

Eagle County Community Climate Action Plan
Stakeholder Meeting Notes
June 20, 2016

This is the fourth 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.

Next meeting: August 22, 2016 at CMC-Edwards

Today's Goals:

- Work in small groups to identify GHG reduction projects by sector
 - Residential Buildings
 - Commercial Buildings
 - Mobility/Transportation
 - Energy Supply
 - Waste Reduction
 - Education
- Generate policy recommendations for elected officials and decision makers
- Set mid-term GHG reduction target(s) for Eagle County

Projects by Sector

I. Residential Buildings

a. Programs

- i. Expand Energy Smart Colorado (medium priority, local gov - leader, \$)
 1. More education on existing rebate programs
 2. Shift to performance based programs (high priority, Holy Cross Energy)
- ii. Incentives for landlords and short term rental (Air B&B) to be more efficient; for example, adding insulation and air sealing in existing homes (high priority, long-term, \$, leader – county/local gov)
- iii. Tap into Eco-Build programs or windspires for homes
- iv. LED light bulb giveaways or conversions (short term, \$\$\$)
 1. Require only LED Christmas lights; buy back of non-LED lights (\$)
- v. Multi zone split systems for efficient then electric baseboards (\$\$)
- vi. Smart sensors in homes, especially large second homes (medium priority, long-term, \$\$\$)
- vii. Evaporative cooling instead of AC (other person's concern – uses lots of water)
- viii. Demonstration homes/projects (long-term, medium priority)
- ix. Town-sponsored events that support efficiency

b. Examples

- i. Aspen – compete in energy competition (medium priority, short-term, \$)
- ii. HOA guidelines/regulations; “influencers” take over HOA’s (high priority)
- iii. Tax breaks/incentives for micro-apartments/tiny homes (high priority)
- iv. Home energy score (short term)/ Green MLS info at purchasing (medium priority; \$)
- v. Smart energy use and monitoring
- vi. Green Leasing
- vii. Boulder carbon tax (high priority, long-term). Federal level = high impact
- viii. Boulder – smart regs for people that rent out units (high priority, short term)

c. Policies

- i. Radon testing included in home inspection; mandated cost adjusted (high priority, health benefits)
- ii. No more lawns – native grasses, organic matter, xeriscaping (high priority, short-term, \$)
- iii. Tax incentives through a “general fund” (high priority)
 - 1. Second home taxes (income-based)
- iv. Eco-Build 3.0 – above 2015 IRC codes for new and existing buildings (high priority)
- v. Stringent building codes to stop jurisdictional “shopping” by contractors (high priority, short term)

II. Commercial Buildings

a. Programs

- i. Natural light modifications (high priority, short-term, \$\$)
 - 1. Dark sky compliant lighting retrofits (high priority, short term \$\$)
- ii. Vending misers on vending machine; tax unhealthy foods
- iii. More opportunities for renters to make energy recommendations to building owners
- iv. Create baseline waste and energy usage for commercial buildings/plazas
- v. Hotels energy use:
 - 1. Key card accesses all utility for each room (long-term \$\$\$)
 - 2. Occupancy sensors and systems/building automation systems (medium, \$\$\$)
 - 3. Timers on gas fire places
- vi. Commercial property assessed clean energy – rebates and assessments (high priority, short term, \$\$\$)
- vii. Actively Green – more advanced levels (high priority, short term, \$\$)
- viii. Expand Energy Smart programming to deep retrofit (beyond LED) with focus on multi-family, low-income, nursing homes etc.
- ix. Land/Planning
 - 1. Encourage gardens in all commercial buildings/more green space
 - 2. Thoughtful re-building of ‘old’ buildings
 - 3. Need for infrastructure for C&D waste (high priority)

