

**The Green Team Meeting will be held by Teleconference only – The Public may access the meeting by calling the number below and entering the Meeting ID when prompted.**

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## **TOWN OF BASALT MEETINGS**

### **Basalt Green Team**

**Monday, January 10, 2021**

**Basalt Town Hall**

**101 Midland Avenue**

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**3:30 PM      Roll Call**

**3:31            Approve Minutes from:**

- November 8, 2021 and December 13, 2021

**3:32            Member Updates**

**3:50            New Business**

- AgriVoltaics (MB)

**4:00            Projects – Continued discussions**

- Basalt Forward 2030
  - Update on Solar Project – Volunteers for Interviews
- Composting
  - Outreach/education on take-out containers
  - Affordable housing/Multi-family buildings discussion
- Grant Programs
  - Finalize program
- Update on Code Amendments

**4:40            Future Agenda Items**

**4:50            Adjourn by this time**

**Green Team**  
**November 8, 2021**  
**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**In-Person and Via Zoom**

*Members: Martin Bonzi, Doug Goldsmith, and Gerry Terwilliger*  
*Staff: Sara Nadolny, Susan Philp, Catherine Christoff*  
*Supporters: Mary Wiener, Mike Steiner, Phi Filerman, Amanda Poindexter*

**Agenda Items:**

1. Approve Minutes from October 11, 2021 meeting
2. Member Updates
3. Projects – continued discussions
  - Basalt Forward 2030
  - Grant Programs
  - Update on Code Amendments

**1. Approval of Minutes**

M/S Doug and Martin to approve the meeting minutes from October 11, 2021. Motion passed 3 to 0.

**2. Member Updates**

Martin (Aspen Global Change Institute, AGCI) reported on his research with agrivoltaics, or the combination of agriculture and solar pv systems so there is not the competition for land. He indicated that several areas of the Front Range are engaging in this practice. Martin said he has reached out to some local organizations (The Farm Collaborative and Colorado Mountain College) to gauge their interest in potentially participating in an agrivoltaic project in Basalt. The many benefits of agrivoltaics include water efficiency, higher crop yield, decrease in plant stress, increase in energy production, and agriculture and solar pv systems are no longer in competition for viable land.

Doug (Mountain Waste) reported the conclusion of the Town of Carbondale leaf pick up. 250 yards of material were collected, which included leaves and brush.

Mike (Holy Cross Energy) announced the ribbon cutting for the new solar array in Pitkin County (Woody Creek) is being rescheduled. An invitation with the new date and time will go out soon. Mike indicated that he could schedule a field trip for the Green Team at some point to have a more intimate experience. Catherine and Sara will coordinate with Mike on a Green Team tour.

Mary (Holy Cross Energy) said that with 2022 approaching, Holy Cross is changing their energy rebates to coordinate with CORE and Walking Mountain. Holy Cross will cover 25% of certain project costs. The combined rebates between CORE, Walking Mountains and Holy Cross will not exceed 50% of the total project. January 1<sup>st</sup> begins the 2022 rebates. Holy Cross is also changing the amount of time a person has to apply for a rebate. The idea is to incentivize a project, not for someone to hear about a rebate and apply for it after it is installed. The rebate period is changing from 180 days to 90 days.

Gerry Terwilliger reported that the Basalt Community Garden is getting ready to close. He reported a record year with garden plots, and that the garden may need an expansion next year.

Phi (CORE) reported that the CORE Board of Directors has hired a consultant who has stepped in as the interim director. Mona is continuing as a consultant on the coal mine methane project in Pitkin County. Phi reported that CORE has completed its solar study and a press release will be coming out in the near future. She said the report is available on CORE's website. There will be a demo of the solar mapping tool once action plans come together. The City of Aspen has signed up for the ICLEI race to zero (ICLEI 150) and their Council is voting on getting a benchmarking program underway.

Mary pointed out that with benchmarking mixed-use buildings or multi-tenant buildings will be difficult to collect data. The database is the Energy Start Portfolio Manager. By 12-1-22 a benchmarking program will be required for buildings over 50,000 square feet. City of Aspen is starting at 20,000 square feet, and their program will be administered by CORE.

