

Climate Action Collaborative for the Eagle County Community

Collaborative Members' Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, August 31st, 2020 Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

- 1:00 p.m. Gather (Online! Feel free to bring snacks. Please mute yourself.)
- 1:10 p.m. Session 1: Black Hills Energy – Special Presentation
- Carly West, Joe Limone, Todd Ellsworth, Amy Fiala
 - Q&A
- 1:45 p.m. Session 2: Climate Action Collaborative Updates
- Buildings Updates
 - Building Code Adoption updates
 - B3 Benchmarking
 - Energy Supply Updates
 - DOLA Grant Work Plan Presentation
 - PuRE update from HCE
 - Materials Management Updates
 - Construction & Demolition diversion
 - Bi-Annual Recycling Guide – this week!
 - Transportation Updates
 - Telecommute toolkit
 - Commuter Survey results
 - Rail line update from Avon
 - No idling resolution
 - Water Updates
 - Energy and water use nexus (tentative)
 - Education & Outreach Updates
 - Website and marketing stats for summer 2020
 - Food Advisory Council Update
- 3:15 p.m. Session 3: CAC Administrative Updates
- Funding Request 2021
 - Budget Review 2021
 - CAP Addendum timeline
 - Local Govt Committee Update
- 3:45 p.m. Session 4: CAP Re-Prioritized Strategies
- 4:00 p.m. Thank you and adjourn!


CAC Stakeholders Meeting Notes

Participants

 Walking Mountains(Co-Host)

 Walking Mountains(Co-Host)


 Walking Mountains(Co-Host)

 Jared Barnes

 Mattdonovan

 Mike Steiner

 Gpuidokas

 Steven Barber

 Sarah

 Tim Ivancich

 Joe Limone

 Jesse Masten

 Chris Wolff

 Carly West

 Bob A

 JohnRyan Lockman

 Tanya.Allen

 Melissa Kirr

 Nina Waysdorf

 Liz

 Kira Koppel

 Michaelgonzales

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 Adam Palmer

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 Amy Fiala

 Roberto.Morales

 Mackenziek

 Mikayla Curtis

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 Dplace

 Deron Dirksen

 Kristen Bertuglia

 Eric Heil

 William Schmick

 Maren Cerimele

 Michelle Metteer

 John.Gitchell

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 Beth Markham

 Rita Mary Hennigan

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Black Hills Energy Presentation

Speakers

Carly West, Community Affairs Programs, carly.west@blackhillscorp.com, 720-633-5105,
Joe Limone, Account Manager for the Region, Joe.Limone@blackhillscorp.com, 303-929-6128
Amy Fiala, Energy Efficiency Program Coordinator, Amy.Fiala@blackhillscorp.com, 719 208-3513

How black hills is answering questions about energy sustainability

- Providing reliable renewable energy for all
- Commitment to energy efficiency
- Have reduced natural gas transportation emissions via pipeline by 75%
 - Replaced all of the cast iron piping, which had a lower methane retention than modern materials

Energy Efficiency Programs

- New plan with the PUC - new energy efficiency plan
- 6 programs that can be applied in the community
 - Res Retrofit
 - Includes equipment and insulation, etc
 - Res new construction
 - 5k SF or greater
 - Non-res retrofit
 - Restaurants, smaller rural schools, 25k SF or less
 - Non-res new construction
 - Income qualified program
 - 75% below poverty - depends per County
 - Schools energy efficiency program
 - Science program - each kid gets an energy efficiency kit
 - Kit Includes- two lav aerators, kitchen sink aerators, low-flow showerhead
- Money to give back for any of the updates our partners are doing
- Governed by the PUC - meaning this won't change and won't go away for the next 3 years
- A lot of money to give away
- Total budget over \$5 million for 2020 to give away in rebates

3 rebates at the top of aspen ski company

- Kitchen exhaust system
- Smart control system - saves on gas and electric
- De-stratification fans - pushes all the warm air from the kitchen to the dining room so that they don't have to heat the place as much

Participation in the energy saving trees program

- Started in 2014 - partnered with arbor days foundation to plant trees
 - Each spring they promote a free tree giveaway

Renewable natural gas initiatives

- Created a task force within company to understand the impact of a retail RNG program
- RNG market surveys went out to customers
- RNG can be transported directly to homes and businesses using preexisting infrastructure
- Provides big opportunity to shift the market
- Landfill in nebraska that produces enough RNG to fuel 6000 houses a year

Green Hydrogen - Cleaner substitute than natural gas

- only excess is water
- can be transported as a gas or a liquid over long distances
 - [Here](#) is a link to that NYT article Re: Green Hydrogen
- Moving forward will require working with renewables within preexisting infrastructure

Questions:

Q: Are you capturing methane during the extraction process and transportation process?

