

Climate Action Plan for the Eagle County Community
Stakeholders' Meeting Notes
June 26th, 2017
Colorado Mountain College, Edwards Campus, Room 249

This is the second of four stakeholder group meetings scheduled for 2017 after the completion of the "Climate Action Plan for the Eagle County Community" in December 2016. The focus of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) is to recommend goals and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout Eagle County. One of the goals of today's meeting is to establish smaller working group teams to develop short-term sector-specific project plans.

Today's Goals:

- Present and discuss Sector Working Groups' Project Plans
- Review revised purpose and roles of the stakeholder group, known as the Climate Action Collaborative (CAC)
- Review draft Letter of Commitment for the CAC
- Discuss next steps

Stakeholders' "One Minute" Updates:

- **Eagle County- Adam Palmer, John Gitchell & Ray Merry**
 - Bike to Work day this Wednesday
 - Sustainable Communities Dept - new department
 - Climate Change adaptation and mitigation
 - Goal to reduce 5% emissions per year for Eagle County operations
 - replacing lighting in 10 buildings this year
 - installing EV charge stations - Freedom Park, Eagle Park N Ride
 - \$400,000 investment in this this year
 - Waste Reduction initiative at the Eagle Rodeo
 - 6/27 Lunch & Learn on residential solar
 - Hardscrabble Ranch- trying to make sustainable, net zero ranch operations
 - Water efficiency projects based on weather at county buildings and beyond
- **Town of Gypsum- Llana Gallegos**
 - Funding to move forward with hydro plant on water treatment plant
- **Vail Honeywagon- Matt Donovan, Shawn Bruckman**
 - Compost facility underway
 - Class 3 compost facility - next spring once permitting is underway
 - Eventual set up residential compost drop sites
 - Commercial restaurants, resorts, etc. already under way
 - Soil carbon sequestration
 - Studies mimicking the first (in CA) taking place in Telluride & in Boulder County
- **Eagle River Water & Sanitation District- Brian Tracy**
 - Effort to work with Holy Cross to get all power consumption streamlined and tracked

- monthly, EV purchase and charging station
 - Desire to incorporate electric trucks into fleet
 - ERWSD and Upper Eagle Valley Water Authority adopted the CAP
- **Vail Resorts- Brian Rodine**
 - Sharing work of the CAP group with VR employee trainings
- **Town of Vail- Kristen Bertuglia**
 - CC4CA & CO Communities for Climate Action
 - Signed resolution of mayor for climate action (Paris Climate Action Agreement)
 - SOLE Power (solepower.org)
 - Electric bus grant pending
- **Walking Mountains Science Center**
 - New Actively Green video
 - WMSC adopted CAP at the Board Meeting last week
 - CO Energy Office NOT approved for additional energy funding
 - Focusing on partnerships with local municipalities; strengthening the local energy sector
- **RA Nelson- Barry Monroe**
 - Sara/Kate championed Actively Green
- **ECO Transit/Eagle County- Chris Lubbers**
 - Transportation Development Plan (regional transportation plan should be finished by early 2018)
 - Hope to start electrifying the fleet
 - Looking at forming a committee and standardizing vehicles
 - Purchased Chevy Volts and plan to purchase more EVs
 - Trail project - 7 miles between Eagle & Wolcott
 - \$2 million in GOCO funds
- **Town of Minturn- John Widerman**
 - Xcel “Partners in Energy” program underway
 - Energy Action Plan accepted and being implemented (1st stakeholder meeting in July)
 - Looking at energy use, where to improve, etc.
- **Eagle County Waste and Recycling- Jesse Masten**
 - Waste audit to come at the Eagle County landfill, RREO grant stakeholder meeting 6/28
- **Eagle River Youth Coalition**
- **Holy Cross Energy- Mary Wiener**
 - New CEO - Bryan Hannegan; Mandy Taylor is interim
 - New warehouse in Gypsum - efficiency projects
 - Chevy Bolt in fleet
- **Town of Basalt- Sarah Gruen**
 - CORE- 2018 planning underway
 - renewable energy/energy efficiency for the swimming pool
- **Town of Avon- Sarah, Preston**
 - Preston is Town staff team lead for CAP
 - Ordinance prohibiting food vendors from using polystyrene, plastic bag ban for retailers
 - Meeting in July to take action
- **Vail Valley Medical Center- Roberto Morales**
 - Working on capital funding to finish retrofitting whole structure with LEDs

