

Q3 Climate Action Collaborative Stakeholder Meeting

8/30/2021

Attendees, 49: Claire Kantor, Kim Schlaepfer, Laura Bohannon, Melissa Kirr, Nikki Maline, Bryan Hannegan, Eric Heil, Aaron Sifuentes, AC, Adam Quinton, Beth Markham, Bob A, Carly West, Cat Hayes, Cliff Simonton, Derek Place, Beth Reilly, James Dilzell, Jesse Masten, JohnRyan Lockman, Kate Manzer, Ken Marchetti, Kim Langmaid, Kira Koppel, Kristen Bertuglia, Mackenzie Koffenberger, Maren Cerimele, Markian Feduschak, Mary Wiener, Michael Rodenak, Mikayla Curtis, Mike Steiner, Morgan Hill, Nick Sterling, Nina Wasydorf, Oliver Skelly, Paul Abling, Paul Rossetti, Rebecca Manzone, Rich Clubine, Ross Leonhart, Sam Phillips, Sara Nadolny, Shawn Bruckman, Scott Schlosser, Tanya Allen, Tessa Schreiner, Tim Braun

Session 1: CAC Admin Updates

Kim:

- Sent out funding request that was higher than request from previous year
- Program cost went up due to a second staff member and increased program capacity
- Critical to hit fundraising targets so both staff members can continue to execute on the collaborative
 - Kim is willing to be there to present to boards or assist in any other necessary capacity

CAC Board Update

Matt:

- Not where we want to be, but making progress
- Creating governance board for the climate action collaborative to create a nexus between CAC and policymakers
 - Big moves come down to gvt policy (i.e., county and municipalities doing things relative to transit and building codes)
 - Ex officio seat for each gvt = 8 seats
- Responsible for funding and function of organization
- County + 5 municipalities have signed MOU
 - Gypsum may or may not, but Matt is going to meeting to ask for their consideration
 - Town of Eagle has their own goal of net zero by 2028 in own operations and whole town by 2030- working on that
 - MOU does say to join board, you have to adopt the climate action plan
 - Advocating for this line to change so it isn't just a technicality that bars participation

Session 2: Climate Impacts and CAC KPIs

IPCC Report:

- 1) **The last decade was hotter than any period in 125,000 years- 1.1°C above the 19th century average.**
- 2) **Scientists can now link specific weather events to human-made climate change.**
- 3) **Future warming is inevitable, scientists have now narrowed the warming range for the Earth's response to GHGs.**
- 4) **The Earth rewards good behavior, and there is a path to safety.**
- 5) **The IPCC's volunteer scientists build consensus with all UN governments before releasing this report.**

Eagle County Climate Projection Modeling: Impact analysis for both Summit and Eagle County

<http://www.rockymountainclimate.org/images/EagleProjectionsFinal.pdf>

- Temperature and precipitation impacts based on 4 emissions scenario
- Decided to follow Medium #2- high emissions that reduce after mid-century
- **Hotter Summers**
 - Analysis broke down temperatures into 20 year increments
 - *see slides for numbers
 - Steady increase of days 85° and hotter, high temps of hottest day of years, and average summer high temperatures
 - Extreme differences between
- **Warmer winters**
- **Other Key Takeaways**
 - Earlier spring warm-up → shorter/slushier ski season
 - More precipitation in the form of heavy storms
 - Wildfires, mudslides, water quality issues, etc.
- Need to start turning the boat now- use the IPCC course

Adam

- We've actually hit the iceberg
- Raise the urgency

Derek

- Any reset for covid?
- **Kim:** 2021 data is not in yet, so we cannot compare 2020 data at the moment
 - However, with economic bounceback, there were not significant enough dips in emissions to have an impact on our future path

High Impact Actions

ICLEI Report- Analysis was done for all member communities

- Took latest inventories and put together a high impact actions based on 2017 inventory
 - Included science based target -> also applies GDP factor to it
- Priority actions identified in the Climate Action Plan were the exact same category of actions delivered to us and communities around the country
 - VMT reductions, EV adoption (4.5%, included analysis for EV sales), Res + Commercial Building Electrification
 - Energy efficiency
- Simply showcases that we hit the nail on the head
- ICLEI Target = 63.4%, and CAP Priority Actions if completed in full would achieve 68% reduction

Indicators vs. Inventories

- **Indicator** → data indicative of progress toward CAP goals, but don't directly report out GHG emissions
- **Inventories** → GHG emission report that demonstrates tangible increases or decreases in community-wide GHG emissions

Need both to determine how we're doing

Indicators:

- 0.55% of all registered vehicles are currently all-electric → goal is 2%/year
- 1% of new buildings both commercial and residential were serviced by all-electric equipment
- For waste, we are making steady, positive progress on our goals, but of course there is work to do in every sector!

