

Summit County Climate Action Plan Stakeholder Meeting #1 Notes

June 6, 2018

Meeting Attendees:

- Mike Nathan—A-Basin
- Emily Kimmel—Breckenridge Grand Vacations
- Tom Sifers—Mountain Parks Electric
- Rob Taylor – Mountain Parks Electric
- Donna Lee—Resident
- Kate Berg—Summit County
- Tracey Carish—Summit School District
- Woody Bates – Summit School District
- Jeffrey Bergeron—Town of Breck
- Mark Truckey—Town of Breck
- Jen Barchers—Town of Dillon
- Hunter Mortensen—Town of Frisco
- Joyce Allgaier—Town of Frisco
- Lina Lesmes—Town of Silverthorne
- Brad Stewart—Vail Resorts
- Ray Weller – Vail Resorts
- Jess Hoover—High Country Conservation Center
- Jessie Burley – High Country Conservation Center
- Jen Schenk—High Country Conservation Center
- Hillary Dobos—Lotus Engineering and Sustainability, LLC
- Julia Ferguson—Lotus Engineering and Sustainability, LLC

Meeting Agenda and Notes

Introduction and Welcome

Stakeholders were welcomed by Jen Schenk of High Country Conservation Center (HC3). Lotus Engineering and Sustainability, LLC (Lotus) reviewed the process and timeline for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and stakeholder engagement.

Goal, Concerns, and Motivations for the Project

Stakeholders identified their goals, concerns, and motivations for the project.

Stakeholder Goals

- Develop a plan that will engage and increase understanding of climate change issues and solutions in the community
 - Specifically engage and address individuals that are not ‘early adopters’

- Support implementation of CAP among individual organizations
- Include education and outreach component (for residents, businesses, and visitors) into plan
- Promote regional leadership
- Communicate the costs and benefits of different actions/strategies (and non-action) clearly
- BE BOLD
- Be forthright and un-abashedly environmental
- Create a document that guides future decision-making process
- Institutionalize the process for strategies and implementation into individual organizations
- Create policy-based and sustainable solutions
- Raise awareness and empower action
- Build off existing work and support existing renewable energy and other goals within individual organizations
- Identify and define specific actions for implementation
- Create a long-term vision for action on climate change

Stakeholder Concerns

- Community involvement and buy-in is crucial to plan success
- Do not reinvent the wheel/align CAP with existing plans
- Plan must be adopted in each community
- The plan must balance a long-term vision with short-term actions
- Plan must clearly communicate economic and other impacts of strategies and actions (as well as the impact of non-action)
- Mitigating the negative consequences that may result from the project or strategies:
 - Increased taxes
 - Increased cost of living
 - Reduced convenience
 - Addressing growth
 - Addressing equity
- How will implementation be supported (i.e. concerns over funding, staff time, feasibility, and other resource constraints)?
- Who owns the plan? Who is accountable for keeping individual organizations on track after planning is complete? Who funds implementation?
- How will the plan address unintended consequences?
- How will the plan consider and address what is happening outside of Summit County borders (i.e. population growth in Denver, etc.)?

Stakeholder Motivations for Participating

- To take this effort and the plan back to each representative's individual organization
- To support staying open-minded to different opportunities and strategies
- To bring the voice of different perspectives to the table
- To keep an eye towards the future of Summit County.

Stakeholders further provided information on ways to keep them engaged. Lotus is committed to following through on the following items:

- Monthly Meetings
- Updates at critical points (i.e. completion of GHG inventory, strategy identification, etc.)
- Resources on Climate Action Plans and strategies
 - Lotus will send a list of CAPs for stakeholders to review prior to next meeting
- ‘Packaged messages’ that can be included in broader organizational updates, newsletters, etc.
- Homework and tangible activities to complete between meetings (i.e. surveys, etc.)

Climate Change and GHG Overview

Lotus provided a brief overview of climate change research and the impacts on Summit County. The CAP will identify a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal for Summit County (Lotus will review the results during the July stakeholder meeting).

Additional Benefits

In addition to GHG reductions, strategies in climate action plans usually have additional benefits to the community. The Stakeholders identified the additional benefits that may be relevant to Summit County and voted on the benefits that they think are the most relevant and would resonate the most with the general public. Numbers in parenthesis after each benefit listed represents the number of votes that benefit received.

- Outdoor industry economic impacts (15)
- Stewardship of resources (11)
- Water (quality and quantity) and forest health (10)
- Energy savings lead to cost savings (7)
- Improving social and physical well-being (5)
- Increasing sense of community (3)
- Addressing security and scarcity of resources (2)
- Reducing traffic and congestion (2)
- Improving public safety (1)
- Increasing community resiliency (1)
- Improving mental health and alleviating stress (1)
- Streamlining decision-making for private citizens around sustainability topics and issues (0)
- Ripple effect outside of Summit County (0)
- Improving air quality (0)
- Improving regional competitiveness and branding (0)

CAP Overview

Lotus provided stakeholders with information on the design and development of the final CAP product. Stakeholders agreed on the guidelines listed below for the CAP.

