

Greenhouse Gas/Energy Conservation Team

Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2010

Members: Brian Kerns, Nancy Wilson, Ben Schmidt, Sam Hall, Julie Osborn, Ross Keogh, John Freer, and Owen Weber, and Katie George

Facilitators: Susan Anderson (Sustainable Business Council), Gary Bakke (Chamber of Commerce)

I. Call to Order 12:00

II. Roll Call: Ben Schmidt, Julie Osborn, Ross Keogh, John Freer, Sam Hall, Owen Weber and Katie George

Absent: Brian Kerns, Nancy Wilson

Others present: Gary Bakke, Susan Anderson, Don Sims, Cherie Peacock

III. Announcements

Lecture tonight at 7PM North Underground Lecture Hall

IV. Public comments on items not listed on the agenda. (Required by law)

Cherie Peacock, Sustainability Coordinator for The University of Montana came to talk about Greening UM, the University's Climate Action Plan that was recently approved and submitted to the American College and University President's Climate Commitment group. She said that Brian Kerns was part of the team that made this all happen. The signing onto this plan spurred an inventory in 2008 of greenhouse gas emissions. That inventory revealed that most of the gas emissions stem from the purchase of (NorthWestern Energy) electricity, the natural gas fired steam plant on campus and transportation around commuting to/from campus by staff, students and visitors as well as departmental and athletic air travel. Key topics and points of this plan are as follows.

Strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions categories include:

Energy Efficiency and Conservation

The 16 largest buildings on campus were energy audited. Recommendations included replacement or upgrading of equipment. The biggest savings came from retrofit of lighting and HVAC systems. Behavior modification education and using energy-wise components for information technology were incorporated as well.

Renewable Energy Generation

Looking at biomass, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal and wind power.

Green Buildings

LEED Certification: silver certification in new construction and EBOM certification for Existing Buildings, Operation and Maintenance.

Transportation sector areas include:

Commuting- having incentives to bike, walk and use the bus; create disincentives for parking on campus. Replacing fleet vehicles with more fuel efficient vehicles, consolidated field trips, more electric trucks in the main fleet, lost source for biodiesel in the buses

Trans-air travel – large contributor to emissions, to offset this, are evaluating department travel policy. Looking at increasing use of video& teleconferencing technology and purchasing carbon offsets for air travel use.

Offsetting Emissions

Carbon offsets and REC's

Climate Action Plan: Strategies To Include Sustainability in Education, Outreach, and Research

- Climate Change Studies Minor
- Energy Technology Program at COT
- Green Thread faculty Workshop
- Campus Climate Exchange (15 Minute discussion in every classroom)
- Renewable Energy Loan Fund (RELF) (student initiated tuition bill item)
- Forum for Living with Appropriate Technology (FLAT)
- Farm-to-College Program
- Climate Change Internships

Goals of the plan:

To achieve a target 10% below 2007 greenhouse gas emission levels by 2015 and a carbon neutrality date of 2020. It is up to each University to determine that target date, many are looking at 2050. For more information or to view the Climate Action Plan in its entirety, go to www.umt.edu/greeningum/

V. Approve meeting minutes of January 14, 2010.

Mr. Schmidt moved to approve the minutes, **Mr. Freer** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Non-Action Items - None at this time.

Start Missoula Green Building Initiative or other effort John Freer

Mr. Freer stated the intent of this effort is to formulate ideas of what we can do within the existing framework to enhance programs.

Discussion and comments on incentive based programs:

HB420 allows ability to adopt code that is more stringent; provided it is incentive based. Incentives can vary; they can be a reduction in impact fees or fast track permitting for those projects built above code. There is not a lot of data available on costs to municipalities for green building programs yet. There was a comment made that the legislature has handicapped what can be done; really a change in the law is necessary but not a reality. Need to find people who can explore possibilities and find solutions.

Mr.'s Freer and Hall explained that incentives make sense for the builder, but demand in residential markets is not always there. There will have to be an educational component to create market demand in smaller scale residential markets; something to create a 'buzz' around the issue and discussion. Operational savings are evident in larger scale commercial buildings, will have to be market driven to occur in residential market.

Mr. Keogh expressed the need for community dialogue to determine what citizens and city staff would be willing to allow in zoning tools and tax code to provide 'correct' incentives. Allow to build to double density requirement if the project is LEED certified for example.

Mr. Freer stated having access to a clearing house of information that would educate and direct people to what is available and how to access a program for tax credits for example is needed. The issue of access to capital is a challenge; out of the 82 million dollars of ARA stimulus money the state received last year, less than 10% went to non-public entities as there weren't programs to channel it to. Mr. Keogh commented on the advantage to pursuing an incentive based program in Missoula, is that it could be implemented at the City Council level in City Government; don't have to rely on big business or the Federal Government, the City has the tools granted by the legislature to enact. This team could play a role in bringing a community discussion to the forefront and provide the City Council with something tangible to work with in adopting a program.

Developing a subcommittee to put together a basic program framework was suggested. This framework would derive from an inventory of what exists now, then formulate a draft plan and solicit input, and eventually come up with a program to present to City Council. Mr. Freer commented that is the problem, there is so much information out there and that information available is not collectively assembled. The framework would be an umbrella for the City to work under.