Focus on vehicle electrification and building electrification- as indicated by our ICLEI and CAP Analyses

Inventories:

2019 no full GHG inventory, just looking at energy use in buildings

4.62% increase in Total energy emissions

- **2%** decrease in electricity emissions
- **13.6%** increase in Natural Gas

Session 3: Sector Updates

Materials Management

Beth Markham- curbside compost

- Vail Curbside Compost Pilot Program
 - In January, we released and RFP for a hauler who could provide a curbside compost pilot program for residents of West Vail
 - Selected Vail HoneyWagon
 - \$30,000 to provide 100 residential units with a program
 - Selected West Vail due to number of year round residents and interest
- Worked with Shawn and Becca at HoneyWagon
 - Residents receive 5 gallon locking buckets, yard waste paper bags and educational materials
 - Buckets are feasible, and because yard waste doesn't attract wildlife, residents can put yard waste in an open top container or the paper bags
 - Full throttle launch in July
 - 25 households and 1 HOA with 24 units kicking service off 9/21
 - ToV subsidizes cost of program
 - Cost to resident is \$8/month
 - For HOA, subsidized 50% up to \$50/month
 - Will run until April 2022, then will assess
 - Through May, diverted about 1/3 ton of waste
- **Shawn:** going really well from hauler's perspective
 - Get more people signing up all the time, and marketing campaign was important for getting the word out
 - Been able to get more businesses on the program
- Yay ToV for being the first ones to do this! Because of it, HoneyWagon is anticipating more curbside collection- can currently do 25 residents per neighborhood
 - Drop sites are helpful as well to see concentrations of folks who want to do it

Eric Heil- Regional Transportation Authority Conversations

- Mayors and Managers have been discussing, + technical committee, reps from 4 existing transit agencies
- Draft MOU to send to municipalities and Eagle County that gets started on a Regional Transportation Formation Committee to work on studying the proposal and community input over the next 14 months, leading up to 2022 election season

- Phase 1 (remainder of 2021) → \$30,000 to hire facilitator and help get organized
 - 2022, \$170,000 budget to continue with facilitation and look at 3rd party legal costs and get paperwork organized
- Can include metro district that has transportation in their service plan- continuing to look at this topic
- RTA has ability to do 1% sales tax, 2% accommodation, property tax- funding options to be explored that would improve transportation and transition fleet to electric/hydrogen
 - Taking over funding of Eagle Air Alliance
- Will be a comprehensive community process to maximize ideas

Shawn: will this be sent to towns before November board elections?

- **Eric:** Vote wouldn't be until November 1, 2022
 - First step is just getting people working on what an RTA would look like

Beth: has RTA had conversations of adding multimodal transit options?

- **Eric:** it's not something we've focused on so far, but in MOU, we anticipate and allow for interest in multimodal- could be an aspect, but needs to be researched and considered

Derek: electric vehicle purchase?

- **Eric:** Avon got awarded grants to purchase 2 electric buses
 - Updating fleet- shifting police vehicles to hybrids
 - Can transition half of fleet to those- be a big step toward 25% reduction goal
 - AWD VW electric vehicles for some cars in fleet- subject to council approval
 - Looking at service pick-up trucks→ trying out a few hybrids and see if we can put a plow on those

EV Events

- 1) **Public EV showcase October 6, Edwards Field House, 5-7pm**
- 2) **Demo with Lightning eMotors- company that does microshuttles, box vans, etc. Oct 7, Elk Lot, 11-2**