Phi reported that the town of Ithaca, New York has a plan to go 100% electric by the end of the decade. Phi said she will forward the article to Sara to share. CORE has put out an RFP for their new Ambassador Program. The successful bidder will be responsible for getting out into the communities to help people understand what their community goals are and what steps they can take to help meet the community's goals. RFL group is going to discuss how to develop a good model to effectively meet people where they are.

Amanda (Full Circle Construction) reported that Pitkin County's Deconstruction Workshop will take place November 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and are full day classes at Colorado Mountain College in Aspen. She said the first day will take place in the classroom and the second day will be out at a job site. Susan noted that this training should fulfill the contractor's continuing education requirements per the Town's Sustainable Building Regulations (SBR).

A brief discussion ensued on the need to get new material on the website for SBR Continuing Education credits.

Susan mentioned that she is going to RFTA on Thursday to discuss splitting the cost for a shuttle service between east and west Basalt, like Aspen's Downtowner.

### **3. Projects – continued discussions**

Susan reported that the Town was successful with getting fare-free travel between the zones of El Jebel/Willits and Basalt. Next year will see two solar powered E-bike stations at the BRT stops at Basalt Avenue and Willits, and new WE-Cycle stations at TACAW and Basalt Vista. She noted that these are good successes with RFTA.

Basalt 2030: Catherine reported that the Town went out to bid with on a solar project earlier this fall and this is still in the process. Staff is looking to get in front of Council in January to award the project. She noted that there is a lot of energy around the project, which is expected to be up to 500 kW. There are four potential received sites current being examined for their viability, with locations including the schools, the bus barn in El Jebel, the Town-owned open space bordering Basalt Mountain, and a strip of land along Willits Lane. Temporary installation is also being considered at Parcel 2E in Willits. There are

also plans for demonstration solar sites at Arbaney and Linear Parks, on the pavilion and possibly some free- standing structures.

Grant Program: Sara updated the Green Team on the subcommittee's meeting for the 2022 grant program. The subcommittee included Sara, Catherine, Mike (Holy Cross), Marty (CORE) and Mike Bouchet (CORE). The group met to narrow down some aspect of the grant program that the Green Team had been discussing.

Sara explained that the program is primarily aimed at energy upgrades to homeowners to retrofit their existing homes, but that there is the potential for some money to be available to new construction, which may depend on the size of the home and possibly income and asset qualifications.

The basic idea is to break up the grant into categories and assign monetary amounts that could be either granted or refunded. The categories would need to be tied to our goals with the green code updates, including fuel switching and electrification.

CORE is engaging in a campaign with their Ambassador program with the purpose of citizen's understanding of their town's climate action goals. This could be a great opportunity to partner and leverage resources to get the word out about the grant program and get more citizen involvement or knowledge of the Town's climate action goals.

Phi said that the Residential Rebate program with CORE is putting homeowners on the path to net zero. They apply, an energy assessment of home is required. The program incentives energy efficiency rather than electrification upgrades, and solar is the last on the list. CORE wants to encourage Basalt citizens to get on the path to net zero with a free assessment. There are Holy Cross and CORE incentives available. Basalt could provide additional incentives.

Amanda will look at size of home and decide what limits should be put in place for home builders. Phi expressed interested in how to get existing homes to create action and momentum in Town of Basalt. CORE already has a net zero grant up to \$8,000 for new construction.

Mike wants to keep a simple approach. Goal is carbon reduction. 5 things that can go toward grant, focus on retrofits, PR marketing aspect can focus on case studies.

Susan asked how the grant program would relate to CORE and Holy Cross Energy with their 50% funding cap. Mary explained that the Town of Vail gives Walking Mountain Science Center money to pay for energy efficiency for Vail residents up to 75% of a project's cost. Mary said that Holy Cross Energy subsidizes blower door tests for homes in Garfield County with a contract through Energy Smart Colorado. The site <https://loveelectric.org/>– use for promoting electrification and fuel switching.

