

Q1 CAC Meeting Notes

2/21/2021

Attendees:

Kim Schlaepfer	Claire Kantor	Melissa Kirr	Adam Quinton
Bob Allstadt	Joe Limone	Kendall Moore	Sarah Smith Hymes
Chris Southwick	Puidokas	James Dilzell	Sam Phillips
Tim Ivancich	Jane Donovan	Miki Salamon	Mike Steiner
Michelle Stewart	Kate Manzer	Phi Filerman	Todd Ellsworth
Scott Ruff	Steve Beuning	Amy Fiala	Mary Weiner
Jesse Masten	Roberto Morales	Maren Cerimele	Chris Wolff
Eric Heil	Kim Langmaid	Derek Place	AG Childers
Paul Abling	Mackenzie Koffenberger	Sara Nadolny	Shawn Bruckman
Matt Donovan	Tim Ivancich	Stefan Johnson	Nina Waysdorf
Tim Sullivan	Beth Markham	Nikki Maline	Megan Gilman
Markian Feduschak	Kira Koppel	John Gitchell	Kristen Bertuglia
Chris Bilby	Catherine Hayes	Carly West	Matt Parker
Scott Robson	Rebecca Manzone	Tanya Allen	Olivia Cook
Oliver Skelly	Emily Hoskins	Bill Shrum	Michael Rodenak
Jared Barnes	Beth Reilly	Meghan	Katie Hoffmaster

1:00 p.m. Gather (Online! Feel free to bring snacks. Please mute yourself)

1:10 p.m. Welcome

- A moment for the friends we lost

*Q1 Meeting, CAP Update, and everything moving forward is dedicated to and inspired by Adam, Seth and Andy.

Video: <https://vimeo.com/508659126/d50b171d95>

- Saturday, March 6th: 12pm → Gathering to celebrate the CAC and Seth, Adam, and Andy
 - Beaver Creek at the Rose Bowl Deck

1:20 p.m. Session 1 Climate Action Plan Update + Executive Summary

- Background & process for update
- Report highlights
- Audiences for Exec Summary vs Full Update
- Timeline for Local Government presentations
- Q&A, general feedback

Intro to the Climate Action Plan Update

Kim S.

- Where we started: 2019 HCE 70/70/30 Plan
 - Would create a significant emissions reduction, wanted to know how much
 - Western Colorado University did some modeling that showed HCE plan created a large dip in emissions (25% Reduction), but if no action from other sectors, emissions continue to rise
- Modeled some scenarios to see what actions would create reductions
 - Model what is necessary, not always easy/achievable
- Took the results from models, combined sector-specific strategies, worked with teams to rank/reprioritize actions
- Q4 Meeting: decided on new goal to orient ourselves around
 - **50% emissions reduction by 2030**
 - ID'd priority actions per sector that need to be achieved
- **Climate Action Plan Update**
 - Showcases new goal and priority actions
 - Also brings water, carbon sequestration, and resiliency

CAP Update Run-through

- **Intro Pages**
 - Special collaboration and input that went into this update
 - Page 2: Timeline for action and goals in the context of climate science
 - Page 3: High level visualization of how we will hit 50% reduction mark
 - Accounts for HCE plan, which creates a decline in overall 2030 Business as Usual emissions, but emissions go up in other sectors
 - If we can achieve all of our actions, we will get a 64% reduction overall
 - Bottom half: Annual Success Benchmarks
 - Orients us around what needs to happen every year
- **Sector pages**
 - Immediate priority actions ID'd at sector meetings are at the top, other additional strategies are below
 - Commercial and residential are combined
 - Buildings, Transportation, Energy Supply, Materials Management, Education and Outreach
 - Carbon sequestration→ first time it's included
 - Priority actions are what community has talked about, but no working group to hash these out yet
 - Multi-Sector Strategy→ demonstrate that certain strategies will benefit/reduce emissions in more than one sector

- Beneficial electrification = buildings and transportation
- Methane digester = energy supply, waste sector, building emissions, transportation
- **Resilience**
 - Eagle County Resilience Plan with specific water and fire pages
 - Pull in strategy from Colorado Forest Action Plan
 - We need both mitigation *and* adaptation
 - Appendix: modeling and assumptions
- **Executive Summary = quick hit of everything in CAP update to share with councils or other stakeholders**

Q and A

Markian

- There needs to be an operations piece to it
- ex.) Building electrification → don't have the mechanical contractors to operate at the pace we need to operate at
- What is the plan? Working groups?
- **Kim:** take priority actions, develop 1-3 year task list of things that need to get done and deadlines they need to get done by
 - Case studies, education efforts (public and private), policy issues for local gov advisement, etc.