- 4. Convert golf course “rough” into natural habitat - grass/sage brush (high priority)
 - x. Safety – food safety technology like open fridges/freezers
 - 1. Reduce use of lead ceramics to limit exposure
- b. Examples
 - i. CHP – micro grids, buildings for peak sharing/back up power
 - ii. Government leading by example (demonstration projects)
 - iii. Excel Energy – support for efficiency projects
 - iv. Boulder – engaging community building owners
 - v. Contest – awards/recognition
 - vi. Modulating technology VFD
- c. Policies
 - i. Required green laundry practices and efficient dryers and toilets (new technologies, needs research)
 - ii. Expand local mitigation programs for snow melt surfaces
 - iii. Address outdoor energy use – offset program or regulations
 - iv. Net zero building codes and certification programs
 - v. Climate Action Plan education for hotels and hotel rooms
 - vi. Annual meetings of DRB’s – exchange ideas and best practices
 - vii. Wattage limits for lighting for new/remodeled buildings and dark sky code (short term)
 - viii. Regulation – local stores only sell LED lights (medium priority)
 - ix. Regulation – strict green building codes (long-term)
 - x. Change work hours to reduce carbon footprint
 - xi. Free building phase 2 audits/recommissioning (\$)

III. Mobility/Transportation

- a. Programs
 - i. Change car culture
 - 1. Company incentives for collective transport (CME, etc)
 - 2. Telecommuting/encourage remote working (Long term)
 - ii. Look into incinerator use from airports
 - iii. Bicycle education programs (ex: learn to ride safely, bike repair classes, bike donation/earn a bike programs)
 - 1. Bicycle sharing program (\$)
 - 2. E-bikes sharing program (medium priority, \$\$)
 - iv. Complete connectivity for biking/walking between towns
 - v. Electric vehicle infrastructure and incentives (high priority)
 - 1. CNG fueling stations
 - 2. Electric buses (high priority, \$\$)
 - vi. Public rail service (\$\$\$)
 - vii. Car sharing programs (high priority)
 - viii. Carbon credit offset
 - ix. Free shared work spaces (so folks don’t have to commute across county)

b. Examples

- i. Hotels reduce consumption and therefore transportation of goods
- ii. More recycling (offsets vehicle emissions)
- iii. Buy and support local organic food (less trucks on roads)
- iv. Cycle-friendly infrastructure
- v. Healthy community index
- vi. Bustang local
- vii. Boulder – group purchasing of EV's
- viii. Denver – free bike programs
 - 1. Bike to work days
 - 2. Sole power (high priority, \$)
 - 3. Company incentives to bike to work

c. Policies

- i. TOD zoning (high priority)
- ii. Govt commit to low carbon cars/equipment
- iii. Town of Minturn – sidewalk project – possible support for project
- iv. Ride share/carpool service
- v. Charge for parking, not for riding - shaming
- vi. Disincentives per diem mileage with company travel to encourage carpooling in company vehicle
- vii. Mandatory emissions testing
 - 1. Increase MPG policies
- viii. Funding for low cost/free transit (\$\$)
 - 1. First study who uses and if this would be productive
 - 2. Funding for alternative fuels
- ix. Local, affordable housing to reduce commuting miles (High priority, \$\$)
 - 1. Moratorium on county sprawl/infrastructure extensions

IV. Energy Supply

a. Programs

- i. Earthships – net zero buildings and homes
- ii. Utility rate restructure (high priority, medium-term, \$\$\$, lead – utilities)
 - 1. Educate co-op “owners” – they hold the power to make change of utility level
 - 2. Utility scale generation – coal to natural gas plants
- iii. Fund Eco-Schools program to educate future generations
- iv. More electric vehicle charging stations (high priority, \$)
- v. Local wind resource mapping (other comment questions if it's worthwhile – studies show not a good place in the valley)
- vi. Nuclear power (\$\$\$\$)
- vii. Small hydro (long-term, low priority)
- viii. Battery improvements
- ix. Educate home owners/businesses on shutting down/unplugging when leaving home/office