- **East West Destination Hospitality - Derek Schmidt**
 - Seven Actively Green certified lodging properties all working on energy reduction etc.
 - Mass communication to all employees (500) to ask them to participate in Eagle County CAP Pledge

Compact of Colorado Communities Update (John Widerman, Minturn Town Council)

Town of Aspen hosted Compact of CO Communities

- Steve Skadron, Mayor of Aspen, spent time focusing on Climate Action issues
- Representatives of Vail, Avon, Minturn, Eagle all present
- ACCO - Assoc for Climate Change Officers - guiding the way for climate action implementation, educational efforts
 - Can get certified as a CC officer
- 9 stakeholders on CO Compact steering committee
 - Drafting charter for Compact
 - Draft of resolution and charter done by June 30th - if it holds, idea is to have communities pass by Sept. 30th (3 month window)
- Fee structure - \$800-\$5,000 depending on size of community
- Trainings through ACCO are a big part of the compact
 - Cater toward municipalities so responsibilities and efforts are spread across staff
- Plan to incorporate private businesses, special districts and others in the future
- Next steps: charter and resolution
- Could make this a parallel effort with the CAP
- Trainings for staff, information sharing, tools and support

Working Group Team Discussions—Present Project Plans for 2017

Residential Buildings (GHG Sector)

Goals for 2017

- Strengthen and grow EnergySmart CO program
 - 25% growth
 - More funding required for additional home energy assessments
 - Has been funded by snowmelt fees; Avon adopted a similar program last year
 - Further partner with municipalities, metro districts, and businesses to grow program
 - Must grow efficiency contractor base
- Efficiency first- before solar
- Use CAP pledge to engage residents
- Energy Home Score
- Better track what Eagle County is doing in residential energy use
- Initiate green building group- pull together residential building community a few times a year to

grow the base, host workshops

- 1st one the 1st week of Aug
- Minturn Planning & Zoning committee would be a good fit for this

Materials Management Task Force (Waste and Landfill GHG Sector)

- Top areas: education/outreach campaign to include PSAs
 - Need funding mechanism for that
 - Work with Education/Outreach group, but maybe go through 3rd party
 - Work with municipalities for compost pick up and drop sites
 - Making the commercial compost facility successful
 - Look at infrastructure and upgrades; there are currently no local end markets (closest is in Denver)
 - Increased participation from local entities to provide accurate data for diversion rates
 - Build relationships so the private sector knows the info will be kept confidential
 - Boost enforcement of current regulations/ordinances
- RREO grant for Eagle County
 - Waste Audit for the Eagle County landfill
 - Determine what percentage of each material is going into the waste
- Investigate textile and mattress recycling systems/facilities
- Financials
 - Estimate \$20,000 for 3rd party awareness/outreach campaign
 - Dropsites and hauling: \$15-20,000/year/site for organics collection
- Methane capture not considered at this time since we don't meet the threshold
- Look at projects for the long term - retrofitting the MRF

Transportation & Mobility (GHG Sector)

- Need to rework this section in the plan due to the lack of data availability
 - Much info was sourced from CDOT
 - Look into different ways to update emissions
 - Business fleet numbers, tank fills from gas stations
 - Group goal by end of year is to rework how to get these numbers
 - Having rail as #2 recommendation may distract from other important pieces of the transportation sector recommendations
- Private fleet level and county level doing great so far
 - Publish list of short term wins to encourage momentum
- Want to expand group and make an interagency group to further collaborate with agencies, communities, and large employers
 - ex- Vail Transportation task force meeting
- Fuel use data tough to get; need to find a better way to get this

