

DRAFT MATERIAL

The following draft goals and objectives have been compiled from the November and December focus group meetings along with feedback from listening session worksheets. Please note that similar statements/concepts have been combined and some statements have been sorted into either broad goal statements or more specific objective statements. Also, some statements may have been edited to clarify the meaning, provide consistency in style and format or to conform with legal concepts. Further refinement, consolidation, and even shifting of statements to other focus groups is anticipated.

Environmental Quality Topics, Goals & Objectives**Topic 1: Waste Stream**

From solid waste that goes into landfills, to liquid waste in the form of sanitary sewage, energy waste, to electronic waste from computers, cell phones, and entertainment devices, Missoulians are concerned about social, monetary, and environmental costs of waste. Many participants feel that a major effort on the part of government and private businesses should be launched in order to reuse, recycle, and reduce the local waste stream.

Goal 1: Achieve Zero Waste within the Missoula community.

Goal 2: Reduce the City's solid waste to the point that the landfill is no longer needed, or, continues to function sustainably.

Objectives:

1. Increase the options for diverting waste from the landfill through the development of more recycling infrastructure within the city.
2. Develop a community compost program.
3. Encourage local reuse/purchase of recycled materials.
4. Promote reuse and recycling of building materials.
5. Educate homeowners, tenants, and business persons on the proper disposal of household hazardous waste and electronic waste.
6. Provide recycling bins for paper, plastic, aluminum, and organic materials throughout the city's public spaces.
7. Identify major system components and processes that comprise the municipal waste stream.
8. Government and educational institutions should adopt "zero waste" programs to provide local examples of best practices.
9. Conduct education and outreach on the environmental and monetary benefits of sustainable practices.
10. Establish a system whereby large scale projects can invest in programs to off-set their waste stream impacts.

Topic 2: Energy

As a community, Missoulians have a high level of environmental consciousness, and many have structured their lives to have the least possible impact on the health of the planet. Along these lines, many citizens feel strongly that the local government and the Missoula community should lead the way in transitioning our nation and society from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

Goal 1: Reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Goal 2: Promote energy efficiency and green building techniques..

Goal 3: Increase the percentage of renewable energy in Missoula's energy budget.

Objectives:

1. Support cleaner wood burning technologies for local wood use.
2. Reduce carbon footprint through renewable energy, energy efficiencies, conservation, and carbon offsets.
3. Provide incentives for siting renewable energy generation in preferred locations.
4. Establish a meaningful carbon neutrality target.
5. Support the creation of a local renewable energy company that can meet the energy needs of Missoula.
6. Promote green building design in all public buildings as models for the community.
7. Implement an independent grid system not run on fossil fuels.
8. Promote and incentivize green building infrastructure.

Topic 3: Air, Soil & Water Quality

Missoula citizens generally consider clean air and water to be the cornerstones of what they consider their quality of life. The community has worked hard to improve its historically poor air quality, and is now considered to be in compliance with national ambient air quality standards. The Clark Fork of the Snake River runs through the heart of the community, and it is heavily used for recreation. Backyard gardens and other sources of locally grown food require both clean water and soil, and the community is more than willing to accept the challenge of protecting and enhancing the quality of their environment.

Goal 1: Improve Missoula's air quality and visibility.

Goal 2: Protect and enhance Missoula's surface and ground water quality.

Objectives

1. Explore specific programs to reduce air pollution from vehicles, industry, and space heating.
2. Quantify and address threats to Missoula's surface and ground water quality from train spills, pipelines, pesticides, fertilizers, and underground storage tanks.

3. Actively reduce the need to manage storm water from impervious surfaces.
4. Support joint/regional efforts that contribute to clean air and water.
5. Encourage consideration of health impacts and air quality when reviewing and formulating policy for transportation, development regulations, and industrial development.
6. Work with city-county public health officials to promote health, environmental health, and sanitation through education, community outreach, and enforcement.
7. Encourage public agencies to divest any holdings or investments in polluting industries.
8. Integrate parks as part of a green infrastructure system that will help manage stormwater and improve water quality.
9. Promote connectivity between parks through trails and greenway systems.
10. Promote areas for unstructured play that allows youth to connect with the environment.
11. Provide and incentivize alternatives to asphalt and concrete in land development regulations and storm water management master plans.

Topic 4: Natural Resources

While Missoula is located in an area with bountiful natural resources, there are also significant resources within the community itself. Missoula has an excellent urban forest and abundant wildlife. And due to the river corridor and other community open spaces, there is significant wildlife habitat even within the urbanized area. There is also excellent soil for growing food crops and (mostly) small-scale agriculture exists within city limits. Missoulians are willing to take steps through the Growth Policy to protect these values, and to not lose them to rampant, unplanned growth.

