DATE	May 11, 2022
TO	Sustainability & Climate Advisory Committee
FROM	Lynne Barker, Sustainability Manager
RE	**Sustainability & Climate Advisory Committee Meeting Outcomes**

MAY MEETING REPORT

Blaine County, the City of Ketchum and the City of Hailey hosted the fourth Sustainability & Climate Advisory Committee meeting on May 11, 2022. The event was held in person with the option to join through a virtual meeting platform. Sixteen committee members attended.

MEETING OVERVIEW

> ACTION TAKEN: January Meeting Report Accepted.

The January 2022 meeting report offered an overview of each agenda item, presented the main points of discussion, and documented recommendations and actions taken. The meeting report was accepted.

PROGRESS UPDATES

SolSmart Designation

> MILESTONE: Earned SolSmart Silver designation.

The committee celebrated a recent accomplishment, Blaine County and the City of Hailey received a SolSmart Silver designation. The City of Ketchum expects to also earn a Silver Designation within the coming weeks. Actions taken include streamlining and simplifying the solar permit and inspection process and reviewing zoning requirements to reduce barriers to solar development.

Blaine County Clean Energy Coalition

Blaine County and the cities of Bellevue, Hailey, and Ketchum submitted comments to the Idaho Public Utility Commission on Case No. IPC-E-21-40. The case is an application from Idaho Power Company (IPC) that aims to rename the Green Power Purchase Program to *Clean Energy Your Way,* and to expand options for customers to purchase clean energy. The comments communicate overall support for the application with recommendations on changes that would make these programs more accessible to the county and our cities.

The new offerings include an expansion of IPC's renewable energy certificate (REC) program to keep up with demand; a new subscription-style green tariff program that allows customers to scribe to a portion of a new, renewable energy resource that IPC will procure or construct; and a new

construction program for large customers in which these customers can meet 100 percent of electricity usage needs through a new renewable energy resource procured or constructed by IPC.

Wood River Valley (WRV) Microgrid Grant Application

Blaine County partnered with the cities of Bellevue, Hailey, and Ketchum and St. Luke's Hospital to develop and submit a Project Scoping grant application to FEMA. The application was submitted on April 1, 2022. The application requests funding to investigate, evaluate, and recommend a microgrid solution to increase energy reliability and resilience for critical infrastructure in the WRV.

Brand + Identity

Blaine County worked with Glick + Fray to create a program brand and identity. The Advisory Committee was engaged and members were invited to participate in a survey designed to gather input on the brand identity and were invited to weigh in on the logo designs. The new brand is a result the engagement with committee members and the input provided.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Workshop

During the November Advisory Committee meeting, members recommended that the county provide training and tools on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to all volunteer committee members. The county hosted a two-day workshop in April that consisted of two, three-hour sessions. Advisory Committee member, Luis Alberto Lecanda helped to plan and organization the training.

Thirty people attended the workshop, including representatives for the Advisory Committee and from each of the four Task Forces. Committee members that attended the workshop offered comments on the event, which was resoundingly positive. Members expressed an interest in hosting future workshops. Many members found the time commitment a challenge to accommodate with busy scheduled. Committee members also recommended improving outreach efforts for future events to ensure a broader diversity of community members attend.
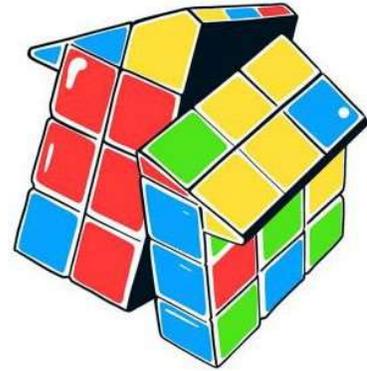
Technical Task Forces

Invitations have been sent to community members identified to serve on specific task forces. The task force structure was decided during the January Advisory Committee meeting. The Clean Energy & Green Building Task Force meet on May 2. During the meeting, members weighed in on the Clean Energy Modeling & Feasibility Study. The initial meetings for the three other task forces will be scheduled for late May and early June.

Ketchum Housing Matters Initiative

Carissa Connelly, Ketchum Housing Strategist, presented an update on the Ketchum Housing Initiative. The City of Ketchum completed a strategic action plan, which was formally adopted by the City Council on May 9, 2022. The city gathered input from stakeholders and community members through a variety of methods, from in person meetings to surveys and open houses. Five goals guide future actions:
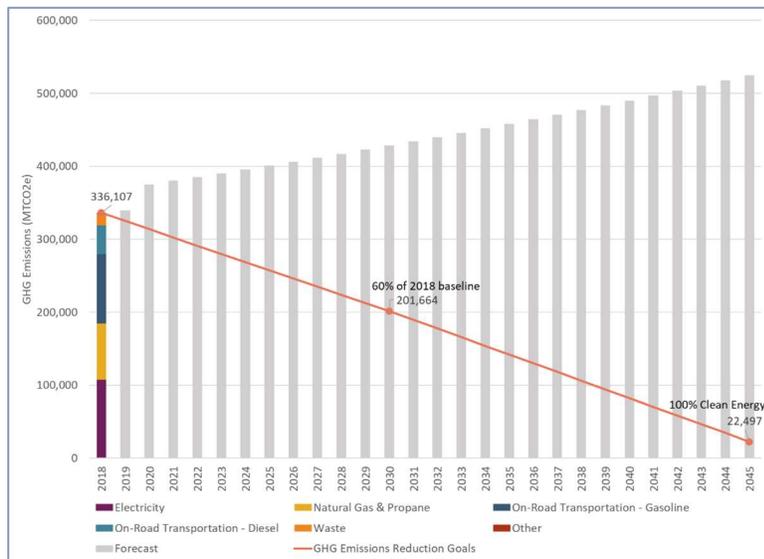
1. Produce and Preserve Housing
2. Update Policy to Promote Housing
3. Expand and Improve Services to Create housing Stability
4. Expand and Leverage Resources
5. Inform, Engage and Collaborate

The city will track and report process to community leaders and residents through meetings, communication, and regular reports. The plan will be also be updated on a regular basis to reflect accomplishments, new opportunities, and adjustments needed to achieve desired outcomes.

