

**Climate Action Plan for the Eagle County Community  
Stakeholders' Meeting Notes  
September 18, 2017  
Walking Mountains Science Center**

This is the third of four stakeholder group meetings scheduled for 2017. Three meetings were originally scheduled but it was determined that a fourth was needed in lieu of the planned community open house.

**Today's Goals:**

- Share updates, resources, and needs from stakeholders and sector working groups
- Establish consensus on structure for 2018 climate action collaborative

**Stakeholders' Updates**

Town of Minturn

- Partners in Energy technical assistance program
- 2<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder meeting coming up
- Xcel energy Solar Connect Program

Eagle County—Transportation

- Metric based reports coming out this year
- Next step to meet with government boards in the community
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2018 goal to roll into report findings into transportation sector working group
- New fleet services manager to involve in the process; to develop a committee within Eagle County and standardize vehicles
- Search for new County manager is on

Town of Avon

- Plastic Bag ban passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in a week
  - Includes bags from Walmart
- Working on phasing in polystyrene ban to roll out in April
- Considering purchasing an EPS compactor
- Established first bike share

Town of Vail

- Working on the new Sustainability Strategic Plan for the town
  - Working to connect with Eco Products to supply products for distribution to vendors, focusing on event producers and vendors
- End of 2017 adding new partnership with EnergySmart CO to reduce community residential and small-medium business CO2 emissions
- Reporting- expanding reporting to get more data and resources
  - Also working to refine vehicle counting

- VW \$\$ for EV stations, looking into Electric powered buses
- Sole Power 45% increase in participation during summer 2017

#### Eagle County—Public Health & Environment

- Wants to support climate action strategies that reduce emissions, but also those that increase health and well-being and keep the community engaged
- Interested in looking at strategies that don't restrict certain populations from acting on climate change; spreading out the efforts and effects

#### East West Destination Hospitality

- Colorado Environmental Leadership Program – Six properties recognized through the program
- Focusing on tracking and reducing GHGs via the Actively Green program
- Wren at Vail property replaced water heaters with EnergyStar rated new equipment
  - In five years, they've reduced carbon footprint by 10% and saved \$80,000

#### Vail Honeywagon

- State approved compost facility proposal
- Working with town of Avon on polystyrene ban and to get the recycling stream cleaner
- Suggests upgrading to a single stream MRF
- Working with A1 Organics to better understand how to streamline and handle event waste
- Compost is for sale—imported from A1 Organics for now
- Working toward getting their compost certified and for sale

#### Vail Resorts

- Late July announced zero footprint
  - Zero net emission by 2030
  - Zero waste to landfill by 2030
  - Zero net operating impact to forests and habitat
    - Expansion at ski resorts would be offset in National Forest or elsewhere
- Developing energy capital projects plan across resorts
  - Much to go toward more efficient snowmaking
- Reporting for 2018 with GRI standards
- Desire to be community partners in this this work

#### Eagle County—EcoTransit & Trails

- County board of commissioners looking at E-Bike regulations for the county
- Eagle trail project update

#### Eagle River Youth Coalition & WECMRD

- New executive director
- Revamping office for more videoconferencing and telecommuting

## Colorado Mountain College

- Discussions about incorporating solar or some alternative energy into Edwards campus
- Academic conference in sustainability for CMC – Edwards host in April
- Speaker from Standing Rock Water Protectors to speak at CMC

## RA Nelson

- More interest in LEED certified projects recently
  - 2 custom homes built to the LEED certification
- Continuing Actively Green certification
- In house composting approved
- On site waste audits planned
- Looking to divert construction and demolition waste

## Energy Solutions

- Recently attended Actively Green training

## Vail Health

- Capital facility master plan is main focus

## ERWSD

- Silver Level CO Environmental Leadership Program Award
- Almost Actively Green certified
  - Sustainable product purchasing is a hurdle to overcome
- Purchased several EVs and installed charging station this year
- Incorporating community solar array at biosolids site would require strong partnerships and financial support due to many other capital projects in the pipeline

