

Climate Action Collaborative
Climate Action Plan for the Eagle County Community

MEETING NOTES

Date: Monday, March 26th, 2017

Time: 8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Colorado Mountain College, Edwards Campus Room 258

Climate Action Collaborative Members In Attendance (alphabetical by last name):

Paul Abling, Janet Bartnik, Tom Boyd, Fritz Bratschie, Shawn Bruckman, Mikayla Curtis, James Dilzell , Matt Donovan, Buck Elliot, Markian Feduschak, Eric Foley, John Gitchell, Sarah Gruen, Lindsay Halvorson, Mark Hoblitzell, Andy Jessen, Melissa Kirr, Kira Koppel, Becky Larson, John-Ryan Lockman, Jesse Masten, Nikki Maline, Kate McDonald, Chris Menges, Ray Merry, Barry Monroe, Maureen Mulcahy, Preston Neill, Beth Reilly, Kim Schlaepfer, Derek Schmidt, Emma Sloan, Sarah Smith-Hymes, Mike Staten, John Widerman, Mary Wiener

Note Taker: Kira Koppel

Stakeholders' Meeting – Agenda

- 8:45 a.m. Gather (refreshments provided)
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and meeting goals
- 9:15 a.m. Session 1: Revisit Purpose & Principles
- Governance structure and roles
 - Chair & co-chair responsibilities
 - Update on financial commitments
 - Review Budget
 - Reschedule of September meeting
- 9:45 a.m. Session 2: GHG Sector Working Groups
- Break out discussions (40 mins.)
 - Report to full group (20 mins.)
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Session 3: 100% Renewable Presentation (Energy Supply Sector)
- Vail Resorts Zero Net Operating Commitment -- video
 - Background on 100% commitments
 - Possible guest speaker(s)
- 11:45 a.m. Session 4: Last minute updates, next steps & next meeting (June 18)
- 12:45 p.m. Thank you and adjourn!

Topics:

Session 1: Revisit Purpose & Principles

- Governance structure and roles
- Chair & co-chair responsibilities
- Update on financial commitments
- Review Budget
- Reschedule of September meeting

Action(s)

Governance Structure and Roles

- CAC Chair- Sara Smith-Hymes, Avon Town Council
- CAC Vice Chair- Matt Donovan
- Expanding steering committee by adding Chair, Vice Chair, Kim Schlaepfer to the current group (current group: John Gitchell, Adam Palmer, Kim Langmaid)
- New entities in CAC: WECMRD

Recap of the Survey

- 1,400 survey responses out of the 2,000 response goal
 - Survey results will be shared – goal is by the June meeting
 - Would it be possible to distribute the survey data to help the towns with internal survey goals? – Town of Minturn
 - Using New Knowledge (New York-based) will allow us to benchmark ourselves against national climate change perception/attitudes
 - Will we be able to compare these results nation-wide? Yes, through the Yale Climate Opinion maps
- Common sentiment about challenges of surveying communities, but it helps that the survey allows us to compare our community with others across the United States
- Joining the Vail Business Chamber would be a helpful way to engage the private business sector in Climate Action (or at least surveying attitudes about it), as well as the Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy
- Next meetings: June 18th , October 1st, December 10th

Session 2: GHG Sector Working Groups

- Break out discussions (40 mins.)
- Report to full group (20 mins.)

Commercial Buildings

What are your group's results to date?

- New rebates through Holy Cross Energy, double rebates from TOV
 - Advertising these incentives
- Exploring new energy assessment tools
 - To be offered to the CAC, WECMRD is our first success
 - All county buildings have been assessed using energy assessment tool
- Eagle County LED retrofits
- Vail Health LEED certification
- ERWSD LED retrofits, HVAC retrofits, etc.

What 1-3 specific and tangible things is your group committed to in 2018?

- Benchmarking and recommissioning
 - Get buildings functioning at highest efficiency
 - New energy assessment tool to be used and involved with every CAC member
 - Geared more toward building operations, collaborative approach
 - All town of Basalt buildings have been assessed in some way
 - Energy retrofits, air sealing and insulation, etc.
 - Water conservation is involved in these improvements and walk-through's
- Conversion to LEDs county-wide
 - Only 20% nationwide have converted
 - Calculate the percentage for eagle county
 - Find ways to subsidize cost of old tubes (fluorescents, etc.)
- Actively Green
 - Use for energy tracking and build out the program
 - Energy Start Portfolio is also being used locally for this type of tracking
- Case studies
 - Expand these to motivate people (Especially the private sector) to become more involved in climate action

What strategies will you use? (See above)

How can our new Project Manager best support you?

- Help us connect with education and outreach committee
- Connect us with green building group and codes to learn best practices to share and to maximize efforts

Transportation

What are your group's results to date?

- ECO Transit master planning project, roadshow, etc.
 - Potential for new initiatives, structure, service, etc. (can include bike share)
- Continued expansion of bike trail
- County bike share research
- 46% increase in ridership for SOLE power
- TOV secured funding for electric bus, next year will purchase 7 electric buses, finished demo last week
- Developed subcommittee for EV charging, public transit
- Town of Eagle looking at developing transit options
- Working to improve tracking and metrics
 - BMT
- EV readiness- charging, being ready for expansion

What 1-3 specific and tangible things is your group committed to in 2018?

- How to present goals- small changes
- Look to other cities and how they have accomplished this
 - Ex- City of Aspen doesn't have much parking, so many people take public transportation

What strategies will you use?

- How can we incentivize businesses to reduce employee commutes, etc.
 - School buses, use existing public transportation networks
 - Work from home, etc.

- Continue to explore new funding opportunities

How can our new Project Manager best support you?