- x. PSA and guides/handbooks (high priority, \$)
- xi. Carbon credits from compost facilities
- xii. Identify areas in Holy Cross/Excel area for large scale solar arrays to replace coal
- xiii. More solar/renewable infrastructure
 - 1. Solar on reservoir surfaces
- xiv. Encourage developments to install solar (high)
- xv. Geothermal
- xvi. Small solar collectors
- xvii. Efficient green roofing and native plants on landscape (high, \$)
- xviii. Smart infrastructure upgrades, battery storage
- b. Examples
 - i. Germany – solar hot water, other solar
 - ii. Nevada – solar collectives
 - iii. Aspen – 100% renewable, owns utility
 - iv. Harvest methane from landfill for fuel anaerobic digestion (high, \$\$)
 - v. Build Greenhouses/support local food (\$\$, lead – school district)
 - vi. Holland – solar panels on bike path
 - vii. Heat capture IT (\$\$, long-term)
 - viii. Helsinki – capturing ‘heat’ waste from IT rooms to capture for power
- c. Policies
 - i. Utility responsibility for energy source
 - ii. Convert coal plants to natural gas
 - iii. Climate Action Plan adoption by county/towns
 - iv. Positive house incentives – adopt net zero policies for new buildings
 - v. Make GHG practices part of consideration in awarding contracts/ new building requirements - onsite or offsets (high priority, \$)
 - vi. Giving equity checks back to Holy Cross to invest in clean power
 - vii. Rates and incentives
 - viii. Better solar lobby in congress
 - 1. Organize small community CAP’s to fund a solar lobbyist
 - ix. Reduce pesticides/fertilizers across county – reduce atmospheric off-gasing

V. Waste reduction

- a. Programs
 - i. High quality land practices – re-envisioning landscape to native/reduced water
 - ii. Urban land planning to enhance green space like green roofs (\$, high priority)
 - iii. Updated diversion plan and implementation (high priority)
 - iv. Repurpose “waste” – 12 mil value being landfilled in mountain region
 - v. Reuse construction materials (lumber) – High priority
 - 1. Responsible disposal of C&D waste

- vi. Zero waste events mandated by towns (\$)
 - vii. Waste access audit for public spaces (WMSC has this)
 - viii. Visible public recycling area, drop sites
 - ix. All schools recycle and compost (high priority, \$, short-term)
 - x. Encourage responsible purchasing
 - xi. Home/community composting
 - xii. Group for local food purchasing and educating about access and incentives to make it affordable (high priority, short term)
 - xiii. Embedded recycling
 - xiv. Infrastructure improvements for waste diversion (\$\$\$)
 - 1. Single stream at MRF (\$\$\$)
 - 2. Organic waste diversion (high priority)
 - xv. Anaerobic digestions (\$\$\$)
 - xvi. Methane capture
- b. Examples
- i. One consistent collection system throughout the county
 - ii. Community mulch and yard waste composting available to all (\$\$\$, short-term start up)
 - iii. Federal govt 50% food waste reduction by 2030
 - iv. Encourage organic farming, rotational grazing, cover crops (high priority)
 - v. Work with higher education institutes to get more studies around carbon sequestration
 - vi. More education about supply chain and encourage reduction of use
 - vii. Larimer county – methane capture (\$\$\$)
 - viii. Grand junction – waste water, methane capture, and use for vehicles (innovation)
 - ix. School field trips to landfill for every child (short-term, \$)
 - x. State solid waste plan – coming out July
 - xi. Tree planting projects in each community
- c. Policy
- i. Bottle bill
 - ii. Encourage rain catchment county-wide (\$)
 - iii. Bag ban county wide
 - iv. Local carbon offset program
 - v. Yard waste collection county wide (TOE already has)
 - vi. Commercial compost mandate
 - vii. Ban on Styrofoam
 - viii. Register pesticide users to protect organic waste
 - ix. Universal recycling ordinance
 - x. Producer partnerships for waste collection
 - xi. Hauler licensing
 - xii. Zero waste goals – require events to be zero waste (High priority, short term, \$)
 - xiii. Increase landfill surcharge (high, \$)

- xiv. Packaging policy
- xv. Methane capture and use as a fuel source (\$\$\$)
- xvi. Pay as you throw