CAP Audience

Lotus asked the stakeholders whom they considered the main audience:

- Town Councils/County Commissioners
- Decision makers and doers in each organization
- General Public

CAP Timeline

The CAP will identify short-, mid-, and long-term strategies for climate action using the following guidelines:

- Short Term Strategies: projects, programs, and policies that can be implemented in the near future and have an impact on emissions by 2020-2025
- Mid-term Strategies: projects, programs, and policies that can be implemented in the near or mid-term future and have an impact on emissions by 2035
- Long-term Strategies: projects, programs, and policies that can be implemented in the mid-to long-term future and have an impact on emissions by 2050

CAP Report Outline

The CAP will include the following sections:

- Letter from Steering Committee with Signatures
- Executive Summary
- Introduction/Overview of Process/Why create a plan
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Emission Reduction Goals
- Topics
 - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
 - Goals, Targets, and Strategies
 - Transportation
 - Goals, Targets, and Strategies
 - Waste and Recycling
 - Goals, Targets, and Strategies
 - Forestry and Land Use (Include water)
 - Goals, Targets, and Strategies
- City and Town Specific Goals and Strategies
- Implementation table (including timeline and who is responsible)
- Appendices
- References
- Acknowledgments

Valuable Outcomes

Stakeholders were asked to write down what they consider a valuable outcome from the project. Stakeholder responses are recorded below:

- A useful document for the community that can be implemented.
- A plan that is an unapologetic declaration of the need to reduce our impact.
- Consensus on an actionable plan with strategies everyone is able to and eager to implement, adopted by all jurisdictions.
- A plan that is realistic but aggressive that the community knows about and is invested/engaged in helping to implement. Buy-in and institutionalizing this into all participating organizations.
- Concrete action items for stakeholders and the individual citizen, along with access to the resources needed to implement. For example: community creates awareness campaign on residential solar energy and gives citizens vetted vendors/utilities to contact.
- Plan for adequate resources to support this plan and action items.
- Creating a greater understanding of the responsibility we all share for the stewardship of the Earth.
- Specific GHG baseline, end goal, and interim targets.
- Provide support to community members in sustainability and encouraging a sense of community.
- To support our members' sustainability goals as best we are able.
- Support and meet the needs of our consumers of electricity.
- Plan that will have clear goals, creative strategies, implementation measures that are reasonable, cost-effective and easily supported.
- Make a difference in the world and the community for my kids.
- Accountable goals.
- General alignment and cooperation among stakeholders to allow the community to move forward efficiently and minimize duplication of efforts.
- To have organized steps and strategies to help climate change.
- Clear, actionable goals

Organizational Benefits

Stakeholders were asked what they want to get out of this process for their organizations. Stakeholder responses are recorded below:

- Actions my community can take to further our progress.
- An understanding that all players are committed.
- A clear path for moving forward and community engagement and support.
- A clear path with clear action items for us to work on in partnership with other entities in the community (towns, HC3, utilities, school district, private companies).
- Next step policies that will lead to sustainable and long-term programs.
- Short and long-term action items that are bold and realistic.
- Realistic and actionable tasks for teachers, students, and the community.
- A way to relate and align my organization's goals/actions with those of our community, state, nation, and world.

- Direction of what we can do as an ever-growing company and clear instructions on my part.
- An opportunity to support a community we serve.
- Organizational participation.
- A plan that will be adopted by a council that is not focused on this issue and has other priorities for it's money.
- Our organization needs support and more staff across multiple entities to carry this forward.
- Alignment with community goals.
- Clarity and opportunity(s) to partner with stakeholders to collectively meet goals.
- To help educate nay-sayers.
- An educated organization that has adopted the goals and committed to implementing them.

Continuing Engagement

Stakeholders were asked how we ensure they continue to be engaged after the plan is completed. Stakeholder responses are recorded below:

- Keep meetings on task and on time and provide periodic (but not too frequent) updates.
- A belief that all of our work and efforts are implemented and enforced.
- Strategies everyone is excited to implement near-term.
- Regular communication with county decision makers, county management, and staff. Incremental 'to-do' items with accountability to continually make progress toward long-term goals.
- Concise emails with action items and/or results.
- Support for me to continue my job? Then I'll remain engaged.
- I am passionate about this subject, but I think you are talking around the key cause of climate change which is global population growth and resources consumption. I'm concerned that a plan won't go far enough, too little too late. We all have to make more sacrifices.
- Maybe resubmitting our organization's GHG numbers or our utility/resources use to track our contributions to the overall targets and timelines.
- Crucial updates.
- Keep us in the communication loop.
- Communication and open-mindedness.
- Send updates/reminders/education/examples and good/productive meetings.
- I'm all in.
- A bold, long-term vision and goals.
- Inform and solicit feedback through channels other than meetings.
- Realistic action steps.
- Help me raise awareness of others in my organization. Easy information to provide.