture, landscape maintenance, and other technical areas crucial to sustaining a skilled workforce in the green industry.
- Guest Worker Program: Engage with the General Assembly and state agencies to explore the feasibility of a state-run guest worker program.