## EnergySmart CO

- As weather gets colder, working to make homes more efficient on the residential side
- Continuing education and training with local realtors on Home Energy Score etc.
- Goals is to attain 25% energy improvements in 25% homes in Eagle county
  - At 7% of homes currently
- Looking at growing the program at WMSC; working with contractor base and more staff
- New loan program from CO Energy Office
  - Renew Program- allows homeowners who don't have funds upfront to make efficiency improvements
  - Contractors can access
- Energy Efficiency Day Oct 5<sup>th</sup> – outreach planned for newspaper

## Basalt (Represented by CORE)

- Focusing on energy efficiency in Town of Basalt buildings
- Working on more EVs and grants for charging stations

- 2015 IECC Energy Code adopted for Basalt

#### Walking Mountains Science Center- Sustainability & Stewardship Programs

- 31 zero waste events- 30,000 lbs diverted to recycling and composting (~ 75% diversion rate)
- Education and outreach at recycling drop sites 6 days/week from mid-June to end of October
- Working with businesses through Actively Green
- Working Town of Vail for Nov 15 America Recycles Day event
- 6<sup>th</sup> year of the Sustainable Community Film Series – main focus this year is climate change connections

#### Holy Cross Energy

- New Chevy Bolt (230 mile range)
- Think Efficiency Grant gave away \$300,000 this year
  - Parking garage lights in TOV and Eagle County and School District changing over to LEDs
- Passive solar livestock tank “group buy”
  - Reduces ranchers’ cost by 50%
- Town of Eagle Chamber event Thursday night offering \$300,000 business makeover raffle
- Strategic meeting of board recently; pending updates

#### Vail Valley Foundation

- Actively Green efforts now spread across 5 staff members—much more inclusive
- Offering staff incentives for sustainable commuting
- Strengthening the sustainability culture of the internal organization
- Incorporating more waste diversion at events—good start GoPro Mountain games 2017

#### Town of Eagle

- Adopted resolution of support for the Climate Action Plan
- Council is considering signing on to Compact of CO Communities
- Working to build a staff climate action/sustainability group
- Council isn’t totally supportive; fears added costs to construction, some denialism
- Eagle River Park – thinking about solar thermal for showers, etc.

#### Eagle County – Sustainable Communities Department

- New Sustainable Communities department
  - Focused on climate action plan implementation – meeting with other directors in a few weeks to see how we can move forward from a policy standpoint
  - Potentially update building codes for commercial and residential
- Internal environmental policy
  - Water efficiency – automated, new this year
- Now including climate adaptation into the department
  - Wildfires is one of our biggest threats, so incorporating into community resiliency plan
- Attended Climate Action Campaign—Washington D.C. event
- Working to quantify carbon emissions and communicate progress

- 70,000 metric tons/year
- 350 metric tons to cut per year
- Looking at big buildings: justice center, jail, etc.
- 2 new EV free stations
  - Eagle Park & Ride
  - Freedom Park

**Updates from Sector Working Groups – What do you want to accomplish in the upcoming year?  
Include budget/fiscal updates**

Residential Buildings Sector Working Group

- Looking for strategic ways to make a biggest impact and grow programs
- Adding a staff member to ESC at WMSC
- Targeting new communities/neighborhoods: Eagle-Vail, Avon, Vail
- Energy Outreach CO, Home Energy Score
- Looking to expand and create a more cohesive and comprehensive residential sector group
  - Add more builders, contractors, governments, nonprofits, etc.
- Town of Minturn and Xcel PIES Program
  - Working on marketing/shared resources to provide additional access to ESC program
  - Farmers Markets and events – energy efficiency visibility
- Eagle working on sharing more of home energy score and broader adoption of building codes
- Construction product- zip panels, exterior wall sheeting
  - Good alternative, as there was a loophole to including insulation

