Eagle County Community Climate Action Plan
Summary Meeting Notes
April 18, 2016

This is the second of six stakeholder meetings to create an Eagle County community climate action plan. The focus of the plan is to recommend goals and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Eagle County.

Walking Mountains Science Center has been contracted by Eagle County to serve as convener and facilitator to shepherd a community-led climate action planning process during 2016.

Next meeting: May 23, 2016 at CMC-Edwards

Today's goals:

- Recap meeting #1
- Learn from other communities' climate action planning processes
- Introduce "wedge" concept and conduct group exercise on wedges by sector
- Begin discussion on high-level goal for CAP

Climate change in the news:
Obama Administration – Climate change impacts on public health document
Cruise ships – conducting emergency drills in Alaska
Whistler – announced $345 million investment in "weather independent activities"

Steps for creating CAP

1. Conducting baseline (Eagle County collected data)
2. Establish target – TODAY
3. Developing CAP based on target
4. Implement
5. Measure, verify, report

Recommended by IPCC: a targeted 50-80% reduction by 2050 to stay within 2 degrees

Setting nearer term goals – three types of goas:

1. Directional – no specific number target, just lower GHG emissions
2. Analytic – based on data and energy modeling (after aspirational target set)
3. Aspirational – setting specific goal (ex 50% reduction by 2050), signals desire to take action, recognizes multiple sectors have an impact/role to play. An aspirational goal will be the type of goal in the CAP.

Presentation of other towns' CAPs (overview; see PowerPoint) – Avon, Vail, Fort Collins, the Lake Tahoe Region, and Aspen

Town of Avon - Sarah's comments

- Great plan but they are not tracking for progress
- Energy efficient vehicles, energy efficient buses, heating system from water sanitation
- Change in leadership – how to keep a project going after change in leadership? How to make priority?
- New town hall and police station – great opportunities to be more efficient
- Consultant conducted CAP
- Current admin believes the kind of changes we can make are so small that we should be focusing on adaptation and mitigation
- Goals just for municipal operations (not for whole town)

Town of Vail - Kristen's comments

Sustainability plan, wider focus, created 7 years ago

- Guiding principles
    o Creating partnerships/cooperation
    o Building awareness in community
    o Plan proactively
    o Balance – Economic, Environment, Social Equity
    o Openness/accessibility
    o Responsible/accountable
    o Beneficial actions for the environment
    o Tools for stakeholders
    o Think global, act local
- Goals
    o Waste/recycling – reduce waste 10% in 5 years and 25% in 10 years. Organic materials create methane
    o 20% below 2016 by 2020
    o Maintain habitat, air/water
    o Sustainable economic dev
    o Public education/communication
    o Transportation – decrease vehicle travel 20% by 2020
- Vail's growth is hampering goals
- Comparison GHG from plowing vs snow melt? Not much reduction from taking trucks off the road
- 20% is goal for whole community, not just municipal buildings, partnership with energy companies
- Cities have an easier time setting analytic goals than counties because of control/monitoring

Ft Collins – new data

- 12% reduction in carbon in last 10 years for municipal operations, 3% reduction made by community despite growth over same period
- Concern that reduction wasn't bigger, but Ft. Collins has grown 30% in the same time period, challenge of growing community and reducing carbon foot print

- Focusing on adaptation/mitigation side, especially soil and carbon sequestration
- Group discussion on measurement framework: Town of Avon is not monitoring/measuring, emissions side has measurement tools that are consistent, co-benefits – models are proprietary/self-crafted, a consistent measurement across region is a good idea

Lake Tahoe

- Similar to Vail – diversity, congressional area, region, two sections have to report to congress, across state lines
- Webpage with tool kits, etc. that towns can use as part of regional effort, icons/easy to use webpage with ideas, resources, etc. to highlight co benefits
- Goals for NGOs, utilities, etc. and identified responsible parties
- Broken down by goals, action items, and suggestions for actions community members/organizations can take

Chris Menges– City of Aspen

- Climate mitigation department – Chris does analysis, planning, and state/federal policy
- Department established in 2004, when Aspen started mitigation
- Aspen in the process of CAP this year to rewrite plan through 2050
- Post mining economy to recreation economy, Aspen idea – balance of mind, body, spirit
- Global progressive thinkers, dynamic community
- Economy based on climate, leadership recognized need to reduce GHG
- Specific targets are good because: continuing action, low hanging fruit, guides action, firm commitment – needs ongoing firm commitment from leadership, ongoing analysis (targets guides process) makes for better implementation
- Started with directional target
- Based goals on global recommendation
- Updates on past 10 years
    o Own/operate utility company – buy wholesale energy from energy company, negotiate contacts to have renewable energy purchase, own 30% of generation (hydropower). 100% renewable.
    o Transportation fleet is all electrical, in city mobility (bike sharing, bike infrastructure)
    o 2 out of 50 on sustainability worldwide
    o Waste reduction, composting, recycling
    o Government operations – reduced 42% over last 10 years (ahead of target)
    o Community scale – reduced by 7% over last 10 years (not on target)
- Next steps
    o Forecasting scenarios with advisory council
    o If business as usual, there would be no reduction by 2050 (with growth)
    o Forecast provides gap between target emissions and projected emissions – shows what needs to be done
    o Hope to get sector specific reduction goals from key state holders
    o Each sector needs to have specific goals/targets, implementation plan by sector
    o Getting community engagement