- CDPHE doesn't require any data reporting for gas stations, etc.
- Financial
 - Development, long term regional planning
 - Reduce need for parking spaces → more eco-friendly commuting
 - Will have more concrete goals by the end 2017
- Integrated land use plan throughout the county that supports transit friendly developments could make a big difference in reducing these numbers
 - Long term goal
- Annual vehicle miles traveled recorded and available from CDOT
 - Daily vehicle miles traveled - 2.4 million miles
 - Avg of 45 miles per capita per day
 - All measurement formulas comes from the work of an international expert on this; does not calculate through traffic on I-70
- Idea: identify "top 10 commutes" and then strategize ways to reduce the emissions/travel in these focus areas
 - How many bus trips?
 - How many electric cars sold in Eagle County?
- Focus on actions rather than data to encourage more people to get out of their cars and off the road
 - We have a baseline and need a powerful approach
- **Big picture**
 - Reduce vehicle miles traveled
 - Improve vehicle efficiency - conversion to electric
 - Develop a solid land use transportation policy

Commercial & Industrial Buildings (GHG Sector)

- Benchmarking - Energy Portfolio (free EnergyStar software)
 - Some municipalities have started requiring it
 - Focus on the commercial side - lead by example with CAP members to do this with their own buildings
 - Easier to go after owner occupied buildings
 - Provide education and tools for this; HCE and Energy Smart Colorado
 - Complements Actively Green database; transfer data to get additional businesses involved
 - Simply benchmarking increases your savings

Education and Outreach (Working Group)

Goal: to communicate what is happening in the other groups throughout the community

- Greatest needs:
 - Staffing - more manpower to share this info

- grassroots efforts right now
 - Use current groups and tools to also share info about CAP
 - Make sure website is robust and up to date
 - Future goals: dedicated marketing campaign & branding
 - Have ways for individuals to track their progress and for us to share our progress on this

Discussion of Themes from Working Group Project Presentations

- What is the new transportation section going to look like? (Need an annual update to the CAP)
- Good collaboration
- Need a dedicated message (brand) that is consistent
 - Across all Eagle County municipalities
 - Identical messages across ALL entities
 - Spread message and implement without duplicating efforts; use stakeholders to share a consistent message with identical branding and goals
- Vail Daily articles, celebrate successes
 - Prioritized personal actions: here are the national news items; here are 3 things YOU can do; make involvement in the CAP realistic and achievable for individuals/residents
 - Simplify and prioritize to make goals tangible
 - Example- Roaring Fork Valley's "High 5" campaign
 - every month has a focused action to achieve, all align with one consistent overall goal
- Do we take on partners' brands or create our own Eagle Valley brand?
 - Build an email database
- More info about the High 5 campaign:
 - A social movement to build grassroots efforts
 - Taking the values the Roaring Fork Valley community identifies with and personalizing the energy goals to these values
 - Ex: Art, education (ACES), personal activism, film (environmental film festivals), podcast
 - Funding: primarily driven by Town of Aspen and CORE
 - Expanded partnerships
 - Energy Confessional - write down biggest energy "sins"

Review Revised Collaborative Purpose & Principles

Purpose, Vision, Guiding Structure and Principles to move the group of CAP stakeholders forward

Do we want the structure of the group to remain as is? What does moving from stakeholder group to a collaborative look like?

- Depends on level of staff and engagement at each municipality/large structure
- Not as much of an additional commitment level; same responsibilities, same ideas, just transitioning to the idea of a collaborative/differently structured group
- We/the CAP stakeholders should be there in parallel when AACO goes to municipalities with request for resolution and funding
- What is WMSC's role in this? If it becomes a consensus-voting entity, can WMSC even take sides as an educational organization?
- Ideas of moving toward a legal entity- we need action that we can take to move forward and do something different (more force to push this forward)
 - This comes back to economics and funding
 - Work together to take more decisive, far-reaching action
- Leaning toward option "C" - more robust funded model to reach our goals
 - Town of Avon looking at CLEER's Garfield Energy Authority as a model; want to get going; don't want to wait
 - Do we need to be a governmental entity? Can WMSC take the lead on a form of this option?
- Eagle County Gives Group as an example
 - 5 years ago at Option A, now at Option C
- Public Perception
 - Will having a more formal group show that we are more invested and serious about this?
- What resources are going to be applied to make this happen?
 - Discretionary time or dedicated staff?
 - Town of Avon - using existing staff and determining which outside entity and nonprofit will get the work done
 - every entity approached it and implements it differently
 - our role as a group is to provide tools and entity to which people can turn to implement
- Each town is different and will implement differently
 - However, it ALL falls under the CAP
 - We need a collaborative campaign to push this through with the most power
 - Each Town will work on what they want to/what is most important to them, but having a unified goal across the county with a campaign will be most successful
- Need a central website and resource where all of this is housed
- Is there an option for the philanthropists in the valley to fund Option C?
- Doesn't make sense for Eagle County to be the operating entity due to limited funds and county limitations
 - Need to go with biggest, greatest option
 - WMSC will fall short of the entity we need to spearhead this because they can't push policy; need something more formal for this
 - Timing is essential - what is the end goal? We need a place to collect dollars
 - All about protecting the values of the community at large
- WMSC could hold the torch and then pass onto an entity with the necessary weight
 - Maybe start at Option B right now and grow into Option C as we gain more financial momentum
 - Need to be able to vote on things and dedicate staff to vote on it

