

# MEETING REPORT

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**DATE** November 29, 2021  
**TO** Sustainability & Climate Advisory Committee  
**FROM** Lynne Barker, Sustainability Manager  
**RE** **November Committee Meeting Report & Outcomes**

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Blaine County, the City of Ketchum and the City of Hailey hosted the Regional Sustainability & Climate Advisory Committee meeting on November 10, 2021. The event was held in person at the Community Campus with the option to join through a virtual meeting platform. Twenty-one people attended the meeting.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT

### ACTION TAKEN: September Meeting Report Approved.

The September 2021 meeting report offered an overview of each agenda item, presented the main points of discussion, and documented recommendations and actions taken. Members were asked to provide input on the content, depth, and format of the report to shape future reports and ensure the content captures the essence and essential details of the meeting. Meeting reports will inform Advisory Committee members who were unable to attend the meeting, and will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners and city councils to keep governing bodies updated on program progress, recommendations, and future actions.

No substantive changes were recommended. The Advisory Committee communicated support and approved the September meeting report.

## PROGRESS UPDATES

During the September meeting a number of next steps and future actions were identified. A progress update for each item was presented and discussed.

- **Science-Based Target:** On September 30, 2021, a meeting was held to better understand reasoned objections to the Science-Based Target (SBT) proposal. Tom Herrod, ICLEI USA Program Officer, attended the meeting to provide expertise and answer specific questions on the methodology behind SBT and high-impact practices analysis. The discussion led to an amended proposal and a recommendation to reintroduce the amended SBT proposal in conjunction with the Clean Energy Plan, which will provide a roadmap for achieving the SBT.

**AMENDED 09.15.21 PROPOSAL 2:  
Strive to Achieve Science-Based  
Target of 60% Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e  
Emissions by 2030 through  
Technologically and Financially  
Feasible Actions.**

- **ICLEI150 Cities Race to Zero:** The Board of County Commissioners and the Hailey City Council and Ketchum City Council voted unanimously to joined the [ICLEI150 Cities Race to Zero](#).
- **Clean Energy Plan:** Blaine County is in the process of hiring a consultant to provide analysis, scenario planning, and forecasting in support of the Clean Energy Plan. The Consultant will begin working with the County and community stakeholders in January 2022.



## COMMUNITY IN ACTION

In addition to progress made on the outcomes of the September 2021 meeting, a few efforts underway were highlighted. For future meetings, members were invited to submit highlights of their efforts, which will be included in meeting briefings. Updates must be received two weeks prior to the meeting. Current efforts underway include:

- **SolSmart Designation:** The City of Hailey, City of Ketchum, and Blaine County joined [SOLSMART](#), a designation program that uses objective criteria to evaluate and recognize communities that are fostering the development of mature local solar markets.
 

**MILESTONE: SolSmart designation in the first quarter of 2022.**
- **Clean Energy Coalition:** The National Council on Electricity Policy recommends that local governments serve as the local voice for their communities by engaging with public utility commissions. Blaine County, the City of Hailey, and City of Ketchum entered into a memorandum of understanding to collaboratively monitor, comment, and/or intervene in cases brought before the Idaho Public Utility Commission as necessary to protect the interests of the community.
- **Wood River Valley Microgrid Scoping Grant Application:** Historically, power outages have been the Wood River Valley's (WRV) most-costly consequence of natural disasters. Opportunities to improve electric supply reliability, reduce outage risk, and add capacity has been a concern of the community for more than a decade. Blaine County is working with community stakeholders and project partners to apply for federal funding that would cover the cost of an extensive microgrid study for critical facilities and infrastructure. The study would result in actional projects and plans. Stakeholders include the City of Hailey, City of Ketchum, Idaho Power, Mountain Rides, and St Luke's Health System.
 

**MILESTONE: Complete application and submit by April 1, 2022.**

## ANNUAL WORKPLAN

**ACTION TAKEN:**  
Workplan Approved with Amendments.

An annual workplan for fiscal year 2022 was presented to the Advisory Committee for review and discussion. The workplan recommended a desired outcome for reducing climate pollution and a set of program goals. A schedule highlighted key activities and an estimated budget for each goal, along with a schedule for reporting progress and elements of a communication strategy.

The members broke out into small groups to discuss the workplan. The workplan was approved with the following amendments:

- Clearly articulate our approach toward advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Workplan is overly ambitious for one full-time position. Prioritize goals and activities and set

realistic expectations.

- Meet with the City of Hailey leadership to gain a clear understanding of the level of staff support they intend to provide to the regional effort and document in a memorandum of agreement outlining coordinated and collaborative efforts. Adjust workplan accordingly.

The amended goals and schedule included as attachments to the report.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

**ACTION TAKEN:**  
**Community Engagement Process Approved with Amendments.**

Research suggests that community participation is an essential element in effective sustainability and climate planning. The level of engagement is an indicator of the level of ambition reflected in adopted plans. To ensure all members of the community have an opportunity to learn and participate, a community engagement process was presented, discussed in

small work groups, and approved.