- Create implementation plan, create draft CAP, council adoption, public/media engagement, finally – implementation. Then track/report on progress

<u>Questions for Chris</u>

- Why rewriting CAP?
  - Because we have more capacity/information than we did then. The old CAP was a list of ideas, not a full plan
- How supportive is council on budgeting CAP initiatives?
  - Very supportive council, always have bought into goals (also general community support)
  - Budget – everything has to be economically defended, Aspen has funds
  - Because own/operate facility – that portion is run like business and used for investment funds
  - General funds used for: upgrades to vehicle fleet (run through ROI analysis), gov operation has funding available to make sustainability behaviors a part of annual employee bonuses (ex $200 per year tied to specific dept sustainability goals)
  - Power supply shift – significant change in 2014 to renewables, but need a lot more

<u>The wedge concept</u> - Tool to educate community, think about process, come up with ways to reduce (see notes below from flipcharts generated during wedge exercise)

IPCC recommendation - 50%-80% by 2050

Mary Weiner – own 8% of power plant (coal), be aware of long-term contracts with Xcel that can't be changed

<u>Aspirational Goal - Discussion</u>

- 2070 – carbon neutral, 2020 – goal of % of businesses signs on to CAP (memorandum of understanding)
- Important to have number and education piece in the plan and the steps laid out for future people to be able to follow
- 80% by 2050 is asking a lot, doesn't seem realistic, haven't seen a clear path. 50% by 2050 is more realistic. 2020 – 20% 2030 – 30%
- 50% by 2050 is not urgent enough, higher goal creates more motivation
- We need to aim for where do we have to be whether or not it sounds realistic
- Align upwards with the goals of IPCC, the numbers that scientists are using, helps with education component, explains why we came up with this method.
- 80% by 2050 sounds right. Short term achievable goals are important for now. With roles/responsibilities
- Starting – 25% by 25, 50% by 40, 80% by 50 – Kristen
- Our goal could be aspirational, will change and adapt in the future, but now is the time to cause alarm and gain support.

<u>How do you feel?</u>

- Feels better to have a plan, not just a number – the wedge idea

- We need to completely change our operating, it's radical but it's what is needed. Getting the message across is important.
- Hard to change – contracts with water, energy, school districts, policy issues, etc. these things take time, question is if we can come up with a plan that is attainable and can happen over time.
- GHG emissions inventory Eagle County – motivating goal is a 30% reduction gets us in line with national average (we're higher than average).
- We have visitors that use lots of energy
- May lose audience if we make goal too high. Just not increasing is radical. More likely to happen if we're realistic, minimum of what IPCC is asking (50% by 2050). Instead of revising constantly.
- Number from IPCC gives credibility
- Ft Collins – clear plan, but they own energy facility, and don't have influx of visitors, don't have a long county to commute across
- We're not experts, we want to see research, we want a report from Mary and John-Ryan what are numbers, then a plan from the planners (big companies)
- Reality is based on perception, if you want to influence people, think about potential/possibility, not reality as it is today. Let the new *we* be what we want to be. Ex: we're going to the moon and we have no idea how to get there
- There is no right answer, what's the message you want to send to the world, we have been progressive, no one has a set answer.
- Big pledges are what makes the difference and that's where local actions matter. Local efforts are insignificant in the global scale. When you combine all the city action, it's huge, it's 75% of global energy consumption. Paris agreement is driving action.
- What if we can't achieve goals? Will public lose interest? Tricky question.