Kim: answering question about water

- Yes, there's a water page! One of the last pages in the resilience section

Kim: to Chris's comment: "I think in the long term we can also connect water use/reduction into a reduction of GHG as well"

- Plan will continue to update, will be a living document as CAC grows and move toward achieving goals
- CAC has a new goal that is different from the local gov adoption of previous plan's goals
 - Would be beneficial to share this with each of our elected official councils to ensure they know about the new goal target

1:45 p.m. Session 2 CAP Implementation Tracking

- **Discuss data requests for annual tracking**
- **Share partner list for tracking**
- **2020 establish baseline, 2021 tracking**

Claire Kantor, Fellow, Climate Action Collaborative

- To track annual success metrics year-over-year, need data sets from each stakeholder
- **Data Request Form**
 - Most important two sections in blue highlighted columns
 - Category of data in leftmost gray column
- **Who?**
 - In-county partners: HCE, WMSC, Eagle County Gov, EC Town staff, ECSD
 - Out-of-county partners:
 - CEO (The CO Energy Office),

- US Census Data (track commuting modes and times,
- Google EIE (Environmental Insights Explorer) - helps smaller communities track emissions, look at transportation data based on cell phone location data (state sources that will help us round out our data)
- **2020 Baseline**
 - Different from 2014 emissions baseline
 - This baseline is related to the metrics we are looking at
 - Helps us understand our modeling better (which Kim showed earlier in the meeting in our updated CAP)
 - **Purpose**
 - Related to 2020 emissions inventory, can tell what actions have led to the greatest emissions change
 - In 2024, we'd hopefully see a negative, where our vehicle miles traveled are less than our baseline

Q and A

- Shawn Bruckman: Who's going to be doing that data tracking and who is going to be discussing that with these partners? Are there incentives for data tracking?
 - Kim: Sort of.
 - Goal is to collect data that is already being collected in the community & pull that into our data tracker (rebates WMSC gives, rebates HCE gives, waste diversion report WMSC does). We don't want this to take too much time, but we're hoping this will reduce the amount of time the Collaborative staff spend finding that data.
 - If your name is on that list we shared, your job is to try to help us get the data we need each year. We want to know if there is a time you typically pull that data, when is that so we can ask you for that each year?
- Matt Donovan: These initiatives need to be moved to our top priority in order to meet these goals, but the reality is that we need to get to these goals even sooner. So as someone on this call who will help make these things happen, please feel a sense of urgency in getting these numbers and prioritizing this each year.
 - Adam Quinton: Good point Matt. We don't have the time to be complacent. (And a lot of this work will not be easy.)

2:00 p.m. Session 3 Update on CAC Governance

- **Scott Robson**, Town of Vail
 - Discussion with Matt Scherr and Eric Heil, drafting some MOUs
 - Make sure funding and policy are there from county and municipal standpoint
 - Looking to add some municipal structure to the committee
 - Eric's MOU lays out duty/membership of a governance committee
 - Including elected officials from municipalities and reps from funders
 - Having those elected officials is really key
 - Draft MOU has been put together → structures a group of 5-7 people that can be nimble, high-level
 - Focuses on adoption budgets, overarching goals, etc. without getting into the weeds
 - Consensus that WMSC continues to be delivery mechanism/work engine/center of expertise for these efforts
 - Critical partners like HCE that put in significant and helpful funding for the CAC

- Necessary to have them as perhaps an ex officio member
- Eric
 - CAC goes beyond local govs
 - Don't want to diminish this, but we do have towns/county that needs to budget money and pass some of the heavy lifting → need group of 5-9 board members to manage this

2:15 p.m. BREAK

2:25 p.m. Session 4 Special Presentation: Natural Climate Solutions

- Presented by Tim Sullivan, Director of Natural Climate Solutions at the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council
- Q&A

