

Climate Action Plan for the Eagle County Community
Stakeholders' Meeting Notes
March 27, 2017
Walking Mountains Science Center

This is the first of three 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:

- Establishing a vision and purpose for the stakeholder group to continue as a collaborative
- Developing guiding principles and expectations for the stakeholders group
- Begin the establishment of sector-based working group teams and preliminary project plans

Stakeholders' 1 Minute Updates:

- Eagle County- continue to reduce GHGs 5% each year within County government operations
 - Part of the County's internal Environmental Sustainability Plan
 - LED upgrades are the main initiative for 2017
- Town of Gypsum
 - Gypsum Town Council did not adopt CAP
 - A hydro works project is in planning based on the town's water uptake
 - Adopting the 2015 IRC building code, but making all sustainability and energy efficiency codes optional
- Town of Eagle
 - Working with the county to install an EV charging station
 - May also install solar and move forward with energy efficiency projects
- Vail Valley Foundation
 - Plenty of political concern around the CAP as it relates to the snowpack and the creek runoff and related VVF events and business model
 - Climate change is difficult to talk about because people are worried about stepping on toes and offending others
- Vail Honeywagon
 - Compost facility moving forward; should be open late summer/early fall
- Eagle River Water & Sanitation District
 - Received an EV charging station grant; plan to install one in Avon and one in Vail
- Vail Resorts
 - Interest in the Colorado Environmental Leadership Program
 - Getting some of their retail businesses into the Actively Green program
 - Composting initiative at MidVail this winter is going well
 - Providing hard copies of the CAP to educate staff at Vail Resorts has worked well
- Town of Vail
 - Updating the town's Environmental Sustainability Plan – will be complete late spring/early summer
 - Getting ready to roll out SolePower program for summer

- Walking Mountains Science Center
 - Sustainable Destination, Zero Waste, Actively Green, Film Series programs are ongoing
 - Eagle County Waste Diversion Report
 - 2016 diverted 58, 274 metric tons of CO2
- RA Nelson
 - New to stakeholder group
- Eco Transit/Eagle County
 - 2 of fleet vehicles replaced with EVs
 - Plan to install EV stations at Park N Rides
 - Working on a 7 mile bike trail connecting
- Town of Minturn
 - All streetlights replaced with LED
 - Building codes on the docket
 - Working on increasing ridership with EcoTransit (successful so far)
- Eagle County Waste and Recycling
 - Materials Management Task Force (to replace Waste Steering Committee)
 - Using this as a platform to build and carry out the CAP
- Eagle River Youth Coalition
 - Actively Green certification being pursued
 - Youth Leadership Council will learn about CAP and give input in April
- Eagle County School District
 - The bond includes \$4M for school sustainability and energy efficiency improvements
 - The District has hired a consultant to help manage the efficiency and sustainability improvements over the next three years as capital projects take place
- Holy Cross Energy
 - Participating in the EV group buy “Rev up Your Ride” working with car dealerships to offer EV group buy (<http://www.walkingmountains.org/project/electric-vehicle-sales-event/>)
- Town of Basalt
 - Unanimously adopted the CAP
 - Added a 1 page addendum
 - LED retrofit on all town buildings
- Town of Avon
 - Adopted the CAP
- Vail Valley Medical Center
 - Considering adopting the CAP and hiring a sustainability focused staff member
 - Adding LEDs, some things on hold due to major construction

Comments:

- Design files and format of CAP available to be shared with stakeholders that adopt the CAP for their related presentations
- Request for search of national database of localities that have adopted CAPs to give people a broader perspective on climate and how many people are actively moving forward reducing GHGs
- Colorado Communities for Climate Action- Is an initiative of the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization (www.cc4ca.org)

- Idea to begin community surveys to better understand local dynamics and support for climate action
- Yale Program on Climate Change Communication is a resource with information (www.climatecommunication.yale.edu)
- Does Eagle County have funding or resources allocated to support the adoption of the CAP? → No
 - The County has contract Walking Mountains to convene and facilitate the stakeholder group during 2017.
 - The County's environmental policy is aimed at similar goals (cut 350 metric tons per year)

Focus on Collective Success

- We will use the 2014 Eagle County GHG emissions inventory as a baseline tool moving forward
- How formalized do we want to be?
 - Consider the options with more or less flexibility and formality
 - Looking at the Garfield Energy Authority as an example if we want to further formalize and pool resources

DRAFT Vision Statement for input/feedback

The Eagle County community is actively engaged in climate action and successfully meets the targets reducing GHG emissions 25% by 2025 and 80% by 2050.

Future generations of Eagle County citizens and guests enjoy a flourishing year-round economy, recreational experiences, and a healthy resilient ecosystem that enhances the well-being of all.

Feedback:

What people like about the statement-

- Like the 25% by 2025 and 80% by 2050
 - Straightforward and catchy
- Like the ties to locality and values in the second paragraph
 - Very important to tie it to local values and make sure it's not too broad; directly applicable to Eagle County
- Inclusive
- Goals and vision orientation

Suggestions-

- Revise "future generations." Climate change is real and happening right now. Make it more clear that the stakeholders accept the facts of climate change and that is our position.
- Ensure we let people know this is a problem NOW, not in the future. Create sense of urgency.
- Future generation vs. current generation debate – which is more important to include and which will incur a greater call to action?
- Add our baseline of 2014 to give people a reference point

- Can do so with an asterisk and reference the CAP document
- Sense of urgency – why we state the 2025 goal
- “By acting now, future generations of Eagle County citizens.....”