- How can we tie the sector groups together to educate the public, boards and commissions
- Education about what currently exists
 - ECO transit bus pass incentives for businesses
- Help to develop culture shift

Other comments: Ask councils, etc. what's going on with CDOT with chemical dumping on road (magnesium chloride)

Education & Outreach

What are your group's results to date?

- Survey has been conducted
- Has been a pillar of this group and built in from the beginning

Needs:

- Brand
 - Is our brand unique to this effort? Do we have an identifiable brand?
 - 25 by 2025
- Education into action
 - What if? And Did you know?
- Social cause marketing vs select industry marketing

What 1-3 specific and tangible things is your group committed to in 2018?

- Marketing plan – goals, budget, strategies, guidelines, target audience
- Larger group community education and efforts
- Building consistency through the sector/working groups so that public or business can digest the information
- CAP survey rollout and data results
 - Communicate the survey
- Create a deck presentation that this group, other businesses, etc. can roll out
 - Partner marketing
 - How do we connect with brands that have larger budgets involved to piggyback upon?

What strategies will you use? (See above)

How can our new Project Manager best support you?

- Consistently inform the community
 - Pull results out by sector
- Data crunching
 - So can be shared with community, individual groups, etc.
- This group is here to service the other wedges- need to hear from other groups what their key calls to action are; they can advise what work or strategies will be successful, then education and outreach will do the work to spread the word and the information they provide

Residential Buildings

What are your group's results to date?

- 2 parts- existing buildings and new construction
- Existing is covered by Walking Mountains programs – Energy Smart Colorado
 - Growing program is the goal- currently penetrated 6% of the market to date

- Need to provide better access to services and more education on what the program actually is
- New construction
 - How do we ensure how we are building is the most efficient?
 - Town of Avon, Vail standards are stringent and will help us meet these efficiency goals
 - How do we implement ratings and energy efficiency into new buildings to market them?

What 1-3 specific and tangible things is your group committed to in 2018?

- Green Building Group is established
 - Can we make a local chapter of the USGBC?
 - Formalizing strategy
 - How do we make this fun, interesting, exciting? Provide continuing education credits
- Google/NEST smart homes
 - Be the local partner, install smart thermostats
- Statewide financing program for energy improvements
 - How do we get education and outreach about this going?
- Support Minturn and the PiE (Partners in Energy) program
 - LED conversions for homes
- Recruiting additional members
 - Need help on policy, above building code, etc. for new buildings
- EcoBuild moving forward
 - Can we add in a fee structure based on home size?
 - Energy efficiency requirements or penalties
- Education and outreach
 - How do we show the community that this is available? Educate homeowners to make improvements, best practices
 - Could be free for the homeowner
- Landlords, etc.
 - Delicate relationships
 - Good education and access to resources could help improve this relationship or make action happen

What strategies will you use? (See above)

How can our new Project Manager best support you? (See above)

Materials Management

What are your group's results to date?

- Compost permit approved by state for commercial compost facility, waiting on Eagle County until collections can be increased
- TOA passed plastic bag ban (April 1st goes into effect)
- RREO waste diversion regional study complete
 - 5 counties, Eagle County included
- Events: Solid waste tours (MRF), America Recycles Day, Post Holiday Recycling event
- Residential dropsites for compost have been created and are functional in the community
- Cost benefit analysis through the county to look at retrofitting the MRF into a single stream MRF and if we can establish a C&D collection facility
- Increase in Zero Waste events at WMSC
- Vail Resorts- Goals for Zero Waste by 2030
- Rate study is underway to find if the waste charges at landfill will increase

- We currently have a very low fee
- Lighting upgrades underway at the landfill facility
- New program with TOV- Business recycling challenge

What 1-3 specific and tangible things is your group committed to in 2018?

- Diversion goal (rather than a reduction or GHG goal) – Kim S
- Need more information on what this sector creates in terms of GHGs- Kim S
- Education and consumer awareness to limit waste and recycling from the buyer standpoint
- Push local compost facility
- Push green building codes within the county
 - GHG metric strategies, EPA metric equivalencies for specific materials (Kim S)
- RREO will help with education and outreach on this topic
 - Come up with a calendar that displays recycling events going on in the community
 - Work with local schools
- Education campaign for the community including:
 - Contamination, life cycle, product purchasing, resources and consistency (considering the multiple waste haulers and facilities here)
- Green building codes that consider waste reduction

What strategies will you use? (See above)

How can our new Project Manager best support you? (See above)

Session 3: 100% Renewable Presentation (Energy Supply Sector)

- Vail Resorts Zero Net Operating Commitment -- video
- Background on 100% commitments
 - North America project (150-250,000 MWh to offset electricity)
 - Building new solar or wind farm
 - Offset project for ½ - ¾ of VR's current load
 - Working with utilities in local areas, limited by Colorado laws
 - Need to pressure local and state regulators for new laws that will allow for this

Lindsay Halverson- Climate Reality Project

Resources:

- Basic Climate Science slides available for education and outreach
- EPA Green Power Locator
- Pathways to 100%: An Energy Supply Transformation Primer for US Cities
- RE 100: 100% RE Building Blocks

City of Aspen – Chris Menges

- 100% renewable as of 2015
- Locked in stable, low rates for consumers (due to early investments)
- Drove the utility that sells to Aspen electricity to bring in more wind
 - Drove the case
- 1990s- setting a target and adopting it at council level was key for the accountability at staff and utility level
 - Viewed it as a long term commitment and project
 - Allowed for dedicated staff time and community relationships
 - Time to build relationships with the utility = essential

- Internalizing the financial risk
- Maintain portfolio at 100%
- Community as a whole isn't actually 100% - still working on this, due to various utilities

Next meeting: June 18th