

Green Team Meeting
February 14, 2022
Via Zoom

Green Team Members included: Gerry Terwilliger, Doug Goldsmith, Martin Bonzi

Attendees included: Sara Nadolny, Phi Filerman, Mary Wiener, Mike Steiner, Amanda Poindexter

Guest: Alison Peters

Agenda Items

- Approve Minutes from January 10, 2022
- Member Updates
 - Request for Assistance with High School EV Chargers
 - Composting
- Projects – Continued discussions
 - Basalt Forward 2030
 - Grant Programs
 - Update on Code Amendments
- Future Agenda Items

1. Approve meeting minutes

3:36pm

M/S Gerry and Doug to approve the meeting minutes from January 10, 2022. Motion passed 3 to 0.

2. Member Updates

Mary Wiener (Holy Cross Electric) reported that Holy Cross' 2022 rebates are up and running and will only be eligible for up to 90 days past a project's completion date. During quarters 1 and 2 Holy Cross will focus efforts on an energy efficiency campaign with lots of education and communication with members. During the third quarter Holy Cross will focus efforts on promoting electrification. Mary will report at a future date on an upcoming meeting she has with a heat pump distributor where they will discuss what is happening with the supply chain issue. Mary said it is difficult to market heat pumps right now given issues with the supply chain. She noted that the cost of materials and labor are currently skyrocketing.

Gerry Terwilliger said he had been thinking a lot about the concept of agrivoltaics and thinks there may be some way to set up an agrivoltaic system so plow could go beneath the solar panels. He is also currently awaiting more information about the cost of composting at the high school and is awaiting an estimate on a room to room charge. The current cost of composting for the cafeteria is around \$2,000/year. Phi mentioned that this could be a good candidate for the Aspen Skiing Company's environmental grant which is open right now.

Phi (CORE) reported that she is working with the City of Aspen on their Building Benchmarking program which is going to Council in March. CORE is also working with Snowmass Village's Environmental Board on using ICLEI's climate action template to develop a Climate Action Plan for the Town. Phi reported that Marty Treadway is leaving CORE and will be starting a green building business with Rich Backe. Eagle County is rolling out their Solarize program on April 8th. Which incentivizes more people to sign up for solar installation to result in a cheaper rate. CORE will be helping to market the campaign. She noted the program can be combined with rebates from CORE and Holy Cross.

Mike Steiner (Holy Cross Energy) said he will be attending the kickoff meeting with McKinstry, the consultant who was chosen by the Town for the solar and storage project. Holy Cross is working with Aspen High School on a massive fuel switching effort; over 6 mega Watts of solar power.

Martin said that as of January 31st he is no longer with Aspen Global Change Institute but is working with the Aspen Skiing Company. He suggested the Town pick McKinstry's brain on the topic of agrivoltaics. Colorado Mountain College's sustainability program and The Farm Collaborative have expressed interested in looking into agrivoltaics further.

3. New Business

Sara reported on a conversation with Connor Hoffman who is the student at the high school who is working on get an EV charger installed at the school. He has applied for a Charge Ahead grant, and Sara helped him with some suggestions based on feedback she had received while going through the process to get the same grant. He has asked the Green Team to fill in a gap of \$5,000 in matching funds if the grant application is successful. Sara reported that Susan, prior to her leaving, indicated this money may be available through Council discretionary funds. She asked the Green Team if they would be supporting of providing these funds if the grant is successful. The Green Team members voted 3 to 0 to approve a request to provide the gap funding for the EV project at the high school if the grant is successful.

Mike will see if Holy Cross provided a letter of support for Connor's grant submission. He added that the grant funding will also be used to lay conduit to support future chargers.

Sara said she is unsure as to whether there is project funding available to launch a waste reduction campaign this year. She will get more information and clarity on the Green Team's budget and bring information back for a conversation about this topic at the next meeting.

4. Projects – Continued Discussions

4.A. Basalt Forward 2030 – Update on Solar Project

This item will be moved to the next meeting's agenda as the Town Engineer, Catherine Christoff, is currently out on a site visit and unable to attend this meeting.

4.B. Grant Program

Sara shared a spreadsheet that represented categories including Insulation and Air Sealing, Electrification and Energy Efficiency and discussed the items that would fall into each category. Sara said she would update the spreadsheet to reflect the requirements from CORE and Holy Cross in order to make the funding eligible for leveraging with funding from those partners.

Sara asked if any of the Green Team members have questions or suggestions for changes with the Proposed Town Rebate section. There is a desire to make sure the rebates make sense and are large enough to be incentivizing, while still keeping in mind the smaller budget that the project has to work with (\$25,000).

Sara asked if the year of the home's construction should be taken into consideration when deciding who is eligible for this program. Ultimately it was decided that the goal is to incentivize retrofits, and the year of the house is not important.

CORE will administer the program for a 10% fee. CORE and Staff discussed putting a time cap on the project, possibly through end of September. There may be the possibility of extending the program or increasing incentives if they are still available toward the soft end of the program that can be advertised as appropriate.

4.C. Update on Code Amendments

Amanda noted that the proposed code amendments to Council are currently on pause. The goal is to get the code amendments in front of Council by mid-April. At least two public information sessions will be scheduled with the first prior to first reading in order to get any feedback from the public to Town Council, and another between first and second readings of the ordinance that will adopt the code amendments. Some of the items being worked on currently include a customized REMP calculator spreadsheet (similar to Aspen's and Pitkin County's) to off-set exterior energy uses which are increasing. The Sustainable Building Regulations will be updated to catch all remodels and require a CORE energy assessment.

Questions on the topic of upgrades and retrofits:

- How often do homes need to up their panels when homes fuel switch? Mary says almost always. When fuel switching most homes need to up their amperage. Even mobile homes.
- What would it cost to go from 100 amps to 200 amps? HCE would look at the transformers and do a load assessment. Will take a master electrician to do that work. Around \$4k likely just for the upgrade.

5. Future Agenda Items

- Composting – assess whether a waste reduction campaign is possible in 2022.

M/S Gerry and Martin to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 3 to 0.