VI. Education

a. Programs

- i. Educate on climate science – give people facts and empower them to make own decisions (short-term, high priority, lead – nonprofits, WMSC, towns/cities)
 - 1. Knowledge of materials life cycle – raise consciousness (short-term, high priority)
 - 2. Employee field experiences/retreats/experiential learning for climate understanding for mountain communities
 - 3. Teach the carbon cycle in all schools
 - 4. Eco Schools program – integrate into curriculum
 - 5. Develop sustainability class to feed into Sustainability Studies programs at CMC – link with CMC sustainability program and leadership certificate
 - 6. Science education for adults
- ii. Farm to school – fresh/local food served in school cafeteria
 - 1. Teach gardening in all schools
- iii. Neighborhood climate change groups (include businesses and hotels)
- iv. Mandate landfill/MRF/HHW tours for all residents
- v. Educate land owners and users on sustainable land use practices (lead – CSU extension, WMSC, Betty Ford Alpine Gardens)
- vi. Educate cleaning companies on chemical products' harm (short-term, \$, high priority)
- vii. Household zero waste training (high priority, \$, lead – towns and county)
- viii. Landscaper training – reduce synthetics, pesticides, fertilizer and encourage beneficial microorganisms.
- ix. More participation of businesses in Actively Green (high priority, medium term, \$-\$\$)
 - 1. Employer/employee climate training
 - 2. Leverage Actively Green and business awards
 - 3. Annual business and residential awards
- x. “How To” guide for attainable steps (high priority, short-term)
- xi. Education/Marketing campaign
 - 1. Multi media/brand platform
 - 2. Local media, TV, radio (high priority, short –term, \$\$)
 - 3. Develop an educational position for entire county – “info czar”
 - 4. Standard and frequently communicated measurable goals
 - 5. Positive message and real world examples
 - 6. Valley-wide call to action/challenge

7. Focus on improved quality of life - connect message to people/future (not all about environment)
 8. Clear and easy methods/recommendations for citizens – simple to understand, show easy steps,
 9. Identify influencers and have them speak up – local celebrities, regular and fun community speaking events with local leaders.
 10. Trash talk waste (winter) – awareness and education campaign
 11. Assigned/trained volunteer advocates for each neighborhood to go door to door and share the news with their neighbors
 12. Social media (short-term, high priority)
 - xii. Make sustainability the standard – peer pressure to do what’s right (rather than requirements)
 - xiii. Outreach to all community sectors – low and high income
 1. Include transient population and guests on waste diversion – improved signage and availability (high priority, short-term)
 - xiv. Promote smart hub (real time energy use)
 - xv. Community wide competitions
 - xvi. Change conceptions “beauty” in mountain resort landscape. Perks – carbon sequestration and water conservation
 - xvii. CAP newsletter/Educational resources for community (like CLEER’s)
 - xviii. Realistic understanding of impacts from EE projects,
 - xix. Support P.O.W. in our community
- b. Example
- i. WMSC – educating in schools across count
 - ii. Educational signage for organic food
 - iii. Door to door wild free mitigation in Avon
 - iv. Los Angeles – “gold is the new green” – public shaming and ‘tattling’ of green lawns during drought.
 - v. Annual education/art competition to publicize (low-cost, lead – schools? Eagle County?)
 - vi. Need sustainable education funding (high priority)
 1. Find sustainable funding stream to promote climate and healthy soil
 2. Marketing and PR budget (high priority, short-term, lead – governments)
 - vii. Science education for adults – WMSC
 - viii. Competitions for schools ‘how to reduce carbon footprint’- student scholarship competition
 - ix. Cards in hotel rooms – educate guests on how their effort can assist (water wise signage, etc)
 - x. Educate and incentivize second home owners
 - xi. Follow – through on trainings and workshops for profit and nonprofit employees on sustainability (from CMC and WMSC)
- c. Policy

- i. Packaging reduction policy – education (lead – product stewardship council)
- ii. Integrated public school requirements (strengthened)
- iii. Policies that align hotel practices with info cards – manager uses master switch or card in hotel room
- iv. For employees – mandatory sustainability leadership certificate – program completion is local/affordable - CMC
- v. Municipalities adopt climate goals and communicate

Stakeholder List of Policy Recommendations:

For County Commissioners' Consideration:

- Adopt Climate Action Plan (specifics will be in the final document)
- Budget for changes (line items for pieces)
- Establish new and necessary positions
- 2015 IBC/IRC adoption
- Increase efficiencies toward net zero
- Planning for mixed use areas (residential/commercial)
- Consistency county-wide regarding codes/green spaces (avoid jurisdiction shopping), uniformity and equalities of building codes (both for county commissioners and towns)
- Codes should be uniform and high efficient standards
- Grant for survey of what everyone has on building code – Healthy community coalition – target audience for this recommendation
- Zero waste goal for county (events required to be zero waste)
- HOA regulations/incentives for landlords (because renters don't have power)
- Free transit/additional routes/busses, more efficient fleet
- Adopting car emissions testing (like state/other counties)
- Carbon tax

For Towns/Municipalities' Consideration:

