
Notes from 2nd Energy Conservation Meeting

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 -- Red Lodge Area Community Foundation

Focus Groups

Fleet, Buildings & Streetlights --Bill DeGroot and Henry Dykema

Wastewater & Water -- Kevin Owens and Dan Seifert

Codes & Land Use --Theresa Whistler, Jeff DiBenedetto and Bill Foisy

Solid Waste, Recycling & Compost -- Corey Thompson, Kate Belinda and Green Team

Today's Objective

1. Write Focus Area specific Strategies

Agenda

4:00 Welcome

4:05 Review Objective

4:10 Present Homework Assignments

- Takeaways from conversations with Park City, Missoula and Bozeman
 - Park City: They had to do a 2nd Climate Action Plan because their first one never gathered steam, have been relying heavily on Carbon Offset purchases but overall their greenhouse gas emissions are decreasing, have been partnering with local nonprofits to run and organize the energy projects that the plan identified, advice is to track closely how data is gathered so it can be replicated, community support is key!
 - Missoula: suggested that we follow Whitefish's plan as a guide, don't short your community and involve them as much as possible, suggested that we go after the low-hanging fruit first, they did make their 2015 goal and aren't sure if they made 2017 goal of 30% decrease, challenges they are facing are budgetary, always in competition for City funding, they have a City Ordinance that aligns with their Plan and maybe we should try for this, said they are doing a re-inventory every 2 years rather than annually, emphasized location of City Buildings in areas that are easy to access, have created a tree plantation near the WWTP and will use this money to fund other energy projects, still planning to buy Carbon Offsets down the line, suggested we engage a college on the energy projects down the line
 - Bozeman: Spin-off group has been formed who has worked with the City to hire staff and form an Office of Sustainability, a cohort of Montana Climate Cities could be forming soon to share information, said Billings is starting their version of a Plan, suggested to embed with the community and with the
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City Staff, their input and buy-in is key, could we get permanent City Staff to work on these projects down the line?

- Overview of Republic Service contract and City costs for Waste Removal
 - Total paid to Republic on behalf of the City for 2016-2017 fiscal year was \$388,683.78, average tons of waste leaving Red Lodge is 202 lbs each month
 - City pays Beartooth Industries \$29,650 for labor and \$2,686.55 in additional costs, the City made \$1,767.76 back by selling recycled materials
 - City pays \$22 for each trash can in town, no tonnage fee exists so there is no real incentive to decrease the amount of trash that Red Lodge produces
 - Could we switch to a tonnage fee when we renegotiate our next contract?
- Review results of the City Employee Survey
 - Survey shows that we have work to do in terms of teaching City Employees the importance of acting sustainably in the workplace
 - Will analyze the data by Department to further identify where we should invest in education, and will work with the Police Officers to have them fill it out
- Takeaways from the Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report and WWTP tour
 - Greatest opportunity for cost savings lies in the motors that produce the dissolved oxygen in the aeration ponds and separating stormwater out of the wastewater stream
 - VFDs are now online that should reduce these aeration costs and stormwater separation plan is underway
 - Could we put in some SolarBees to help produce dissolved oxygen in addition to the aeration motors?
 - Could we install a small digester and an internal combustion system to capture the methane that our solids at the WWTP produce?

5:00 Write Focus Area Specific Strategies

- Break into Focus Area groups
- Go over the strategies you individually gathered and refined since our last meeting and consult with the applicable experts
- Compile a master list of the strategies your Focus Area group wants to see included in the Plan
- Compile a list of questions you have and experts you still need to hear from

6:00 Wrap-Up

- Bring question list and master list of strategies to Kathryn

Next Meeting -- April

Present, discuss and approve all Strategies

Write Education & Outreach Strategies and any Additional Strategies