Tim:

- How to incorporate natural climate solutions into the CAC
 - NCS is up there in emissions reductions capability
- Michelle is building out a program under the Climate Action Plan to include various sectors and thinking about emissions reduction opportunities
- **Goals:**
 - Build a collaborative approach, get the community involved (valley as a whole)
 - Routt County is pretty rural, which is an important reason why NCS is taking the lead
- **Natural Climate Solutions = conservation, restoration, and improved land management strategies that help remove carbon from the air, while also keeping our air and water clean and our soil healthy and productive**
 - NCS vs Conservation: measurement and scale are different
 - Remove carbon from atmosphere, sense of urgency and needs to majorly applied
 - Three actions
 - Protect intact ecosystems
 - Restore native ecosystems
 - Improve practices on working lands
 - Global scale→ mitigation of 25-35% of global human carbon emissions
 - (21% in US)
- Can't address climate change without addressing NCS
- **Co-Benefits:**
 - Don't have to wait for new technology, we already have the tools
 - Many solutions are cost effective → net zero costs
 - Investing in nature is good for other reasons → biodiversity, climate change impact resilience, rural jobs, water security, etc.
- **US max NCS potential = 1.2 billion tons (CO₂e) per yr**
 - Can find opportunities in forests, agricultural lands/grasslands, wetlands
 - *Reforestation* is largest benefit, then natural forest mgmt
 - Avoided forest conversions are also important

- **State scale actions**
 - Avoided grassland conversion, reforestation, etc.
 - <https://nature4climate.org/u-s-carbon-mapper/>
 - State of CO has invested to create a state map with more specific data
 - Collab with US Climate Alliance
 - Study done by Nature Conservancy of CO
 - Need to provide consistent data
 - Lots of opportunity in CO to restore cover
 - Colorado could produce 5.23 million tonnes of CO₂/yr with aggressive tree planting
 - www.reforestationhub.org/state/Colorado
 - Eagle CO → 200,000 T CO₂/yr
 - Impact of various pathways varies based on county specific factors, but Routt County priorities may be similar/transferable to Eagle County
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Potential Pathways for Natural Climate Solutions in Northwest Colorado

Nature-based climate solution	Description
avoided conversion of natural lands	reducing rates of land conversion for anthropogenic uses to avoid carbon emissions
reduced wildfire severity	using forest management practices such as thinning and prescribed burns to reduce fuel loading in forests and managing rangelands to reduce fire risk (e.g. invasive species management). Increased wood utilization from thinned forests (biochar, other products)
post-wildfire and other disturbance reforestation	planting trees in areas that have burned under high-severity wildfires or are understocked due to beetles, blowdown, etc. to improve carbon stocks. Shrubland restoration from converted sites.
riparian restoration	establishing forest cover along riverbanks and stream banks
agroforestry	planting trees and hedgerows along agricultural field boundaries to provide windbreaks and increase soil carbon sequestration
improved grazing management	Changes in grazing practices to increase soil carbon—unclear benefit in NW Colorado grazing systems
compost application	adding compost/biochar to grasslands/pastures to increase soil carbon sequestration
wetland restoration	restoring wetlands to avoid emissions from drained soils and increase carbon stocks

- Riparian restoration is a huge opportunity→ Where Routt County is starting

- **Approaches to measurement**
 - Jurisdictional accounting → large scale
 - Activity-level accounting → how much waste you divert
 - presumption/documentation of change from “Business as usual”
 - Estimate sequestration based on outcomes
 - Use verified protocols/methodologies
 - www.verra.org
- **Tools for measurement**
 - CA has built some tools to create inventories, establish baseline, implement, monitor/report, etc.
 - Or, baseline: Assume zero baseline and then take action to see how it all takes shape

- Sonoma County California: The Nature Conservancy *Climate Action through Conservation* project
https://www.scienceforconservation.org/assets/downloads/CATC_Final_Jan2016.pdf
- Merced County California-Resilient counties guide and TerraCount tool
<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/terracount/>
- Roaring Fork Watershed Carbon Stewardship Analysis
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c72d16ed83554233aff25a5986bbe68b>
- State of CO is looking to develop a tool, but depends on how far they go with development
- **Emerging Opportunities**
 - Federal funding via Biden administration's initiative
 - Green stimulus, new farm bill, forest service focus
 - Job programs (Civilian Climate Corps) → energy and restoration
 - CO
 - HB-1261 Goal programs, US Climate Alliance work, CO Outdoor Partnership
 - Sustainable businesses - market-based approaches
 - Invest in offsets, become “greener”
 - Local and national companies