Nikki Maline- BE Updates

- Convening BE Regional Group so the region can collaborate on everything
 - Case Studies: beginning gathering info and data
 - Template with info is available
 - Hoping to have case studies to share by end of year
- Heat Pump Bulk Buy program
 - Considering as a larger regional group to make heat pump distribution more effective
- CEO and BE League of CO
 - Partner the best we can with both groups
 - Working with heat pump distributor group
 - Webinar takeaways: Contractors can't keep up with tech- hard to keep up with new updates
 - Want to utilize state resources to address barriers facing contractors
- Rebates
 - Align those with HCE and others in the region
 - HCE has over 300 heat pumps installed in our territory
- Local electrification→ BEECH project still happening in Dotsero mobile home park
 - 5 already done, and more on the list
 - CEO provided funding through Weatherization Assistance Program

- October 9th, enrollment event at Dotsero mobile home park → community event and get people excited
- CEO is working on press release for BEECH project
- Webinars for the consumer
 - Need to continue with local education
 - Generally last around an hour
 - <https://www.walkingmountains.org/programs/energy-webinars/>
 - August 31 @ 5:30 pm Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pumps Webinar
 - September 7 @ 5:30 pm Webinar: Heat Pumps for Homes with Electric Baseboard Heating
 - September 14 @ 5:30 pm Webinar: Heat Pumps for Homes with Ducted Furnaces
- Looking/talking about another solarize type program, partnering with Pitkin and across county

Bryan Hannegan- Holy Cross Energy

- “Journey to 100%”
 - Smart Electrification→ encourage you to call us early and often
 - Can help come up with creative solutions to help you and your community
 - 4 MW/year of DERs
 - Knitting buildings, transportation, etc. into the grid- requires strong engineering thinking
- Bulk Power
 - Good progress with large scale wind and solar projects
 - Hoping for these to be online end of 2022 or start of 2023
 - New hydro project in CO River Valley
 - 3 new Solar + Storage - CMC Spring Valley campus will support all CMC campuses in HCE footprint
 - Other two can function as gas turbine replacements- can vary it up and down quite quickly
 - **2024- 84-85% renewable powered grid**
 - 2021- 54-55% clean energy
 - Voluntary participation in PuRE program adds 3-4% !!
 - Move the rest of the way with smaller, more bite-sized chunks via DER
- In afternoon, we have more demand than we do energy, so energy storage and demand response in both directions are key
 - Need more devices in more places with more consumers in a way that HCE can control
- EV Charging Program- Free L2 EV chargers to every residential or commercial member
 - Need more!
 - Transit and school buses- innovative rate designs (TOU), charging support, etc.
- Power+ storage- battery storage behind the meter
 - Adds flexibility to the system
 - Financed at 0%, no money down
 - Helps with grid failures- good resilience play
- Basalt Vista- helped feed appetite for these types of projects
 - “Bring us your difficult problems”
- Offering new rates and programs, ways to finance, ways to get paid for allowing HCE to use the system / adjust demand / consume extra renewables
 - PuRE program is helping HCE
 - Once 100% is achieved, program can be sunsetted
- ****Call us early and often****

Kim: for the battery program: is that for commercial and residential? Separate programs?

- **Bryan:** Power+ is focused on residential, but idea conceptions for commercial. Bottom of ski lifts

Session 4: Eagle County Conservation District Presentation

Ken Marchetti:

Mission: Providing the preservation and restoration of natural resources through education, cooperation, and initiation of conservation practices

- Working collaboratively toward accomplishment of mutual missions
- Want to increase awareness of who we are
- Conservation Districts
 - Started after Soil Conservation Act of 1935 post Dust Bowl
 - Today, we are also seeing extreme weather patterns, drought, etc.
 - Took CO a few years to initiate program, ECCD was formed in 1950, but with strong emphasis on soil- conservation is more than just soil
 - Special districts that are governmental entities with a different level of authority (i.e., can review land use proposals)
 - Represent property owners that are out of boundaries as of 1950
 - Might be part of town now, but still qualify as under the Conservation District
- SWAPA + H,E
 - Soil, water, air, plants, animals + humans, energy

