

The Green Team Meeting will be held by Teleconference – 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, February 8, 2021

Basalt Town Hall

101 Midland Avenue

- 3:30 PM Roll Call**
- 3:32 Approve Minutes from:**
- January 11, 2021
- 3:35 Green Team Interview of Applicants**
- 3:50 Member/Participant Updates**
- 4:10 Discuss 2021 Work Program and Major Projects**
- Update on the idling campaign w/Carbondale
 - Update on the compostable messaging/take-away containers
- 4:30 Discussion regarding Code Amendments to Reduce Plastics**
- 4:40 Members Make Recommendations on Green Team Applicants**
- 4:50 Adjourn by this time**

Basalt Green Team
January 11, 2021
Via Zoom

Attendees included Susan, Sara, Gerry Terwilliger, Doug Goldsmith, Phi Filerman, Mike Steiner, Pranav Lakhina, Chris Howard, Martin Bonzi, Greg Smith, Dave Mullaney, Amanda Poindexter

Guest: Heather Haffener (Mountain Waste)

Agenda

1. Approve Minutes from December 14, 2020
2. Member/Participant Updates
3. Discuss 2021 Work Program and Major Projects

*Gerry is in charge of “Green humor” for next meeting

Members and guests introduced themselves. Doug introduced Heather Haffener, a fairly new employee with Mountain Waste, who is interested in learning more about the Green Team.

1. Approve Minutes:

M/S to Gerry and Dave approve reappointments of Dave Mullaney, Doug Goldsmith and Gerry Terwilliger. Motion passed 3 to 0.

M/S Doug and Gerry to approve the meeting minutes from December 14, 2020. Motion passed 3 to 0.

2. Member/Participant Updates

- Phi (CORE) – Imagine Climate – intersection of art/technology/climate change to draw a different lens to the discussion of climate change. This year’s Imagine Climate will feature an art installation called Faces of Climate Change/Stories of Climate Change. This will be a large installation of faces on the sides of the Colorado Mountain College buildings. Phi asked for participants from the Green Team. Susan said that everyone who represents an agency on the Green Team should participate.
Phi reported that Eagle County has committed to provide \$75k to CORE for work in the Basalt area. She also reported on updating CORE’s goals to align more closely with its jurisdictions members to support climate action goals through enhanced communication.
- Mike – (Holy Cross Electric (HCE)): met with CORE to discuss their beneficial electrification campaign including rebates - how to get customers to install heat pumps. Mike also reported that the Pitkin County solar project is moving forward, and they are anticipating construction early this coming summer. He said once construction is underway he would organize a Green Team visit to check out the 5-megawatt project.
- Dave and Pranav (Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)) – RMI was recently named as a grant recipient of Jeff Bezos foundation. The money awarded has been earmarked toward building electrification - electrification of heating loads as related to municipal buildings, and low-income households.
<https://rmi.org/press-release/rmi-awarded-10-million-from-the-bezos-earth-fund-to-accelerate->

[decarbonization-of-buildings-and-industry/](#). The most downloaded report of 2020 was Building Electrification. Highly recommend for everyone to read. The report shines a light on things such as cooking with natural gas v. electric. <https://rmi.org/insight/gas-stoves-pollution-health/>

- Martin (Aspen Global Change Institute (AGCI)) – heat pumps were installed in their office building, and AGCI is now working on signing up for HCE’s pURE program. He said there are several owners in the building so the process may move slowly.
- Amanda (USGBC) – The Aspen Skiing Company housing project in Willits Town Center is moving towards the finish line. She said they’ll be on the lookout for some good PR opportunities. Their heat pump system is set to go online soon.
- Chris (Sunsense) – Chris said his company is also working in Willits Town Center to put solar pv panels on the roof at SkiCo housing and TACAW. Susan asked if he could take some photos when the crane is there. There are many upcoming PR opportunities on all new solar happening around Basalt.

Susan discussed interviewing Applicants for Green Team. Martin, Greg and Pranav will be interviewed by the Green Team at the next meeting and make a recommendation to Town Council. The Applicants will be interviewed by Town Council at their meeting on February 23rd.

3. Discuss 2021 Work Program and Major Projects

The Green Team followed up with last month’s discussion of implementing a grant program to provide compostable take-out containers to Basalt-area restaurants. Sara shared findings of six different companies selling compostable containers. Costs seem minimal (>\$50 for units). Most products are comprised of sugar cane. Doug pointed out that sugar cane compostable products do not break down in the Roaring Fork Valley because they are unable to get to the required heat due to altitude. Doug suggested using plant-based containers that will degrade.

Discussion items:

- Provide compostable take away directly to the restaurants, or offer them a small grant to reimburse their costs.
- For those that already use them may enjoy getting some containers to offset their costs
- Ask restaurants to also compost their food scraps
- Access to reduce costs will get Styrofoam out of process
- Martin noted that having a public composting bin would help support residential composting.
- Amanda wants to make composting as easy as possible – support restaurants with the products needed.
- Sara pointed out that the program is also intended to create new habits in addition to supporting restaurants. How can this be accomplished?
- Dave asked if is there a particular style or brand of container that works best for decomposing in the landfill. He also voted to have a place for community composting.
- Pranav said that it’s a top-down approach to encourage restaurants to go to compostable containers. However, also about consumer awareness. There may be an opportunity to create something from marketing with metrics, such as a tracker. If a potential patrons see that the restaurant has a high incident of composting or using compostables, they may choose to support restaurant.

EverGreen Zero Waste public composting program discussion

EverGreen has suggested the Town provide a public bin for composting food items only – no yard waste or other items. This is happening in Carbondale and Aspen.

The challenge is contamination and the need to lock the bin at night. It would take some supervision and oversight which this Town does not really have the resources for. The Town used to have a public recycling area which was a partnership with Pitkin County. Once the County decided not to renew its half of the commitment the Town was unable to support the growing costs and the public recycling facility closed about a year ago. Sara said she is still fielding calls about the facility, and cautions it is difficult to start offering a free composting site that is not long-term.

Alternative models:

- Encourage people to sign up for in-home composting.
- Pranav explained a model where restaurants share a reusable container program. A customer signs up for the reusable container program where they take the containers home and return them at a variety of places around town. Doug noted that the majority of those containers often end up in the trash.
- Include information that compost is available at your home with every take-away container. Provide contacts and pricing. Include that the containers are NOT recyclable and encourage reuse.
- Sign up for free six months of composting. Create a social norm – provide them with a bucket.

Education and Outreach

Sara said that Gerry has touched base with Mark O’Meara from Carbondale who is interested in sharing the message regarding both towns’ two-minute idling regulation.

- The Green Team authorize Staff to spend up to \$5k on advertising. Staff to clear the final radio/newspaper messaging with the Green Team.
- Susan said the police dept have contacted the HOAs to get out the messaging about the idling ordinance and have been contacting violators. They bought three new hybrid patrol cars. Will be in service next week.
- Gerry said we should put messaging on the Latinx radio station.
- Dave added that an element of the messaging should be that this is an ordinance that has been ongoing and is now actively being enforced.

M/S Gerry and Dave to spend up to \$5,000 on advertising (radio, print, etc.) Motion passed.

Susan said Staff would work on the information piece to add to the compostable containers. She directed Sara to find out the lead time for ordering the plant-based containers.

The Green Team meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.