Commercial Buildings Sector Working Group

- Challenges getting the word out and recruiting people to participate in sector group meetings
- Desire to include more private sector representatives
- Vail Valley lodging general managers meeting would be a good connection for this group
  - Potential December meeting; looking for guest speakers
  - Share Vail Sustainable Destination Initiative
- Lunch & Learns associated with commercial sector group
  - Desire to get more business community members to attend these
- Build the business case for those hard to reach people and managers
  - Engage VVP for this
- Next commercial building group meeting: establish the business case and share with GMs; make plan for December meeting
- Science of social norms--utilize and share how this will benefit hospitality industry
- Higher levels of Actively Green soon to be launched with focus on setting and accomplishing focused goals, beyond baseline monitoring and policy making
- Holy Cross Energy: up to \$30,000 per business available per year in rebates

Materials Management/Waste Diversion Sector Working Group

- Municipalities, haulers, organizations, and residents in this sector working group
- Looking to Eagle County, municipalities, towns, and state to fund new waste diversion projects

- Composting: one of our big goals to support Vail Honeywagon's new facility
- Subcommittee meetings – topic: compostable cups and other event waste
- Regional Study Work – Eagle County Landfill
  - Waste audit recently conducted
  - 1<sup>st</sup> since 2009
  - Dec 1<sup>st</sup> results will be available
- State of CO Diversion Goals
  - State has 19% diversion rate
  - Eagle County's is 17%
  - CAP Goal: 30% by 2030
  - State goal: 26% by 2026 and 36% by 2036
- Consider the CDPHE mini-grant: \$25,000 (up to)
  - Streamlined process
  - Open to towns, cities, county, schools, businesses
  - Focused on better infrastructure for waste management and diversion
  - Resources also, ex. funding for education
- 300 tons of trash/day dumped into our landfill
- Need more clarifying info on dual stream/single stream recycling
- Challenge points: shared housing, HOAs, Spanish speaking communities
- Consider applying for grant through the CAP group to establish this infrastructure in HOAs, hard to reach communities, etc.
- Jesse Masten, (Eagle County) provided a lunch & learn for ERWSD; consider doing this for large businesses to educate employees
- Quarterly MRF tours are offered by WMSC, business tours, Spanish speaking tours?
- Vail Honeywagon- Styrofoam issue
  - Looking at styrofoam condensers for the community
- 1 ton of recycling cuts GHG emissions by 1 ton; share this statistic
- Zero waste education- plenty of opportunity within events
- Consider working on an Eagle County waste diversion plan for the Eagle County landfill and MRF
  - Smaller group: Shawn, Melissa, Jesse, Adam
- Transportation of waste and recycling to Denver isn't helping with GHG emissions
  - Consider this into revamping MRF and 2018 strategic actions

#### Transportation & Mobility Sector Working Group

- State measures vehicle miles traveled year to year accurately
- Need more direct correlation between vehicle miles traveled and GHGs
- ECO Transit study/report underway, will include comparisons with municipalities, cities, etc
- New Avon Bikeshare, conversations about growing bike share throughout the valley
- Need integrated transit system with multimodal transportation plan
- Conference call with Zagster bike share this Thursday 4 pm – Adam Palmer is the contact

## Education and Outreach Working Group

- Goal launch county-wide campaign to support CAP initiatives—emphasis on social norms and behavior change, participation in GHG reducing programs and activities
- Celebrate successes of stakeholders, calendar of messages within the campaign
- Will start with survey, then develop brand and message for digital & print media campaign
- Estimated budget: \$95,000 for 2018
- Vail Symposium interested in partnering with Walking Mountains Science Center to educate on Climate Change, they will assign someone to join the education and outreach working group
- Kim Langmaid attended Climate Education summit at Redford Center in Sundance, UT
  - Focused on climate education and outreach NSF grant recipient's work from past 7 years and scaling it out to local communities across the country
  - Met with Compact of CO Communities coordinator- Dan Kreeger