Goal 1: Protect and enhance critical wildlife habitat and travel/migration corridors.

Goal 2: Protect Missoula's trees and other vegetation in urban spaces.

Objectives:

1. Protect intact ecosystems from urbanization and point and non-point pollution.
2. Quantify and address issues of invasive plant and animal species.
3. Give preference to indigenous plant species in regulations and city contracts.

Topic 5: Growth Pressures & Sprawl

Many Missoulians are concerned about the impacts of unplanned growth---especially sprawl. Some see sprawl as a threat to open spaces and agricultural lands. Others see sprawl and leap frogging as inefficient development patterns that result in underutilized infrastructure and potential land use conflicts in the future when by passed parcels are finally developed.

Goal 1: Protect and enhance Missoula's open spaces.

Goal 2: Missoula will guide growth such that use of private automobiles is decreased.

Goal 3: Protect productive agricultural land, water, and agricultural water user's rights.

Objectives:

1. Protect stream corridors and floodplains from development.
2. Prioritize farm/ag land preservation over urban sprawl.
3. Acquire key private lands for community open space using bonds and grants.
4. Explore carrying capacity modeling to guide land use planning and development in greater Missoula.
5. Protect farmland through mitigation, designation of key ag preservation areas, and through incentivizing infill and cluster development.
6. Explore policies and incentives to discourage sprawl and leap frog development.

Topic 6: River

Few things define Missoula as a unique place like the Clark Fork. It provides open space, visual relief, a multi-modal transportation corridor, and recreation as it makes its way through the heart of the community. With many demands placed on the river, residents want to make sure that it remains clean and accessible. Because it does run through the urbanized parts of the community, it is susceptible to both point and non-point pollution sources, including chemical and petroleum spills from the city's railways.

Goal 1: Reduce impacts to the river from recreational activities.

Goal 2: Maintain and enhance the general environmental health of the river, including riparian zones and water quality.

Objectives:

1. Strive for a high level of recreational safety on the river.
2. Guard against toxins such as pesticides, fertilizers, material from railroad spills, pipelines, and underground storage tanks from entering the river system.
3. Preserves/enhance/restore wildlife habitat along the river.
4. Keep the river's banks open and accessible for public use.
5. Develop a river corridor plan to address and balance development, recreation, environmental considerations, and community aesthetics.
6. Establish development standards in the river corridor that support clean water and wildlife habitat.
7. Acquire, restore, and protect river and stream corridors and floodplains as open space whenever possible, including outside of the urban service area.

Topic 7: Natural Areas/Outdoor Recreation

Another important component of Missoula's quality of life is its access to natural areas in and around the community and ready ability to recreate outdoors. Besides the significant amounts of open space within the community, Missoula is surrounded by the Lolo National Forest. Natural amenities such as these not only make life better for local residents, they are key factors in attracting new businesses and the talented people to own and manage them.

Goal 1: Maintain natural areas as recreation and wildlife corridors.

Goal 2: Protect additional lands for Missoula open space, vistas, wildlife habitat, and recreational trails.

Objectives:

1. Improve access point infrastructure (parking, toilets, roads, etc.) to parks and open spaces.
2. Ensure that the bike/pedestrian trail system provides access to all natural areas.
3. Ensure that bike/pedestrian trail system access is within five blocks of every residence in the city.
4. Invest in parks as a way to promote healthy lifestyles.
5. Consider ways to limit the impacts on open space surrounding the city by limiting development.
6. Develop an educational campaign for reducing recreational impacts on natural areas/open space.

Topic 8: Local Foods

As more and more of our food is produced by large "agri-businesses", and as more pesticides and fertilizers are used in its production, locally sourced food has become an issue in many communities across the country. Locally produced food does not have to travel far to reach its market, saving energy in the form of fuel. Also, it is easier for consumers to be assured that the food they enjoy has not been treated with harsh chemicals and/or has not been genetically modified.

Goal 1: Support the further development of a viable local food system.

Objectives:

1. Educate the Missoula community on the importance and advantages of locally sourced food.
2. Encourage neighborhood and community gardens.
3. Consider public procurement policies that give preference to locally sourced food.
4. Establish a program to use vacant city owned lands as community gardens.
5. Include provisions in city land development regulations for the limited raising of cash crops in appropriate residential areas.
6. In residential and mixed use planned developments, encourage use of required open space for community gardens.
7. Require a minimum percentage of locally sourced fresh and/or prepared food vendors in permitting for farmers' markets, festivals, and other community events.
8. Promote locally sourced food as a community amenity (visitation and economic development).