- **Q and A**

- **Susie:** Is now the time to do what Ecuador did? Establish rights of nature as a political right?
 - **Tim:** for US, challenged to think we could get there
 - Commitment and initiative to protect 30% of all lands is a good first step to achieve potential of nature's rights
 - NCS is a large opportunity for people to take a direct role in action
- **Susie:** would be possible at a state level?
 - **Tim:** would be difficult
- **Sarah Smith-Hymes:** Is it worth pursuing for individuals? Can individuals have an impact?
 - **Tim:** No, you can't do it by yourself, but important to evaluate where it makes sense to do this and water is a big concern
 - ex) landscapes that shouldn't have trees on them and doing so would have a negative impact
 - Think more at larger scale
- **Shawn:** mentioned “jurisdictional inventory.” Has Routt County done it? Who would you use?
 - **Tim:** Pitkin County has done it, Nature Conservancy has done it at state level. Don't have to get data→ you use remote sensing of land cover types which is available everywhere → translate to carbon stock, then look at change over time
 - Doable but Routt has not done it yet
- **Chris:** 1) What do you think is appropriate scale for a NCS working group (e.g. regional/tri-county vs county etc). Similarly in structuring the working group, what is a good structure for actionability (e.g. subgroups focusing on ag, forests etc or other). 2) Do you think we can find certifiable/verifiable NCS offsets in CO that can compete in the voluntary market? Does that matter/should it be a goal or something we keep on the radar?
 - **Tim:** ag and forest are the two subgroups I would think about. A lot of focus on the Yampa River that incorporates both

- BLM, State Forest Service would be good partners
- CO doesn't compete well with selling offsets → could apply for funding
 - markets→ cottonwoods grow fast and could be competitive, but generally, conifers grow slow and are not great sequesters
- **Shawn:** mentioned state is doing work for statewide inventory? Who is doing that?
 - **Tim:** dept of natural resources, dept of ag, Nature Conservancy,
 - **Shawn:** Soil health bill coming up→ will it be tied to this work?
 - **Tim:** will be very tied to it, but not necessarily in Routt and Eagle Counties

3:10 p.m. Session 5 Special CAC Updates

- BEECH Initiative – Mobile home upgrade project in collaboration with NWCCOG

Beneficial Electrification of Eagle County Housing

John:

- Electrification is switching out natural gas/propane appliances to electric appliances
- Ex) Chris Lammers home is a custom single family home and Basalt Vista Project
 - Manufactured/mobile homes → 1500 in Eagle County and 80,000 in state of CO
 - Many are very old, were build for other climates in other climates, and put into place in CO without improvements
 - Leaky, underinsulated, failing appliances
 - NWCCOG works with income qualified groups → services for 100+ homes a year and know a lot about mobile homes
 - *Providing help for those who need help the most*
 - Cost savings, health and safety, GHG

Doug Jones:

- Leveraging federal and state funding to get local funding
- Weatherization Assistance Program → federally funded, works in 14 counties, save energy in 300+ homes a year
- Covid hit, but when summer rolled around, meeting started up again
 - July, CEO gave funding to install heat pumps for beneficial electrification
 - EC, WMSC, and HCE reached out
- MIRA=mobile intercultural resource alliance
 - Went with them to get people to sign up for programs
- Typical Mobile Home from Dotsero park
 - 864 sqft, old broken down furnaces, using space heaters because propane for furnaces was so expensive
- Get folks signed up for Weatherization Assistance Program, then do energy audit, work on sealing, windows, LEDs, etc.
 - Upgrade service from 100amps to 125 amps
 - Air Source heat pump mounts on outside and theres an indoor air handler
 - Takes heat from outside, runs it through the system, through the coils which heats the air on the inside
 - Unit works down to -5°
 - Backup electric if heater can't heat up