There was discussion about focusing on new construction only, or incorporating retrofit measures as well. An explanation of a two-tier concept of retrofit was expressed by Mr. Hall. The upper tier of that range would include analysis including performance test, blower door testing, duct blaster testing, thermal imaging, use of a building and energy model that quantify the energy performance of the home; prioritizing measures and implementing those. The lower tier being a free energy audit, conducted by Northwestern Energy for example which conducts a free walk thru audit. They then make suggestions for cost effective measures. The difference is the depth of the retrofit and the amount of money expended in that process toward energy efficiency. In place incentives include rebates and cost savings to implement changes; folks don't always know about those.

Mr. Keogh moved to form a subcommittee to work on an incentive based energy conservation program. **Mr. Freer** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public comment: none

Further debate: none

Mr. Hall, Mr. Freer, and Mr. Keogh volunteered to be on the subcommittee to develop Green Build Incentives. Mr. Schmidt will add this to the update with the Conservation Committee.

Mr. Schmidt made a comment to structure the team meetings with the concept of meeting formally one month and meeting in subcommittee working groups the next to energize things and get work done. He would like for everyone to hear Mr. Kern's opinions regarding this and will bring it up again soon.

VII. Action Items

A. Determine updates to present to the Conservation Committee

Mr. Schmidt proposed the following items be discussed at the next meeting with the Conservation Committee.

- update and explain the Green Power Missoula campaign
- the Judith highland wind energy development project
- finishing the greenhouse gas emission inventory and develop a tracking system
- green build incentive subcommittee formation and scope
- desire to meet with City Council periodically to update on team activities

- change in meeting format to have a formal meeting every other month, working subcommittee groups every other month
- ask for input from the committee on what they would like to see the team work on

Discussion on the Judith Highlands Energy project (National Wind):

Mr. Schmidt commented he attended the high wind project proposal meetings, he liked their plan. Locally owned (State), long term contracts and does projects where people want the wind turbines. He would prefer a local municipal energy project but thinks there would be a lot of resistance and opposition to placing wind turbines in the area. Mr. Keogh asked how would the City be involved? Mr. Schmidt replied, the City could purchase the wind energy through a long-term contract with a set rate. Eventually ownership percentages change towards municipality ownership. Mr. Hall had issues with their concept and would like to see other industry perspectives. He would also like to see if the City is even interested in being involved in such a program. Mr. Freer has concern with the disconnect of being 'local' and what is the return for the City.

<http://www.judithhighlandsenergy.com/>

Mr. Keogh recommends not bringing this to council because this is a speculative activity and is in a premature phase. They are looking for capital currently and are nowhere near a power purchase agreement stage. He would like to hear what the Conservation Committee has to say for feedback and provide some structured ideas; Ms. Walzer mentioned trash services and more recycling of that waste stream; having trash service be fee based on amount collected. It was generally decided to remove the topic from the list of items to discuss at Conservation Committee.

Mr. Schmidt moved to include the following topics for discussion with the Conservation Committee March 10th:

- update and explain the Green Power Missoula campaign
- finishing the greenhouse gas emission inventory and develop a tracking system
- green build incentive subcommittee formation and scope
- desire to meet with City Council periodically to update on team activities
- change in meeting format to have a formal meeting every other month, working subcommittee groups every other month
- ask for input from the committee on what they would like to see the team work on

Mr. Freer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Don Sims sits on the Community Forum which updates City Council monthly on their meeting content; the Monday after they meet.

B. Renewable Energy Credits – Marketing Plan, Goals, Logo, Web Page, Grand Launch

Mr. Schmidt shared in Mr. Kerns absence that he expressed his desire to have the concept of green tags as a renewable energy credit program be replicable. That it be open-ended in that the campaign can grow and other communities can apply it. His concern is that the name Green Power Missoula may limit that. Mr. Schmidt relayed that the contract has been signed off by the city and has been sent for Sterling Planet's signature. Information on the program is on the webpage hosted by the County. Mr. Schmidt would like to form a subcommittee to market the campaign; continue working on a logo and enhancement of the web pages, the City will have a page on their network too. Ms. Osborn volunteered to be on that subcommittee.

Mr. Schmidt announced there may be funds available in the coming weeks to allocate toward logo development from the educational funds pool of the County Health Department. He has looked at sites on the internet to develop and acquire rights to graphic design that are very inexpensively but he himself is not that creative to attempt designing one. It was decided that when and if that money becomes available, Ms. Osborn will seek out a graphic designer. Ms. George indicated there is a media arts department at the University that could be utilized to solicit a designer perhaps.

The marketing subcommittee will consist of Mr. Kerns, Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Osborn. They will try to have an update on the logo development in March. The tentative launch date for Green Power Missoula will be Earth Day in April. Team marketing members will coordinate with UM's events and feature them as the first large purchase of REC's.

Public Comment: none

VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Ross

Christine Ross
Secretary, Office of Neighborhoods

*Copies of any handouts and referenced documents at this meeting are on file in the City Clerk's Office