DRAFT Guiding Principles for input/feedback

- *Implement strategies in the CAP*
- *Serve as a “crossroads” of shared resources*
- *Use processes that encourage participation, sharing, transparency and inclusiveness*
- *Produce consensus decisions for the betterment of the community*
- *Balance economic, social, and environmental considerations in our recommendations*
- *Be accountable for our actions and use data to measure and monitor collective impact*

Feedback:

- Energy tracking and benchmarking
 - Flexibility
 - Relationships with one another will be essential to move forward
- We agree that climate change is happening, and therefore have outlined strategies to combat it in the CAP
- Importance of baseline education and getting consensus
 - We can’t assume that everyone agrees on the scientific information
 - Our community needs more education on the science
 - Additional resources that show how climate change is backed by data and scientific evidence is needed
- “High 5 Pledge” campaign going on in the Roaring Fork Valley (<http://aspencore.org/high-5-rfv/>)
- Maybe change the terminology used to get more people on board
 - People are sick of hearing the words “climate change”
 - Frame it as something that people care about
 - Clean air, clean water, hunting, fishing, snow
 - We want a healthy environment for everyone
- Develop “ad hoc” committees for project development and implementation
- Add: “Climate change is real...there is scientific consensus”
- Provide a toolbox of information
- Foster opportunities for collaboration

DRAFT Expectations for input/feedback

- *Allocate staff time and other resources to implement initiatives*
- *Communicate often and proactively*
- *Develop plans and projects that empower our community*
- *Proactively integrate GHG reduction actions into decision-making, infrastructure, and community assets*

Feedback:

- Be wary of using the words “other resources” this is too vague
- Data tracking
 - We need numbers based on goals
 - Create expectation of ongoing data management
- Support one another as we move forward-- Shared resources and coaching from CAP contributors is important
 - Be a shared resource
 - Allow some flexibility so towns and boards are still on board, ex- adding an addendum

Working Group Team Discussions—Sharing Preliminary Project Plans for 2017

Education and Outreach

- Improve communications
- Create and distribute a community survey for benchmarking and determining communication campaign strategies
 - Establish data about public opinion and where people stand on this
- Set goals and measure changes with another poll every year
 - Both of the above will help us determine the most effective messaging and impact
- Establish workflow for community initiatives
- Standardize campaign language, work on brand development, logo, etc.
- Identify county-wide stakeholders to include, include public information officers
- Co-Chairs: Tom Boyd and Mikayla Curtis
- Other group members: Lana Gallegos, Kim Langmaid, Patrick Hirn, Ray Merry

Residential Buildings

- Want to understand 2015 IRC Building Codes better and which towns have adopted them
 - Provide implementation support as needed
- Expand Energy Smart Colorado Program
 - Review additional funding sources for this
- How do we capture the great things people are doing in their homes energy efficiency-wise?
 - Establish a way to capture data from other partners/entities that are also doing energy efficiency work and make sure it is recognized rather than lost to achieve the GHG reduction targets (ex. energy utilities, NWCCOG, etc.)
- Co-Chairs: TBD at 4/4 working group meeting
- Group members: John Gitchell, John-Ryan Lockman, Barry Monroe, Glenn Phelps, John Widerman

Materials Management Task Force

- Quarterly meetings to discuss diversion rates and what we went over in the CAP meeting
- Fix our foundation- start on a basic level
 - Establish a solid, centralized “one stop shop” resource for waste diversion information in Eagle County
- Reach out to HC3 (High Country Conservation Center)

- 1 stop shop for resources
- Waste audit through RREO grant from county to gather info on what we're looking at and where we stand
- Funding – how will we increase this to accomplish what we need to?
 - Possible user fee at landfill
 - Grant funding at towns to increase access to recycling and composting in public areas
- Co-Chairs: Jesse Masten and Melissa Kirr
- Other group members: Matt Donovan, Kate McDonald, and other members of the previous waste diversion steering committee

Transportation & Mobility

- Look at 2017 goals and focus on data collection (use data from 2014)
- Consider health and affordability
- Public transit, commercial (shuttles), residential
 - Break down data based on these categories so it's usable
 - Identify where to focus time and energy
- Co-Chairs: Chris Lubbers and Fritz Bratschie/Brian Rodine
- Other group members: Jared Barnes, Justin Hildreth, Mark Hoblitzell, Anne McKibben

Commercial & Industrial Buildings

- Focus on larger users and getting them to adopt the CAP
- Challenge: all large businesses have different fiscal years which makes getting capital improvements for energy efficiency difficult for this current year (2017)
- Recommissioning reports and higher level energy assessments at businesses should be an immediate focus
- Use Portfolio Manager to get a baseline on buildings, SmartHub
 - Utilize resources at hand for data collection
- Include smaller businesses too
- Funding opportunities may be found at the state and national level
- Highlight ROI and share success stories
 - People and businesses want to know the payback
- Co-Chairs: Mary Wiener and Nikki Maline
- Other group members: Sarah Gruen, Roberto Morales, Christine Riker, Brian Tracy, Jenna Weatherred, (would be good to have Vail Resorts in this group)

Next Steps:

Working group teams to complete project plans by June 1st and return to Kim via email. (Use worksheet provided.)

Next CAP stakeholder meeting Monday, June 26th