Five specific proposals were presented for discussion, possible amendments, and approval. However, due to time constraints the work groups decided to discuss the proposed Community Engagement Process as a whole.

Committee members were enthusiastically supportive of the proposed approach to ensure that the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The proposal recommends training and tools for committee members, task force members, and other stakeholders on DEI. Training and tools will help stakeholders and participants gain an understanding of how to apply a DEI lens to discussions and decisions.

The Community Engagement Process was approved with three amendments:

- In addition to DEI training and tools, identify a DEI champion to serve on each committee and task force.
- Form an ad-hoc committee to refine the community-identified priorities to better reflect current initiatives and how priorities are managed in the community.
- Invite members from underrepresented segments of the community to help shape the public outreach and participating plan.

## COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- Affordable Housing
- Agriculture, Local Food & Food Security
- Clean Energy & Community Solar
- Climate Resilience
- Green Building & Energy Efficiency
- Green Government Operations
- Transportation & Mobility
- Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Water Conservation
- Watershed & Habitat Conservation

# CIRCLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS & CITY COUNCILS**

Elected leaders govern on behalf of constituents and have the power to affect change through policy and budget decisions, convening stakeholders, and educating and informing the public.

## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION ADVISORS**

Ensures the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion are embedded into the Sustainability & Climate Action Plan through guidance and training for all participants.

## **COMMUNITY CHARRETTE**

A community charrette (collaborative workshop) brings together a broader group of stakeholders, residents and businesses to help co-create the sustainability and climate action plan while also building trust and fostering innovation.

## **SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Facilitates the process through strategic planning, establishment of guiding principles or shared values, and identification of priorities for exploration by the community.

## **TECHNICAL TASK FORCES**

Brings together members of the community with a specific range of expertise and knowledge needed to refine priorities, establish goals, and recommend actions for further evaluation and analysis.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Public outreach and participation results in a better informed and more actively engaged community in which members take ownership of their role in our collective progress toward shared community goals.



# REVISED GOALS

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The revised goals are meant to more clearly articulate our approach toward advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- 1** Encourage equitable growth in the region’s clean energy economy and ~~in~~ access to good-paying green jobs ~~accessible to~~ that expand economic prosperity for all members of our community.
- 2** Strengthen climate resilience to protect the pristine natural environment, our buildings, landscapes, productive lands, and our communities and vulnerable populations.
- 3** Implement inclusive, community-driven sustainability initiatives that enhance the quality of life and prosperity for all residents.
- 4** Lead by example to demonstrate our resolve, and showcase innovative practices, and ensure equitable allocation of resources and services.
- 5** Foster effective and inclusive public engagement with the diversity of our residents, businesses, and community stakeholders to educate, inspire, and empower positive change.

# REVISED SCHEDULE

The revised schedule extends the timeline for specific activities and deleted three activities that can be pushed out to fiscal year 2023.

PRIORITIES, GOALS & KEY ACTIVITIES	BUDGET	SCHEDULE FY 2022			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>1. Encourage Clean Energy Economy</b>		Milestone: Approved Plan			
1.1 Form Clean Energy Technical Committee		■	■		
1.2 Hire Consultant: Scenario Modeling & Feasibility Analysis	\$ 25,000	■			
1.3 Revise High Impact Practices & Performance Measures			■	■	
1.4 Draft Plan & Gain Approval			■	■	■
1.5 Begin Implementation & Engage Community					■
<b>2. Strengthen Climate Resilience</b>		Milestone: Grant Submitted			
2.1 Draft WRV Microgrid Scoping Grant Application	\$ 10,000	■	■		
<del>2.2 Identify Climate Resilience Projects</del>					
<b>3. Develop Sustainability &amp; Climate Action Plan</b>		Milestone: Charrette   Approved Plan			
3.1 Establish & Facilitate Technical Advisory Committees			■	■	■
3.2 Plan & Host Community Charrette	\$ 5,000		■	■	■
3.3 Draft Plan & Gather Input			■	■	
3.4 Gain Approval & Publish Plan					■
3.5 Begin Implementation & Engage Community					■
<b>4. Lead by Example</b>		Milestone: Approved Plan			
<del>4.1 Apply for Sustainable Materials Management Grant</del>					
4.1 Establish Multi-Jurisdiction Green Operations Committee			■		
4.2 Identify Priorities & Draft Green Operations Plan			■	■	
4.3 Gain Approval & Publish Plan			■	■	
<del>4.5 Develop Dashboard to Report Progress</del>	\$ —				
<b>5. Engage the Community</b>		Milestone: Website Launch			
5.1 Develop Public Outreach & Engagement Plan	\$ 15,000	■	■		
5.2 Design Website, Write Content & Launch Website	\$ 7,500		■		
5.3 Develop Communications & Social Media Calendar			■	■	
5.4 Begin Implementation & Engage Community			■	■	■
	<b>\$ 62,500</b>				