A: Fuel loss is an issue, we've replaced a lot of our pipeline with better material, but there is a certain amount that escapes

Q: Is there any way you could use your anaerobic process in the extraction process

A: We purchase our gas in the gas market, so we don't do any of the actual extraction

Q: What area of eagle county is black hills serviced by?

A: We serve eagle, basalt, and gypsum, parts of edwards and avon

Q: The next demand site energy plan removes energy audits, Why

A: Its not a cost effective program. We are reevaluating it right now and will have definite plans soon. It may or may not be added back

Q: One bad side effect of RNG is carbon monoxide poisoning, we look for carbon monoxide when people are heating with NG. Does RNG have less or more than regular natural gas

A: One it's been collected, they have the same profile. We encourage people to have detectors in their homes in order to prevent any poisoning.

CAC Updates

Building updates

Building Code - John Gitchell

- Dept of energy says that by 2025 25% of buildings in the valley will be new
 - This means we need to make sure that our building codes are sustainable now so that all of these new buildings are more sustainable
 - We are aiming towards carbon free buildings, but that is going to have to come through incremental change
- The bulk of homes were built with low levels of insulation in the roofs, which cause a lot of energy loss
- During economic boom periods a lot of buildings are built quickly and with low building standards
 - This requires lots of efficiency improvements over time
- We have shifted towards electrification of both vehicles and buildings

Town of Avon Code Adoption - Derek Place

- We've taken the recommendations of the task force and implemented them
 - They are municipal code law
- Adopted the appendages that deal with solar ready conditions
- Enforcing PV charging stations
- We also have an exterior energy fund which is used to pay for pools spas and snow systems to offset waste from those systems

Town of Vail Code Adoption - Beth Markham

- Presented to the building inspection and planning team, got feedback from planning and environmental team
 - Really focused on C&D ordinances
- Presented to building and fire board of appeals
 - They met a week ago and will meet again soon. this is their current focus and they are looking at which ones they can adopt now and which will be later adoptions.

Minturn Code Adoption - Michelle Metteer

- Council reviewed 3 of the items that the town referenced
 - Tackling 3 right off the bat: install electric heating and vehicle, storage for recycling, HRS performance path
- Gonna take avons ordinance to bring to the board

Energy Supply Updates

Three county clean energy network - Katharine Rushton

- A way to pull together the efforts of a wide variety of stakeholders
- Identified some actions to take on a regional level
 - Many actions were about energy conservation
- 3 components
 - Master plan
 - Regional Energy inventory
 - Solar Development Tool Box

Streamlined Solar & Storage Permitting →

Best practices in permitting and zoning for solar and storage →

Increase transparency and reduce barriers →

Goal: 10 jurisdictions in the 3-county area become SolSmart designated to establish the region being pro-solar development

Chat Questions

May not be exactly on par with the energy conversation but in the realm of water - For retrofits and rebuilds and new homes, do you think the County or other entities would be able/willing to prohibit fountains and or water features? Especially since the climatic trend for our region is aridification, less snow pack, and drier/warmer summers?

Us as well, we are planning to utilize Town of Avon's (ordinance) for EV charging and solar readiness, also updating Eco-Build fee nexus to align with Pitkin County / Aspen prior to additional changes anticipated for the 2021 I-codes

Holy Cross Energy PuRE Update - Mike Steiner

8% increase in members who participated in PuRE from last year

60% increase in kWh's that are now in the PuRE Program

Questions

Q: We're up 60% based on what?

A: up in kilowatt hours that have subscribed to PuRE

Increase of members is up 8%

Materials Management Updates

C&D materials update

- Building Code Recommendation from Sustainable Building Code Task Force
- Pitkin County Ordinance
- Town of Vail and Town of Avon efforts
- C&D Subcommittee
- New 2020 Recycling Guide

C&D Next Steps

1. Develop an Eagle County Classifieds page for C&D diversion
2. Meeting to bring together contractors and existing C&D site users to compare cost/savings for diversion plan
3. Develop a voluntary diversion policy to pilot before requiring it
4. Start with requiring a diversion plan but not enforcing any specific requirement
5. Develop a standard Waste Management Plan for consistent use across the region

Recycling Guide Update

- The Recycling guide update comes out today!
- The rules have changed - so be sure to review the latest guide!

