
Notes from Initial Energy Conservation Plan

Monday, February 19, 2018 -- Red Lodge Area Community Foundation

Meeting Takeaways

4:00 Welcome & Introductions

4:15 Review Objectives & Timeline

- No changes were made to the Objective at this point
- We will try to stick to the Timeline and set up a new meeting date each month

4:30 Build a Communal Knowledge Base

- Reviewed components of three example Energy Conservation Plans
- Reviewed the City of Red Lodge Baseline Inventory
- Issues that were brought up...
 - Should our focus be saving money or saving energy?
 - Is the high cost of water treatment due to the way North Western Energy (NWE) bills the city? Demand Charge vs. kilowatt hour charge
 - Would the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) solar array save us more money if we paid by the kilowatt rather than by Demand Charge?
 - Is there potential to change the way NWE bills us for our Water Treatment?
 - Must keep in mind that WWTP Lagoons and Nitrogen Load in Water Treatment are not included in the Baseline Inventory
 - Is there anyway we can bring down Processing energy use in Water Treatment with new technology? Solar Bees, Aeration triggered by dissolved oxygen sensors?
 - We need to look into the process of how our water and wastewater are treated, will have someone read the Preliminary Engineering Report
 - Could we potentially shut off some of our streetlights to save money?
- Reviewed reduction targets of other communities
- Issues that were brought up...
 - We want to contact the three example communities and see if they have met their reduction goals
- Reviewed focus areas and strategies of other communities
- Issues that were brought up...
 - Raised questions about why Land Use and Waste are not incorporated in the Baseline Inventory, we still want to address these in our Plan
 - Could we plant grasses and plants on unused parcels of city land to sequester carbon?
 - Could we revisit our policies on parking lot size and switch to porous lots and gravel rather than concrete?
 - Could we use the tree inventory as a baseline for Land Use?
 - Could we scale down our Community Waste data to only include City Operations waste and use that as a baseline for Waste?
 - Could we negotiate with Republic Services when our contract comes up to get more recycling?

- Would it be more sustainable to build a small landfill in Red Lodge rather than truck our trash?
- Dissect other communities Strategy Table of Contents
 - Broke into groups and each group looked at one community's list of Focus Areas and Strategies

5:30 What will our Plan look like?

- After reviewing plans of other communities, what do we like?
- Decide what focus areas our Plan will target and what components it will include
 - We did not decide on the components we want in our Plan, but decided that good focus areas for us would be...
 - Internal Policies & Practices
 - Buildings
 - Wastewater & Water
 - Land Use & Codes
 - Solid Waste, Recycling, & Compost
 - Education & Outreach

6:00 Focus Area Groups

- Self-assign to a focus area
 - We did not decide who will work on writing strategies for each Focus Area, will do this before the next meeting
- Decide if we want to bring in any other focus area experts
- People who we want to bring in at some point...
 - Jim Bushnell (Public Works Director), give us a rundown on how the Water Treatment Plant works and work with Wastewater & Water Focus Group
 - High Plains Architects (Building Efficiency Experts), work with our Building Focus Area Group
 - James Caniglia (City Planner), explain our codes and work with Land Use & Codes Focus Group
 - DeNaye Pederson-Kern or Loni Hansen (Deputy Clerk & City Clerk), talk to us about annual solid waste costs for City Operations and work with the Internal Policies and Practices Focus Area Group

6:15 Wrap-Up

- Go over homework assignments
 - Corey Thompson will review the Republic Services contract and costs for solid waste and recycling
 - Kathryn Eklund will gather Energy Audit data on City Buildings and circulate it
 - Kevin Owens will read and review the Preliminary Engineering Report at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - Theresa Whistler will contact Missoula to discuss the status of their Plan
 - Dan Seifert will contact Bozeman to discuss the status of their Plan
 - Kathryn Eklund will contact Park City to discuss the status of their Plan
 - Kate Belinda will put together a survey for City Employees regarding their current views and relationships with recycling, energy usage, etc.