- Heat pump water heaters
 - Takes heat out of the air to heat the water, pumps cold air out → insulated and air sealed closet to prevent cold air from entering living space
 - \$100/electric per year for domestic hot water
- Induction range with compatible cooking set
- Health and safety
 - Working on gas leak repairs, eliminating propane
- Energy Use
 - Clients are seeing savings *and* having a safe home
 - Can't have a safer home and increased bills
- Recognizing Seth
 - Energy efficient project manager and had inspiring visions for this project

Q and A

- **Sarah:** Does anyone know what percentage of EC mobile homes are individually owned vs owned by the mobile home park owners
 - **John:** not typically available for sale on the market, usually passed to friends and family
 - Mobile home in Dotsero might cost 20-30 thousand to purchase, but cost to have home sit in park is around \$800-1000 plus monthly utilities
- **Morgan Hill:** how to work on drinking water in mobile home → something worth considering in holistic picture for helping these communities
 - **John:** 30 mobile home parks in EC with different circumstances, fuel sources, etc.
 - Currently working on propane services due to cost reductions

Regional Collaboratives around Colorado

Kim:

- Think about utilizing other regional collaboratives
 - Routt County, Yampa Valley
 - Garfield County, CLEER and Garfield Clean Energy Collective
 - Collaborative partnership across local governments → heavy focus on Renewable Energy Development, in HCE service territory
 - Summit County, strong focus on forestry, and some members worked with ICLEI for forestry accounting in a GHG inventory, piloting benchmark program
 - Pitkin County, started an Upper Valley Collaborative led by CORE
 - Started to meet to coordinate on larger climate efforts within own community
 - Eagle County → most robust structure
- Important to recognize that we aren't alone in processes
- Cross-county Collaboration:
 - **Beneficial Electrification Cohort → Eagle, Pitkin, Garfield, Summit, and HCE**
 - Share resources, training, etc.
 - **Phi:** Anyone who is interested in joining the BE Cohort let me know and I will add you, and feel free to contact me with any questions Phi@aspencore.org.

- **DOLA Renewable Energy Challenge Grand Implementation**
 - Led by CLEER → Pitkin, Eagle, Garfield
 - Solar and Storage master plan for 3-county region
- Good for access to fundings, sharing resources, and action implementation

Education & Outreach Restructuring

Kim

- **Limitations to Current Structure**

- Limited capacity at WM to run community scale education campaign
- Hard to get sustainability stories from CAC partners
- CAC is already functioning as an 'Advisory Group' → want to grow capacity here

- **Ideas**

- Advisory group for E&O
 - CAP Implementation support, reaching new audiences
 - Develop 6 month plan at meetings
 - Have reps from sector teams
- Require CAC partners to share stories about what they are doing
- Have a structure for last minute events/announcements
- CAC presence at live events
- Replicate COVID communications for climate
 - Regularly scheduled call with public info officers to share updates on covid
 - Could potentially be a model to share updates for climate

- **CAC Partner Requests**

- ID a staff person to participate on E&O advisory group
- Think about how you'll share your stories

Susie

- Missing opportunity to dilute E&O portion of CAC
- The drumbeat needs to be built stronger
 - Other considerations that this group can work on at a time when communications is absolutely necessary
- Should be every week in the paper: a grand story of progress
 - Progress motivates people to keep going
- **Kim:** intent of advisory group is to make communication stronger, create outreach plan to execute every 6 months
 - Published at least once per year
 - Advisory group and working groups have similar duties, but if advisory council is brought in, CAC partners would be able to communicate themselves
 - Enhance instead of dilute

- **Quick reminders**

- Trends with Benefits
- CDOT Grant Applications
- LED Swaps 2021
- Bi-annual recycling guide
- Co-chair requests
 - Critical to help with sector team meetings, organization, agenda setting, etc.
 - Checking in once a quarter before meetings, co-run the group, be a sounding board for strategy implementation

Beth Reilley: Edwards Metro is offering \$200 rebates on e-bikes for Edwards Metro residents. For more information/ application contact meghan@mwcpanet.org

Mary Weiner: HCE has been offering a \$200 rebate for e-bikes since Sept 2019. So if you live in Edwards Metro District, you would be eligible for \$400 in rebates! <https://www.holycross.com/rebates/e-bike/>

4:00 p.m. Thank you and adjourn!