Next steps –

- Talk about ideas/options with your team/organization
- Remember we're in the midst of exploding technological advances, we can set more realistic goals for shorter, but our long term goals should grow assuming advancing tech
- Growing concern – apathy. Lots of deniers, if we make our goals too unrealistic, they'll write it off because it's unrealistic.
- Weiner – make goals so realistic that every house and business can achieve it
    o 30% by 2030, 50% by 2050
- Construction companies will right us off and be turned off
- Light technology alone can be reduced by 80% of LED. The acceleration of technology is so drastic, contract for 2045 with excel. Renewables may be more reliable, storage technology for renewables,
- First goal is to change the perception from "this is so hard" to "OK I'm on board." It doesn't matter if people aren't on board, we have to get them on board because we might not be here in 30 years
- National political conversation is not the same as local. Power in numbers, if we're aligned we'll have more success

General Suggestions

- Good to keep in the loop with what other towns are doing.
- Icons/images more attractive than text heavy document, more used by community members, graphics can be expensive, but it's more accessible and relatable
- Grant opportunities to start initiatives that make sense on an ROI basis
- Eagle County – 20% reduction in waste through recycling/composting. Have bins and no cost recycling (include it in blanket fee), market on TV to get people on board

Wedge Activity Notes

    I.   Residential Buildings

A. What is needed?
- a. Supply – clean power, utility scale, distributed
- b. Decrease demand – audits, smart meters
- c. Info and education

B. Who is the target audience?
- a. Utilities – HCE, PCO, Xcel
- b. Policy makers – PUC/RUS, state, county, municipal
- c. Consumers – willingness to pay

C. What can be achieved –
- a. Supply > demand

II. Commercial Building

A. What is needed from this sector?
- a. Better building codes
- b. Clear definition of commercial (large homes, municipal, small businesses, multifamily, etc)
- c. Priority on existing construction
- d. Getting buy in from legacy buildings
- e. Re-commissioning, HVAC, Lighting, includes controls, behavioral, education, data

B. Who is the target audience?
- a. HOA's, hospitality, industry, municipalities, lodging/tourism
- b. Government/councils

C. What can be achieved?
- a. Better access to incentives for build-purchase users
- b. Significant energy reduction
- c. Better education
- d. Data

III. Mobility

A. What is needed?

       a. Technology improvements
       b. Robust transit levels/service
       c. Convenience and accessibility for alternative transportation
       d. Compact developments, TOD's, walk/bike,
       e. Diversity of land use/housing types
       f. Telecomm uniting access/incentives

B. Target audience
       a. Public health specialists/advocates
       b. Elected officials
       c. Transit services – choice ridership
       d. Environmental health
       e. Planning – com. Dev.
       f. Private sector developers
       g. Business community
       h. Econ. Development attraction

C. What can be achieved?
       a. FT. Collings → 11% reduction
       b. Create culture
       c. EV, alt vehicles investment
       d. First/last mile mentality
       e. Lower VMT's
       f. Railway

IV. Energy Supply (renewables

A. What is needed?
       a. Continue to increase rebate money from Holy Cross
       b. Community demand for decreased coal from Holy Cross
       c. Divestment in coal, better technology (battery storage for off peak)
       d. More research into geo-thermal, hydro
       e. How to facilitate PPA's (power purchase agreement)
       f. Policy to incentivize
       g. Education
       h. Retraining coal workers for new energy jobs

B. Who is the target audience?
       a. Holy cross
       b. Xcel
       c. Business
       d. Residents
       e. Local Government

C. What can be achieved
       a. Educate constituents to drive implementation of goals

V. Waste Reduction

A. What is needed?

a. Baseline Data and projections

b. Knowledge of Infrastructure

c. Define waste

d. Understanding appetite of legislation

e. Education

B. Target audience

a. Everyone – residential, commercial, government

b. County – landfill

c. Guests

line item – blanket fee for recycling and marketing

D. What can be achieved?
   a. Can we cap the landfill now? (not wait for mandate)
   b. Increase specific waste material diversion (organics, textiles)
   c. Anaerobic Digester, waste to energy

VI. Carbon Sequestration

A. What is needed?
   a. Behavior change
   b. Technology upgrades – scrubbing
   c. Focus on biggest users and biggest potential sequestration
   d. Education
B. Target audience
   a. ROADS (CDOT, state, county, municipal
   b. Residential and commercial – land owners
   c. Power sources
   d. Public works depts., parks, resorts, gold courses, open space
   e. Policy makers, land use, codes, collaboration
C. What can be achieved?
   a. Healthy water and soil
   b. Carbon off sets
   c. Promote biological carbon sinks
   d. Incentives
   e. Connect to resources and knowledge

VII. Education

A. What is needed from this sector?
   a. Clarity – simple to more complex
   b. Transparency and awareness – public input – not "forced" on them
   c. Strategic

        d.   Consistency/continuity of message across various stakeholders

        e.   Model/identify other successful CAP's

             i.   Outside our community and within our community

B.   Who is the target audience?

        a.   Community institutions

             i.   Businesses, schools

        b.   Media

        c.   Influencers

        d.   Allow everyone to participate

C.   What can be achieved?

        a.   Educate and inform

        b.   Build public support

        c.   Action tool kit

             i.   How can the public implement actions?