- On a great path, but need to transition into Option C
- Urgency is essential
 - A more structured approach could move us faster
 - Determine option in time for budgeting for 2018 - decide by this summer
- Starting with B and moving to C
 - Could potentially get more involvement if government doesn't hold this group
 - Use policy to share the CAP and initiative with the towns - influence based on community values
 - Need an outreach/education campaign to align efforts, and need a dedicated staff member for this (need to pay someone for this)
- Consider the funding mechanism of stakeholder contributions
 - Start with small amount; can't expect staff time, meeting time, and money toward CAP
- Options for setting up another umbrella/entity to work under for Option C - what does this look like?
 - Ex- CLEER nonprofit staff dedication to this (\$62K for annual project management, plus additional program funding for total annual budget of \$320K); or could hire consulting firm to operate under (ex. Brendle Group that does Xcel PIES program)
 - CORE example - contracted by the Town of Basalt
 - Where does WMSC fall into this? Currently not enough dedicated staff to meet all of the needs of the CAP
- What if we start by funding a part-time staff member at WMSC as a test drive?
 - CAP group makes policy recommendations
 - Then entities can see where more money would go and how that position could grow
 - CORE has a much different funding model than WMSC (gets money from Aspen REMP fund and gives money out as grants and rebates)
 - Having an outside entity allows change of direction very easily, more moldable to community needs
- Current purpose, roles, and values describe Option A (where the stakeholder group is now)
- Town of Avon - feels we need to go with Option C (more robust)
- Idea to get financial contribution matches for CAP marketing

Vote on Options A-C:

- Option A - 2 votes
- Option B - 7 votes
 - B is the realistic option
 - All B's want to move toward C, but not sure how to get there quickly and how to find funding
 - Need a business plan for getting there to gain funding
- Option C- 8 votes
 - Matt Donovan: environmental efforts in this valley are disjointed; EVLT, ERWC, WMSC, etc. We need a defined program - one unified entity driving environmental policy and change

What are the values of working together as a collaborative group?

What level of collaboration is needed to achieve success?

Preliminary List of Role for Collaborative Annual Outcomes:

- Consistency, coordination, and momentum
- Provide stakeholders and community with clear advice on the best climate action resources
- Support stakeholders and community with their needs related to climate action
- Maintain a central website with resources and way to participate in climate action
- Create a community-wide social movement for climate action through outreach and awareness raising activities (digital, events, trainings, speakers, arts projects, etc.)
- Maintain motivation and momentum until the GHG reduction targets are met
- Define and describe all of the above (outcomes of the collaborative) so the impact is clearly understood
- Create a business plan and budget to support the above

Final Comments:

- Propose that we meet sooner than December and take direction soon
- Have more defined options before Open House in October
 - Meet in Monday, September 11th (Changed to Sept. 18th)
- Fritz to put together a high level budget
- Kristen Bertuglia and Sarah Smith-Hymes volunteered to help with this
- The determined entity needs to become a resource clearinghouse
- “Collaborative Structure” meeting will be held as soon as possible to discuss next steps and provide recommendations during Sept. 18th meeting.