- Recycling mandates at community level
- Require commercial properties, HOA's, and apartments to have infrastructure – so renters have the opportunity to recycle (pay as you throw – VS. cost burden to recycling – not recommending this way). Keep the current grant a grant
- Native/low water plants for landscape (county/community level)
- Minimum efficiency mandates for rentals (green leasing)
- Certain percent/funds of general fund to achieve the CAP
- Visible public area recycling (like Town of Vail)
- Increased diversion goals
- Green building code for municipal buildings (municipal buildings should be model for community)

Policy Recommendations to other entities:

*Transportation – increasing routes/accessibility (VS. concern – empty busses – first there needs to be demand)

- Transportation – survey who is riding and why and where to
- Promotion – hand out free bus passes and track who is using them, how, when, etc.

*Waste – compost – more community collaboration on implementation/planning on composting facility (need more infrastructure, help to education people, provide drop off areas, et)

*Holy Cross Energy -divestment in coal by 2020

- Expand rebate options

*Water conservation – any water that is used has to be pumped/processed – water should be included/addressed in CAP (30% is standard goal)

- Carbon sequestration – increasing water storage capacity, green space planning should include water conservation
- Keeping carbon in soil increases water and carbon sequestration
- Challenge – what is the use of irrigating lawn? Better to use water for growing food
- Need more studies on incentives to switching to zero scape (lower water use)

General Recommendations

- Recommend point person for each entity to manage/record/monitor. Who will implement this? Will there be a committee/positions to track and keep the public updated
- Hire sustainability managers for each town/agency

Mid-term Target Setting

- Breakdown of 5 year increments is good (2020, 2025, 2030 etc.)
- Worried about jump from 57% to 82% - good to have realistic 2025 target
- Power supply – there will be no coal by 2040 and there will be storage
- Opinion - contracts should be ended if new technology makes them outdated
- Front load the work/be aggressive for 2030 goal
- Planning efforts take time but pay off big later on (time invested now, takes time for community education/engagement)
- Graph with consistent growth is more encouraging (good to be ahead of the curve and feel good or be a little behind and not have too much to catch up with) – relieves pressure to have consistent approach with same increase year after year
- Hump makes sense because of investment/education time and new technologies (depends on sector – sectors will have hump)
- Most entities have goals that are every year and consistent – it’s what people are used to; ex 3% per year. People think about it daily/annually
- If we’re ahead of goal by 5% one year, we can move the data around to fit the annual goal
- Need to consider how to market/educate people – should be an easy message to convey
- This will be a recommendation (more staff, funding, point person from major players)

- Let's take a look at what other towns have done with staffing/budgeting (send reps from Eagle to sit in on other CAP meetings)
- The number is important, but primarily it's education (we can explain to public how/why the humps work)
- Main goal is to show consistent improvements and track them against goals.
- Steep at front is good plan – we need to get people excited/motivated at the beginning to get the low hanging fruit. Slow initial curve might make the CAP plan another plan on the shelf (we'll deal with it later)
- Counterargument – consistent and easy start is more approachable – start low and build momentum (too hard to set bar too high –government is slow)
- Keep in mind: population growth will happen – these numbers are based on 2014 but growth needs to be incorporated
- Eagle County/towns have done a lot of work to decrease GHG but it hasn't been tracked; much of low-hanging fruit has already been accomplished
- No fear of mountains (meaning spikes in goal setting)! Compare it to climbing mountains and reaching peaks, people who live here can resonate with up and down visual. Allows us to tap into what we've achieved already – which will help us get there sooner. We shouldn't feel limited by what is to come. We have a variety of sectors to contribute to the end goal (they're not all going to do the same percentage of growth each year)
- Instead of incremental of 5 years, only measure by 10 year goals, allows natural wiggle room but still sets steady trajectory while also have numbers the public can relate to/understand and factor in energy equation
- Predicting a yearly curve without knowing technology is tough. But innovation usually comes in waves and makes major changes. Lofty goal at the front is good.
- Starting at 2025 is a good place to start – 7 year timeframe (rather than 2)
- 25% by 2025

Next Steps:

A draft CAP document will be provided via email to stakeholders for review on August 1. Comments will be needed back by August 15.

Next stakeholder meeting is August 22 at Walking Mountains.

Community Open House sessions will be held in September.