

Eagle County Community Climate Action Plan
Summary Meeting Notes
May 23, 2016

This is the third 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 on Eagle County.

Next meeting: June 20, 2016 at CMC-Edwards

Today's Goals:

- Recap meeting #2
- Learn about CMC Sustainability Plan and Natural Capitalism Solutions
- Set GHG Reduction Targets (Long-term 2050, and Near-Term 2025)

See Presentation posted on webpage for information about CMC Sustainability Plan and Natural Capitalism Solutions.

Discussion about Setting GHG Reduction Targets:

- Difficult to set goals without a clear pathway
- Need to be realistic – not depend on “magic invention” or technology
- Airport – we measure fuel used/sold at Eagle County airport (can't reduce much)
- Hold global temp to 2 degrees (IPCC standard), globally 80% reduction is needed by 2050
- 80% should be minimum goal, we should be a leader and go beyond 80%
- Don't set early goals too high (communication challenges, etc.) make them doable
- Energy supply – Holy Cross Energy update from 2015 Report: HCE no commitments that far out (to 2050), coal will be only 2-3 plants operating to end of lives, utility space will look entirely different, affordable storage at utility and retail levels, expanded transition, utility companies in 2050 will look totally different than they do today, backup, power quality, structure of charges will be different, people will have their own generation, not reasonable to make a prediction, too much change, HCE role is to see what the goal is and make a plan to get there.
- Resort community – every building in resort towns will get rebuilt, each building will be more efficient, flip side – more waste/energy to build
- Look at our GHG baseline date – is the baseline a good number (2014)?
- Goal for this meeting – set aspirational GHG reduction targets. Next meetings – recommend programs and policies for each sector in order to attain targets.
- We should stick to the IPCC goal – it is legitimate and established
- Maybe we need to set 2025 goal – big challenge – 10% by 2025 and 90% 2050 (recognize that 100% is challenging while meeting IPCC goal)
- Community is aware of problem, we don't have a choice about 2050 goal, our community is ready to go, don't think the education piece will be as big a hurdle as we think, the people want guidelines
- Paris agreement backed up the 80% goal
- Large corporations are aligned behind the 2 degree goal (80% reduction by 2050)

- 80% in 2050 is not aspirational, it's just what everyone else is doing, we should aim for higher, 80% is what we need to do, but why wouldn't we do more?
- Counter argument – realistically we have the airport on one side and vacationers on the other side. We would need wild ideas/projects to meet 100% by 2050. If we go beyond realism we risk losing credibility. We need the community to feel a sense of ownership.
- Eagle County is redefining its commitment to stewardship, new ethic, will force the hand of second home owners/businesses – not just about numbers, but a new reality/philosophy. We are defining the new reality by creating a climate action plan.
- Can't let people off the hook because they're too big to change, this is a new world view for the County
- Colorado Mountain College set 100% GHG reduction by 2050 target – recognizing what other educational institutions are doing, including the University and College President's Climate Commitment – it's about infusing sustainability throughout all aspects of the institution: new majors in Sustainability Studies, this is ultimately beneficial to all, short term mentality for urgency, long term mentality for moving forward, then senior leadership got on board (long-term mentality) now the question is how, hired outside consultant (Natural Capitalism Solutions) to help make it attainable. Now CMC is ahead of goal, have to look at all contributing features.
- We need to set the Eagle County GHG reduction target bar high – 100%
- Private property laws – we can't change, airline fuel – can't get to 100% percent,
- Second home owners already know this - the education factor is already in place – this is not as great a hurdle (Disagreement)
- 80% is aspirational when we look at country/world – we are setting a high goal
- Use language to say that we have a higher standard for our community, building the goal higher “minimum of 80% by 2050”)
- 2025 target – 25%? - let's pick a target that sounds reasonable – what can we do that is cost effective and not degrade lifestyle
- 10% sounds too low and too big of a jump to 80% in 2050
- 2025 – the numbers are more arbitrary – we need to take a deeper look at projects and policies by sector and then the number will become more clear
- Valley will grow – it's not easy to get the money, buy-in, etc – as you get the wins, then it gets easier → start lower and then get more support moving forward
- Eagle County operations have already hit the “low hanging fruit” – what percentage would we get with all low hanging fruit throughout all of Eagle Valley? There's a lot of education that needs to happen (ex: waste diversion, other small steps). If Eagle County internal operations reduced by 15% over a few years, then 10-20% may be reasonable for the broader County and towns
- More time to think about the 2025 target – will come back to it after wedge discussions at next meeting in June.

Ideas for Near-Term Target

- 2020- 20%, 2030 – 30%, 2040 – 40%
- 2050 – 80% reduction, 2025 – aggressive (17 people agreed)

- 2025 target – should be less aggressive (learning, education, too soon is unreasonable b/c it'll take time to get started). Maybe 25% by 2025
- 2025 – 30%, and 100% by 2050 (who knows what'll really happen, we need to aggressive/leader) – 2 people agreed
- 80% should be minimum goal, should by 100% in the future, not by 2050 though
- 2-3 people think 80% is too high (residents vs guests, we don't have ability to control behaviors of visitors, political constituency – tradition of not requiring any rules, community goal – 50% by 2050 would be more “sellable”)
- 2050 - 80% (aligned with science, potential pathways) with ideas to going beyond that
- Group agreed up target of “Minimum of 80%” with goal to go beyond
- Work with Holy Cross Energy to make the energy used renewable (closer to 2050 there will be more renewable opportunities)