

MEETING REPORT



DATE January 20, 2022
TO Sustainability & Climate Advisory Committee
CC Blaine County Board of Commissioners, Hailey and Ketchum City Councils
FROM Lynne Barker, Sustainability Manager
RE **January Committee Meeting Report & Outcomes**

Blaine County, the City of Ketchum and the City of Hailey hosted the Regional Sustainability & Climate Advisory Committee meeting on January 12, 2022. The event was hosted through a virtual meeting platform. Twenty-one people attended the meeting.

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

**ACTION TAKEN:
November Meeting
Report Approved.**

The November 2021 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 approved.

PROGRESS UPDATES

During the January meeting progress updates for November action items were presented.

Ketchum Housing Matters Initiative

Jade Riley, Ketchum City Administrator, provided an update on the Ketchum Housing Matters Initiative. The initiative is an outcome of the City Council’s community housing priority and direction to ask voters to approve use of Local Option Taxes (LOT) to support affordable housing. The council further directed staff to develop a five to-ten-year housing strategy to provide a transparent and clear roadmap for how the funds will be used if approved. Strategy development is on a fast track to meet deadlines for asking voters in May to approve an increase in LOT and expanding the use to fund community housing.



Ketchum hired Agnew::Beck, a consulting firm with expertise in community and affordable housing, to develop a housing strategy that aligns efforts across the region. The city also hired a housing strategist, Carissa Connelly, to manage the initiative, and established a regional task force to provide input and make recommendations.

The plan will be developed in three phases:

1. **Context (Nov-Jan):** This phase focuses on gathering data to understand the current context. A survey was conducted and received over 1,000 responses, including 8 percent from Hispanic/Latino community members. Key stakeholders were interviewed, a housing needs analysis was completed, and best practices were gathered from similar communities.
2. **Develop (Jan-Feb):** During this phase the action plan will be developed including, goals, areas of focus, and specific actions needed. Funding options will also be explored.
3. **Action (Mar-):** Once the plan is completed, the city will draft a ballot to take to voters. The ballot must be drafted by the end of March, which is driving the aggressive schedule.

The City of Ketchum will present updates and gather input from through the Joint Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, and from government leaders in the Wood River Valley, focus groups, and the community at large.

Other updates included:

- **Clean Energy Plan:** Blaine County hired the Brendle Group to conduct in-depth analysis of high impact strategies and performance measures, evaluate scenarios for market transition based on local conditions, and forecast emission reduction outcomes in support of the Clean Energy Plan. The Brendle Group supported the City of Boise in development of Boise’s 2019 Energy Future Plan and 2021 Climate Action Roadmap, and has worked with many other communities in Mountain States including mountain towns.
- **Brand, Identity & Design:** Blaine County solicited proposals from local graphic design and marketing firms to create the regional program’s brand, identity and design. The firm will design the program website and other collateral as needed. Blaine County will develop the website content. The website launch is scheduled for the end of FY2022 Q2, or March 2022.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

An Ad-Hoc committee met to refine the list of community priorities proposed at the November meeting. A revised list and second option were introduced to the Advisory Committee for small group discussion and adoption.

Community priority areas will provide the organizing structure for the sustainability and climate action plan and will also inform establishment of task forces. Each task force will develop and recommend a set of goals, strategies, and actions for incorporation into the climate action plan.

Examples from other communities were provided to help guide the discussion. For example, the City of Sedona organized its Climate Action Plan using five sectors illustrated in the adjacent graphic.

SEDONA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN SECTORS

	BUILDINGS & ENERGY Ensuring long-term access to clean energy while reducing the fiscal and environmental impacts of consumption
	TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE Reducing transportation emissions and enhancing community mobility
	MATERIALS & CONSUMPTION Increasing the diversion of waste from the landfill and reducing GHG emissions associated with consumption of goods and services
	WATER & NATURAL SYSTEMS Conserving community water resources by maximizing water efficiency technologies while ensuring a secure and sustainable water supply in the face of climate change impacts. Managing, restoring, and fostering resilient ecosystems, landscapes, and resources
	CLIMATE RESILIENCE Ensuring Sedona and its residents, businesses, visitors, facilities, and services are prepared for climate impacts, especially those at the highest risk

The options recommended for discussion and possible adopted to formalize the priority areas were:

OPTION 1: REVISED	OPTION 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affordable Housing• Lead by Example Green Government Operations• Circular Materials Economy Waste Reduction & Recycling• Agriculture, Local Food & Food Security• Habitat & Watershed Conservation• Clean Energy & Community Solar Green Building & Energy Efficiency• Land Use & Transportation & Mobility• Climate Resilience• Community Wellbeing• Education, Training & Economic Opportunities• Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City County Leadership• Land & Water Conservation• Regenerative Buildings & Infrastructure• Community Resilience & Wellbeing• Inclusive Economy

A third option was introduced through the small group work sessions and ultimately adopted by the Advisory Committee. The adopted Community Priority Areas are:

- **Circular Materials Economy**
- **Clean Energy & Green Building**
- **Land & Water Conservation**
- **Land Use & Transportation** (consider amending Land Use to Planning or other term)

Committee members recommended development of a guidance document for the task forces on expectations on how they might address a range of issues, including:

- Government Leadership
- Climate Resilience
- Community Resilience and Wellbeing
- Education and Outreach
- Inclusive Economy
- Workforce Development

NEXT STEPS

- Identify and invite local experts and two Advisory Committee members to serve on task forces.
- Manage development of the Clean Energy Plan.
- Manage brand, identity and website development and draft website content.
- Advisory Committee members to complete Brand and Identity Questionnaire.