- PLEASE SHARE THIS GUIDE - without your help we would not be able to share the recycling rule changes with the community

Transportation Updates

CAC Commuter Surveys

Key Takeaways

- The two most impactful actions that would support survey takers to leave their car behind 2x per week are:
 - Owning an e-bike (30%).
 - The ability to work from home (26%).
- It's important to note, that these are the top two most impactful actions regardless of industry.
 - The third top response with 8% of votes was a commuter incentive program offered by an employer.

E-Bikes

- E-Bikes were selected time and again as the preferred option for commuting (if the respondents were to own one):
- E-bike promotion in early summer with sales, events, test rides, rebates, etc. would allow a greater number of EC residents to access e-bikes and consider purchasing one for commuting.
- E-Bikes can support summer commuting for those who can't work from home.
- A critical component of scaling up this solution is providing secure bike racks in large employment centers that have a plug for recharging.

Public Transportation

- Public transportation can be a solution for commuting for those who can't work from home, but many barriers first need to be addressed:
 - Bus incentives are provided to many, but bus still lags behind other modes of transportation as a percentage of total trips.
- For all industries the overarching barriers to the bus were:
 - Bus takes too long.
 - No convenient stops.
 - The schedule doesn't align with work schedule.
- Recommend using the highest density commercial centers (as identified in the survey) to prioritize express service to these areas (Vail, Avon/Eagle Vail, Edwards, Eagle).

Electric Vehicles

- There is a big opportunity to increase the number of electric vehicles (EV) on the road in Eagle County:
 - EV adoption is the number one thing we can do to reduce overall emissions in our community out to 2050 (CAC GHG Modeling, 2020).
 - Focus marketing and outreach campaigns on promoting EVs using the motivations presented in the survey data.
 - 92% of survey respondents currently do not own an EV or HEV.

- 65% report that it is 'somewhat,' 'very,' or 'extremely' likely that their next vehicle will be an EV or HEV.

Parking

- 86% of survey respondents had free parking available to them:
 - Free, available parking does not provide an incentive for an employee to commute in anything other than an SOV.
 - Restricting parking in large commercial centers would encourage alternative forms of commuting for employees.
 - It's important to pair a parking restriction with an incentive program to encourage and reward other forms of commuting.

Telecommuting

- Telecommuting is the biggest opportunity to address transportation emissions year-round for those industries where employees are able to work from home:
 - 90% of employers (15% of total respondents) said their willingness to allow employees to work from home increased after COVID.
 - The biggest barrier for employees offering a policy is lack of understanding of employee productivity

Survey highlights

- Survey data while largely consistent does vary based on where someone lives and where they work
- More review is needed
- Initial persona's being examined:
 - Work and live in same town
 - Live in Edwards & commute to Vail/Avon/BC
 - Live in Eagle/Gypsum/Dotsero & commute to Vail/Avon

Comments

Don't forget HCE offers \$200 e-bike rebate for offsetting vehicle miles.

<https://www.holycross.com/rebates/e-bike/>

I think access to showers would help, biking from Edwards even on a cool morning I am a sweaty mess when I get to work. I would bike more if I could shower in Avon when I got to work :)

Agreed, Michael. Also racks that have the ability to charge. People can not lock up bikes and charge them.

Rail Line Update

Union pacific didn't want to sell their rail line for a long time

Now we are thinking that they may be more receptive

Got in touch with senator's office so that we could possibly get funding

2 critical factors to support: robust community support, feasibility study

Made the decision that we need a small subgroup to determine next steps

No idling resolution

Want to put up a no idling sign so that people get normalized to the no idling message
there is a sign designed so if anyone is interested in hosting it please contact

Questions

Q: Are these signs funded?

A: We are hoping that places will sponsor them

Water updates

- Moving along with goal research
- Still in a pretty bad drought
- People are working on good things
- Water working group will advise land use rewrite

Education and Outreach Updates

Website updates:

- sustainability tips
- blog for sustainability
- GHG inventory
- Community resources page

Food Advisory Council Update

- Food waste reduction and food waste priorities
- Project of the community market
 - Working to address food security and access to healthy food for the people of Eagle county
- working towards a food secure and environmentally sustainable community
- pandemic has forced them to put more energy towards covid safety and getting communities fed

Funding and Budget Update

- Funding requests have been sent
- I will respond to emails this week!
- 2 funders dropped out
- Gap of \$5,000 to fill

Some partners received larger funding requests for 2021 to fill this \$5,000 gap.

Local Gov't Committee Update

We had a meeting of managers and elected officials

There was the recognition of focusing on transit and transit enhancement

At the last meeting there was an idea to put together a more defined idea of what that will look like

Likely hiring consultant and trying for a stronger participation from the private sector
2nd phase is going to a ballot question due to required costs
Really excited to be expanding transit options

CAP reprioritized strategies

Will be shared with all participants and their groups