Scott Schlosser: Soil and Water

- **Soil Health Initiative** <https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/soil-health/soil-health-initiative>
 - Will assist agricultural producers in improving productivity and resilience of land,
 - NRCS, CO collab for healthy soil, CO State conservation board, CO Dpt of Ag
 - Sequester carbon, improve habitat, etc.
 - Yearly soils workshop
 - Sept. 16 from 5-7
 - 3224 Brush Creek Rd, Eagle
 - STAR Program: Incentivize ranchers to participate
 - Easy field-level assessment, informed by local research, connection to local tech assistance, recognition for conservation practices
- **Colorado Water Plan**
 - Only conservation district in state to be part of final plan
 - Asset inventory program
 - Ditches, headgates, conservation programs, etc.
- **Deep Creek Wild and Scenic River**
 - Collaborate with ERWatershed Council, working on Eagle River Community Water Plan
- **CoAgMet Station-** http://www.coagmet.colostate.edu/station/egl01_main.html
 - Two weather stations- one in Eagle and Gypsum
 - Help measure evapotranspiration
 - Weather stations can be used by any homeowner with a lawn

Shawn: Air

- **CAP** calls for immediate reduction of CO2 from air
- Soil holds 3x more carbon than plants

- We need carbon, but need it in the soil where it belongs
- Plants use photosynthesis to take carbon dioxide out of the air, use it to make sugars, then put sugars into the ground
- Microorganisms feed on that sugar and exchange it for nutrients
 - *Need healthy soil with life in it to store carbon*
 - Some fungi can store 70% more carbon than other microbes → encourage fungi in the soil
- Conservation district helps connect folks to resources for these best practices

Plants

- Have **Annual Tree Sales**
- Trees are grown by CSU + CO State Forest Service → grow native trees/shrubs and are available through ECCD- funds support all three programs
- **Noxious Weed Program**
 - Important to address Class A noxious weeds - illegal to let these grow on land
 - Help to reimburse landowners to help them get rid of these, then repopulating the soil with something we need to grow
 - Revegetation is included in cost-sharing program, including pest management and efforts to actually restore soil

Animals

- Regenerative agriculture recognizes the importance of animals on the land for sequestering carbon
- Principles of Soil Health
 - By having soil covered with mulch, cover crops, and no till practices
 - Animal disturbance = good disturbance
 - Herds move through and fertilize
 - Can also help sequester more carbon- when plants are disturbed, they want to reproduce and will take more carbon to increase longevity
 - 40% of CO land is prairie and grassland
 - County extends far North with a lot of potential to use more regen. ag practices
- ECCD will help reach out to landowners to promote and hopefully incentivize these

Laura: Humans

- NRCS and CO Association Conservation District to help ID and implement conservation practices and connect people to the land
 - Good to help people help the land
- Education + Events- Summer Science Camp Scholarships at Walking Mountains, Farm Tour
 - Partnering with COSA- visit working ranch in EC to learn about conservation practices
 - Conference is Oct 11-13
 - At Fair and Rodeo with educational displays made from broken down plastics
 - Talks about watersheds and riparian systems and shows how erosion works
 - Works with CSU extension to do workshops

Energy

- SWAPA is all interconnected to itself- system approach to closed loop nutrient management system with humans at the center
- ECCD = regenerative culture statement

Vence: Virtual Fencing Pilot Project

- Uses wireless network GPS communications data

- Cattle trained to wear GPS equipped collars that alerts them when they approach a boundary→ helps promote rotational grazing
 - Reduces conflict

Mary: IPCC contributed methane as a big contributor to climate change- is there any talk about stopping/reducing amount of cattle/methane in the West?

- **Shawn:** methane production coming out of confined animal feeding operations
 - Want animals in the dry arid West because we need them- we've eradicated herds of animals
 - Supporting *local ranchers* who are doing regenerative land management
 - Educating ranchers and giving them resources
 - Animals can help restore water holding capacity
- Baseline and where we need to target irrigation and resources and money

Beth Reilly: when do you market the tree/shrub sale?

- **Shawn:** we will be better about sharing information
 - For community estimates: can look at website to get idea for budgeting
 - **Scott:** encourage people to approach their towns and HOAs and communities to participate in the program→ would encourage Eagle County to reinstate tree buying program to reduce cost
- eaglecountycd@gmail.com Laura's email

Session 5: Vision and Commitments

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1zNHul8s0pMsGz3WxyhrGY7CfN4UDdcpHy2RwXjHHDEE/edit?usp=sharing>