

Basalt Green Team
August 9, 2021
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Via Zoom and at Town Hall

*Attendees included Susan Philp, Sara Nadolny, Catherine Christoff, Phi Filerman, Mary Wiener,
Mike Steiner, Gerry Terwilliger, Amanda Poindexter, Katie Schwoerer
Guest: Jeff Dickinson*

Meeting started at 3:30 pm.

Agenda Items:

- Approve Minutes from July 12, 2021
- Capital Needs Committee (CNC) Update
- Discuss Potential Green Capital Projects
- Follow up on Topics from July Meeting
- Member/Participant Updates

1. Approval of Minutes

The meeting did not have a quorum of members. Approval of the July meeting minutes will be on the September meeting agenda.

2. Capital Needs Committee Update

Gerry provided an update from the Capital Needs Committee. The Committee presented to Council their recommendations to support the construction of a new Town Hall, an affordable workforce housing project, and green initiatives.

3. Discuss Potential Green Capital Projects

Staff is in conversation with Holy Cross Energy, Sunsense, and the School District about creating a partnership, and the most viable place for solar and battery storage. For the project to be of utility scale there needs to be room for ½ megawatt system. Holy Cross would purchase the energy rather than a net-metered system.

A project at the school is intriguing as it gets at the resiliency aspect by creating a true emergency shelter.

Roof-mounted solar systems no longer require roof penetration. The high school is the current focus for a solar project. Gerry suggested other sites, which may include the strip between East Valley Road and Highway 82 adjacent to the Midvalley Medical Center and Linear Park. Susan suggested another area may be at Arbaney Park and the Elementary/Middle School grounds. The

Town also owns land on Basalt Mountain, but there is a condition that requires solar to be accessory as the land was acquired for open space use. There are also issues with the rocky soil, the need to improve access, the need to create staging areas, and potential NIMBYism from neighbors. The land is also close to transmission lines.

Mary noted that the Basalt Vista project is not producing the amount of solar energy originally anticipated. Holy Cross will check into this and provide more detail. Mary suggested checking in with Sunsense/Chris Howard for more analysis of the Basalt High School.

The Green Team is schedule to go before Town Council on August 24th in a worksession to provide an update and workplan. Jeff Dickinson will share his path to net zero.

Jeff said that 2030 represents an important year, as that is the target in which to get to net zero through new construction. The path is set up so that there is an acceleration towards the target every three years.

For commercial/multi-family, the current on-site renewable requirement is 2%. The proposed path would increase this number to 25% immediately, which is a huge jump.

Jeff defined the concept of Electric Ready as having appropriately sized panel and circuitry and including the mechanisms or infrastructure for electric vehicle charging and battery storage. By 2030 no gas will be allowed.

Regarding single family and duplex residences, the proposed changes include increasing the HERS rating every three years, with 100% onsite renewables by 2030. Gas is disincentivized.

Phi noted that per ICL, the Town will need to retrofit 6-8% of its existing building stock each year in order to meet its 2030 greenhouse gas emission goal.

The energy code does not support outdoor heating unit unless it is through a radiant heat system.

A project proposed for 2022 is to create a grant system whereby recipients could upgrade for fuel switching or to become electric ready. Eligible items may include such things as panel upgrades. Criteria will need to be fleshed out but will include income caps in the attempt to keep the grant process equitable.

Another project we may want to consider supporting is the installation of EV chargers at the High School. Catherine, Sara and Phi attended a meeting on this topic, which is student-driven, and are waiting on some follow up.

Gerry expressed support for the installation of 2-3 EV chargers at the high school and to provide some grant money towards the endeavor.

4. Member/Participant Updates

Sara provided information on the Pitkin County Construction & Demolition Waste ordinance. She and another Staff member recently attended a meeting that also included Aspen, Snowmass Village and Carbondale to discuss how Pitkin County's new regulations around construction and demolition waste are being implemented, what has been learned through their process, and whether the Town may be interested in implementing a similar program.

Gerry said he is looking at potential locations for solar PV. He is pushing to move forward with this project.

Mary (Holy Cross) said the electricity use at the pool is up with the new heat pumps. She is interested to see a difference in gas use.

Phi (CORE) encouraged everyone to check out CORE's blog. It contains such things as a solar checklist, induction cooking video and information on the methane leak project at Dutch Creek Mines in Pitkin County. Phi provided an update on the Mountain Region Beneficial Electrification group which is looking for case studies currently. Sara is working with Claire from Walking Mountains on providing information on the pool retrofit project. Phi reported that the state recently passed a state benchmarking program.

Graham (Evergreen ZeroWaste) reported that Evergreen now has a number of partitioned roll-offs available for sorting construction and demolition debris on-site. These are particularly useful for small lots.

Katie believes the Green Team should ask for more funding next year. Susan noted that group will need to be prepared with specific projects.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:05 pm.