One element in the action plan is a recommendation to change the structure of the Blaine County Housing Authority. New structures were proposed and vetted with the goal of creating greater accountability toward achievement of community-wide housing goals.

CLEAN ENERGY MODELING & FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

Staff presented the results of the clean energy analysis and feasibility modeling study provided by the Brendle Group. Committee members discussed barriers, benefits, and strategies for achieving established clean energy and climate goals based on the outcome of the study.

The adjacent graph depicts business-as-usual, no changes to policies and regulations. Greenhouse gas emissions will continue to rise at a steady pace that reflects growth projections. The orange line depicts the trajectory needed to achieve the communities adopted clean energy and climate goals.

The Brendle Group analyzed energy and fuel usage data, housing stock and vehicle registrations, and municipal energy and fuel usage. The team then modeled implementation of the identified high impact practices to evaluate the feasibility and path forward toward achieving our clean energy goals. The data was presented and committee members discussed each section: energy supply, transportation, and buildings.

ENERGY SUPPLY

BARRIERS	OPPORTUNITIES
Multifamily projects are required to meter each residential unit separately to meet net metering requirements. This regulation creates a financial barrier, the increase in cost to meter each unit is cost prohibitive.	Raise awareness on the cost/benefits of solar and guidelines on how best to approach a renewable energy project for home and businesses can better equip residents.
Energy storage capacity is also needed to improve grid efficiency and the costs for energy storage can pose a barrier.	Establish incentives for renewable energy systems and energy storage.
The Public Utility Commission is considering a case that may increase fees associated with net metering, creating a financial barrier.	Raise awareness that HOA members can install solar energy systems by right per state law.
Current regulations limit the size of a solar installation based on annual energy usage limiting local generating capacity.	Create partnerships and invest in workforce development to grow our local clean energy workforce.
State legislation is needed to enable community solar that offers access to renewable energy to a broader range of customers.	Encourage and incentivize energy efficiency retrofits to reduce demand.
Supply chain issues and the lack of skilled workers limits the number of solar energy systems that can be installed.	
Increased cost of housing and living paired with low wages makes solar unaffordable to many.	

TRANSPORTATION

BARRIERS	OPPORTUNITIES
State law prohibits local governments from adopting more stringent code requirements, such as EV-ready regulations.	Follow the City of Hailey's lead by adopting incentives for EV-ready buildings.
Because the State of Idaho doesn't have clean car regulations, it is difficult to purchase an electric vehicle from Idaho dealers. EVs are shipped to states with regulations in place.	Encourage businesses to stall EV charging stations at workplaces.
State laws increased the cost for EV registration to two times the cost of combustion engine vehicles creating a financial barrier.	Apply for state and federal funding to create an EV infrastructure plan that includes recommendations on charging locations.
The Office of Energy & Mineral Resources offers grants to municipalities for installing fast charging stations, but limits the number of	Education and outreach to help residents understand the cost/benefits of owning an EV.
	Develop a ride share program that utilizes technology to make it easy to match drivers or vehicle owners with those looking to share the ride or use a vehicle.

stations through a 50-mile distance between stations requirement.	Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, and make room for small, electric mobility devices such as e-scooters to encourage people to use alternative modes of transportation.
Emissions from the airport must be considered as those emissions may be higher that the rest of the transportation sector.	Expand public transit routes to areas like Carey and Gannett Road to increase service to more areas and access to low-income residents.
Construction and landscaping workers all drive their own trucks to jobsites instead of carpooling.	State and federal funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
	As fuel prices increase, it may lead to a change in behaviors or make EV's a more viable option.

BUILDINGS

BARRIERS	OPPORTUNITIES
State regulation prohibit local government from adopting more stringent energy codes.	Develop and implement incentive-based programs to encourage better energy performance.
Home sizes being constructed.	Create a statewide coalition of cities and counties to advocate for more control over local codes and regulations.
Construction of very large homes which consume greater amounts of energy and wealthy home-owners that don't value energy conservation or clean energy.	Educate architects, builders, and subcontractors on newer technologies and standards such as net zero energy buildings.
Lack of skilled workforce to conduct energy audits, weatherize homes, and complete energy efficiency retrofits.	Create partnerships and invest in workforce development to grow our local weatherization and energy audit and retrofit workforce.
Lack of effective energy efficiency incentives available through the local utility, such as multifamily weatherization incentives.	An education and outreach campaign can help to encourage more homeowners to invest in energy efficiency upgrades.
The state hasn't enabled property assessed clean energy programs which limits access to low-cost loans for energy efficiency and clean energy projects.	State and federal funding and low-cost loans to expand access to energy efficiency retrofits and new building electrification technologies.
HOA rules that set minimum house size requirements.	

Conclusion

The SCAC generated helpful considerations that will be incorporated into the Brendle Group's analysis. The resulting analysis will take into consideration the local barriers and opportunities for growth and will include tailored solutions for our community resulting in a more effective approach to achieving our goals.

The PowerPoint presentation from Brendle Group is attached.