



Greenhouse Gas/Energy Conservation Team

Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2012, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

City Council Chambers, 140 W. Pine

Members: Ben Schmidt (Chair), Brian Kerns, Dan Daly, John Freer, Julie Osborn, Aaron Hanson, Amy Cilimburg, Molly White

Members Absent: Alexander Sievers

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

I. Announcements:

Mr. Schmidt introduced Molly White as the new Industry Representative to the Team.

Ms. White said she grew up in Missoula and is currently employed with Clear Sky Climate Solutions. They are a climate consulting company that develops projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, carbon footprint assessment and reduction services. Her educational background is in carbon dynamics, forest carbon cycling and life cycle inventories.

II. Public comments on items not listed on the agenda:

None

III. Approve meeting minutes:

The minutes for July 12, 2012 were approved unanimously.

IV. Administrative:

A. Municipal Climate Action Plan Update

Ms. Cilimburg said there is no update at this time.

Mr. Schmidt stated he attended the City Council Conservation meeting and updated the council with GGEC developments. He mentioned several items that include:

Green Building program - A few committee members are in favor of pursuing and they can help the project become more successful.

Solar Panel - He asked the GGEC team to decide if the solar project is a project everyone is interested in pursuing as it will be a big job to move forward.

The Climate Action Plan - Some council members inquired about green building financing, loan options and City bond issues. He responded by saying he is not familiar with the financing aspect, but other GGEC team members may have expertise in that area and he will check with them.

The Conservation committee asked the GGEC team to respond with solid concrete recommendations. He noted Councilman Strohmaier said the GGEC is welcome to speak with the Conservation team whenever they are ready to provide recommendations.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the process of how recommendations are processed for the legislature to consider.

V. Non-Action Items:
Green Building Program

Mr. Freer said Cleveland, Ohio currently has a 2040 District and he discussed their program. He noted the requirements in the 2030 District are 50% better than they are currently. He asked for discussion regarding green building municipalities.

The team discussed various issues regarding the 2040 District. Inaudible.

VI. Action Items:
Municipal or Community Solar Project – What state laws need changed to make this doable? State legislative session is coming. Need to request changes to state law soon.

Ms. Cilimburg stated she contacted Diana Maneto, Director of Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA). The association carefully keeps track of laws and they have put forward legislation in previous years. Ms. Cilimburg also spoke with Kyla Mackey, Montana Environmental information Center (MEIC), and she recommends adjusting the net metering provisions to draw community solar into the laws rather than Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS).

She said there are other groups who are moving forward in the same direction with the intention to draft a bill. The GGEC team would not need to draft a bill,

but would be good support to other groups. Mr. Schmidt agreed and mentioned the team could approach the City Council to involve their support.

Mr. Kerns presented a [powerpoint presentation](#) regarding the Missoula Community Solar panel Test Project 2012 update and discussed each slide. He said the State of Washington is progressive with solar paneling and they have a net metering legislation with incentives to help promote the plan. Phoenix, Arizona is the solar capital of the US and Seattle, Washington has limited sun light and he discussed the difference.

Mr. Hanson is part of a group who are gathering information regarding solar panel usage in other cities, and he will provide the information when the report is completed.

The team discussed the powerpoint slides and the benefits of solar panels, and they agreed to adopt this issue in hope to help change the legislation.

Mr. Kerns stated other states have the net metering laws and he offered his time to research them and find the best option to follow.

Tony Gilbert said there is a place on 60 acres East of Denver, Colorado that provides a community solar site where companies test their products. He noted the site may offer information to educate the team regarding different laws. Mr. Gilbert will email the information to the team.

Mr. Schmidt asked if the team would like to move forward with this project and the team agreed.

VII. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Elam

Kelly Elam
City Clerk Office