## Summary of Recommendations from Collaborative Structure Ad-Hoc Working Group

- This group met twice since last stakeholders' meeting with the purpose to develop recommendations for a stronger collaborative structure for the stakeholders' group moving forward
- From the first meeting a document was created that covers what all of the local government stakeholders are currently doing related to climate action, and what the potential goals and benefits of a participating in a more formal collaborative structure would be.
- From the second meeting it was determined the recommended structure would be a continuation of the current stakeholders' group formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding and suggested annual membership fees. The formal collaborative would contract with a local non-profit (Walking Mountains Science Center for 2018) for project management/partnership services. The proposed budget for these services during 2018 is \$85,000.
- Draft MOU was provided to the stakeholders' in advance of this meeting and discussion follows:
- Currently proposed structure: MOU that binds all entities to working toward the CAP goals
  - All stakeholders would sign
  - Form an advisory hub to govern the collaborative
- Project management responsibilities are outlined, maintain efficiency, accountability, track budgeting (WMSC as fiscal agent), etc.
- In addition would be an education and outreach campaign coordinated by the sector working group and implemented by WMSC staff. The campaign would:
  - Engage community in GHG reduction activities/projects
  - Celebrate successes of the stakeholders, share stories of success publically
  - Begin with a community survey, develop a brand, create calendar of activities, implement comprehensive digital and print advertising campaign, measure success
  - Proposed budget for 2018 education and outreach campaign is \$95,000
- The collaborative structure committee recommended not forming a new special district energy authority at this time but that it could be an option for the future
- Recommendation for the annual collaborative membership fee structure to be based on annual GHG emissions

- If the collaborative wanted FT technical commercial buildings coach/engineer it would be an estimated additional \$100,000 annually, could be staff member or contractor
- Suggestion to include more private business stakeholders and hospitality businesses in the collaborative since they create the most GHG emissions and so they can contribute
- Need a mechanism that outlines what an organization is expected to contribute that is meaningful and acceptable
- Maybe take a donor model where stakeholders can choose contribution amount
  - Provide list of recommended level of contributions based on type of entity, emissions, energy use, budget, # employees
- Private business is motivated by competition: how do we take advantage of this?
  - Government, municipal entity that pushes this forward: should we still have this?
  - Consider creating a subgroup composed of just private businesses
- Look into USDA grants; WMSC fundraising staff already spending time on behalf of this effort researching and applying for grants

#### MOU Recommendations, Feedback

- Consider revising language to be more vague/open; participation, staff time, contributions rather than set financial amount
  - Frame in the most inclusive possible way
  - Remove language of GHGs
- Many entities may not have capacity right now to measure and monitor GHGs
- Difficult for voting entities to commit: Town Councils, etc. since these are depending on community resident opinion
- More clearly define the benefits of annual membership fees for stakeholders
- Maybe break down MOU into individual goals that can move more quickly
- Discussion of the added value of the collaborative:
  - A community resource and clearinghouse of expertise and information
  - Already proven helpful for the Town of Avon and Town of Minturn
- Include consistent, streamlined data reporting for collaborative members
- Include annual report of outcomes and successes
- Provide clear talking points about what this will bring to the individual stakeholders' organizations and entities
- The collaborative approach removes silos, it works across sectors, creates efficiencies and partnerships
  - Encourages integrating climate action/GHG reduction goals and strategies into stakeholders' regular operations
  - Provides strong foundation for involvement and shared resources
- Need to build in time for stakeholders to adopt the MOU and then have a photo-op signature event in December



- Can WMSC provide outline of key benefits to collaborative members, along with revised MOU and talking points?

**Action Step:** In one month the stakeholders will be provided with: revised MOU, outline of benefits to participating in the climate action collaborative, suggested annual membership fee structure

**Action Step:** All signatories on the MOU would attend the scheduled December 11<sup>th</sup> CAP meeting

**Next Meeting:** December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 8:45-noon at Walking Mountains Science Center