The Green Team discussed categories that could be appropriate for grant fundings, including fuel switching, heat pumps, insulation. There would be allowed projects under each category – for instance, fuel switching would include panel upgrades and batteries.

A possible way to get the word out for the campaign may be to mail or deliver laminated post cards to residents with messaging as to where they can go to get more information, like election flyers.

Susan suggested working with local homeowner associations to dissemination information about the grant program. She also wants to see graphics used for the campaign.

For the grant Mike thinks beneficial electrification and energy efficiency are the topics to pursue and to keep the battery separate, as Holy Cross has a residential battery program.

Martin suggested allowing the grant to pay for new electric vehicle registration costs.

Martin also wondered if the grant could be used to incentivize composting. He noted that compost pick up is optional and increases household costs. Increasing composting has a lot of bang for the buck in terms of carbon reduction. Susan said the Town included in the budget money for additional organics. The funds are used for the annual Leaf Drop program, and extra funds have been included for 2022.

Topics for December's meeting to include:

- Composting and schools
- Any way to incentivize composting

M/S Martin and Doug to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 pm.

**Basalt Green Team  
December 13, 2021  
Via Zoom and In-Person**

*Members: Gerry Terwilliger, Doug Goldsmith*

*Attendees: Sara Nadolny, Susan Philp, Mike Steiner, Chris Howard, Mary Wiener, Catherine Christoff, and  
Amanda Poindexter*

*Guest: Brittany LaClair (CORE)*

**Agenda**

A. Approval of Minutes from 11/8/2021

B. Member Updates

C. New Business

- Discussion of AgriVoltaics
- Discussion of compost

D. Projects – Continued discussions

- Basalt Forward 2030
- Grant Programs
- Update on Code Amendments

E. Green Team ideas for future agenda items

**A. Approval of Minutes**

The Green Team did not have a quorum to approve the meeting minutes. Sara provided an amendment from Green Team member Martin Bonzi, sent via email prior to the meeting. Sara will update in the minutes to reflect the change and bring the meeting minutes back for approval at the January Green Team meeting.

**B. Member Updates**

Mike Steiner (Holy Cross Energy) updated the group on the ribbon cutting for solar project and will arrange a future field trip for the Green Team to visit the project. Holy Cross is working toward battery storage projects, and he is looking for clarity on Holy Cross' support for a community battery project.

Mary Weiner (Holy Cross Energy) reported that Holy Cross' energy rebates for E-bikes are not going away but are changing to be more aligned with CORE/CLEER/Walking Mountain rebates which allow 25% of a total project's cost up to maximum dollar amount. Rebates will go back only 90 days for invoicing rather than 180 days. She said the groups (Holy Cross, CORE, CLEER, and Walking Mountains) are hoping to create a one-stop shop for rebating for members. Mary clarified for Susan that WE-Cycle is eligible for rebates on the E-bikes that the organization has purchased. In 2022 Holy Cross will start rebating electric lawn equipment.

Doug Goldsmith (Mountain Waste) is going to be meeting with the City of Aspen as they are looking to divert food waste. He said Aspen cannot legally mandate compost collection but Aspen is considering making it illegal to deposit food into their trash. Trash cans will be inspected.

Gerry Terwilliger brought the original documents from 2007 when Green Team was created and reported on the projects that were initially pursued.

Brittany LaClair (CORE) introduced herself as CORE's Marketing and Communications Coordinator. She reported on the solar study CORE completed with CLEER and Walking Mountains which resulted in a map of potential large scale solar locations in the valley. The map can be found online through CORE's website. The community Greenhouse Gas Inventory will be out early next year. The CORE Platform has been completed which provides recommendations for building codes. This has been sent out to the communities. Snowmass Village and Aspen have committed to the ICLEI Race to Zero. Aspen is moving forward with Building IQ for buildings over 20,000 square feet. The annual Energy Warrior awards, which recognizes people in the community, will be posting soon.

### **C. New Business**

1. Agrivoltaics – Sara introduced the topic, noting that this is really something Martin would like to discuss. She said the combination of land uses sounds amazing and is curious what the downside would be. Chris says they are doing this at a farm in Pitkin County with 16 kW of solar. Colorado State University has also completed some agrivoltaic projects and could be useful to reference. Susan wondered if a demonstration project could be placed on the additional half acre for the community garden, or the garden's expansion area. Gerry brought forward some concerns he had with this.

Catherine said the topic came up in the solar project request for proposals process. In her response she made it clear that any agrivoltaic use is secondary to primary goal of the project, but that the Town may be interested in this type of project.

The Green Team will bring this topic back at a future meeting when Martin is present.

2. Composting – Susan noted that the 2022 budget has additional funds in it for composting. Currently Green Team funds pay for the Town's composting pickup and for the annual Leaf Drop Event. Sara said that Eric Vozick, P&Z Chair and a teacher at the Basalt High School, is requesting funding to reinstate the composting program at the high school. Gerry would like to encourage students to provide education and outreach to their peers to avoid contamination.

Susan said that it may be a good idea to coordinate with local homeowner associations rather than individual residences as a way to be more impactful. An idea could be to target the Town's affordable housing projects or create a grant program that is geared toward larger users. Doug noted that compost contamination is an issue with multi-users. Contamination is planned for in the cost of service as there is no way to charge the violator directly.

Doug said that schools in the RE-2 school district get the sponsorship of local businesses to finance their recycling program and suggested this model could be used at the high school for their composting program.

Sara will revisit composting education and take-out containers that was begun earlier in the year and bring this back for discussion at a future meeting.

## **D. Projects -Continued Discussions**

1. Basalt Forward 2030 – Update on solar project. Catherine said the Town issued responses to questions last week and are now awaiting proposals. The proposal deadline is Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. She hosted a pre-bid meeting that was well attended and hopes several proposals will be submitted. Mary volunteered Lisa Reed from Holy Cross for a subcommittee that will interview firms.

2. Update on Code Amendments – Amanda reported that tomorrow the Green Code Committee will provide an introduction to Town Council on proposed changes with a focus on beneficial electrification and Sustainable Building Regulations. The First Reading is currently scheduled for January 11 and Second Reading January 25<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be hosting three information sessions which are also planned to be televised through GrassRoots TV.

Amanda explained some things about the changes proposed to the residential code, including solar to be required for every new home. Commercial currently is required to mitigate through on-site renewables at 2% and is proposed to be increased to 25%. Mary said that Holy Cross wants to see new development have no gas or propane lines.

Susan explained that the goal is to add to what is currently caught by REMP fees – permanently installed items that use outdoor energy. One of the struggles is around fees. Resource Engineering is going to be looking at the fee structure and they need to incorporate information from our climate zone. Amanda noted we are trying to put together a REMP Calculator similar that that which Pitkin County and Aspen have.

3. Grant Program – The conversation will largely be moved to a meeting where there is a more robust number of Green Team members.

As an overview, Sara mentioned that the grant program will largely target retrofits. The three categories discussed at the last meeting include Fuel Switching, Heat Pumps, and Insulation. The categories will include a number of items beneath them that can be eligible for either grant funding or rebates, depending how the program is set up. There will need to be a dollar amount assigned to each eligible item. Sara will work with Mary at Holy Cross and CORE to determine an appropriate grant amount based on their total costs.

Susan says we have about \$50,000 available for the grant program but will look further into this amount. Sara added that she wants to have a clear understanding of what Holy Cross and CORE will be rebating in 2022 and at what amount. Susan agreed that we will want to leverage resources to be most effective.

Brittany said that CORE does not have its 2022 rebates finalized at this time, but right now they will pay 25% of project's cost, up to \$500. For heat pumps CORE will contribute up to \$2,500. The Residential Rebates can be found on CORE's webpage, and the 2022 rebates should be finalized before the next Green Team meeting.

Other – there was some discussion of the need for additional Green Team members. Staff will look into running an ad in the newspapers.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.