



Economy Sector Working Group
February 9, 2023
Virtual Meeting - 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Meeting Summary

- 1) Welcome and roll call
 - a) Present:
 - i) Sheila Symons
 - ii) Gail Garey
 - iii) Christine Rambo
 - iv) Tegan Ebbert (Co-chair)
 - v) David Torgler
 - vi) Sarah Jones
 - vii) Lisa Popavich
 - viii) Sarah Leonard
 - ix) Michelle Stewart (YVSC technical assistant)
 - b) Not present:
 - i) Jeff Trip
 - ii) Rachel Tuyn
 - iii) John Bristol
 - c) Note on schedule change - this month's meeting needed to be moved up a week from its originally scheduled time which impacted attendance
- 2) Working Group member updates
 - a) Gail - keeping her eye on Extended Producer Responsibility state-passed legislation and life cycle recycling, sits on State advisory board.
 - b) David - Worker housing under development in Oak Creek, received applications to build two four-unit buildings in Sierra View. YVEA and South Routt school district, county commissioners to bring broadband to Oak Creek (Zierkel and Luminare); daycare programs in development.
 - c) Sarah J. - About to kick off Regional Transit Authority (RTA) feasibility study next week. How can we be thoughtful about regional and public transportation? As a resort moving toward emissions reduction goals (March program) - electricity, fleet.
 - d) Sheila - Working on a comprehensive plan on land use and business development and retention in Yampa; organizing rain barrel opportunities to help save water

- e) Christine - NWCO development council interested in value-added agriculture, developing feasibility study to support producers to diversify operations and look at waste streams (hides, offal for pet food) and more meat processing capacity regionally
 - i) Clean energy - transition from coal to clean energy - technical assistance and peer to peer networking grants with other coal regions - building resilient economies
 - ii) JOLT and CNCC conference coming up to look at renewable energy, keeping an eye on federal grants
 - iii) Interested in how to take fiber and paper out of our waste streams to create biomass production - need to get the energy sector to develop
 - f) Tegan - Modified Community Assessment - talking about potential of untapped recreational economy, localizing ability to recreate (e.g., river, snowmobile tours), how to make businesses more aware of local impacts?
 - g) Lisa - Mainstreet actively participating in implementation of commercial recycling. How to encourage partnerships to reduce costs to make it a positive experience rather than something businesses have to do? Bottle filling systems, QR code sticker - scan and know where you can fill.
 - h) Sarah L - Steamboat Chamber's Marketing director is participating in the global sustainable tourism council (working toward a certificate) - 4 criteria to certify a destination as sustainable.
 - i) Sarah is sitting on NW CO broadband Board - how do we get more connected with construction projects already slated to happen to tag team and lay fiber at the same time as road improvements (e.g., put down fiber at the same time as the Anglers housing project)
 - i) Michelle - promoting Yampascamping, using treated water for outdoors conserves water and reduces climate impact
- 3) Update from the Board meeting
- a) CAP Board work session on Working Group recommendations
 - i) Discussion on what output would look like, how to regionally implement CAP recommendations. Board doing work to build readiness for moving WG recommendations forward (criteria and ranking to prioritize projects)
 - ii) Agreement of Board to do 5-year revisits, but no strong restriction on any given recommendation, okay to have 5-7 year time frames
 - b) Website/newsletter subscription - please share with your network
 - i) Looking to Working Groups to help spread the word about the CAP website and encourage networks to subscribe to newsletter.
 - c) 2023 CAP Board Communication Plan
 - i) Communication goals include increasing broader understanding of what's in the CAP, who's on the Board and Working Groups, updates on CAP progress and opportunities for public involvement
 - ii) In addition to the website and newsletter, this includes outreach/press releases to local media outlets, hopefully a monthly column in local papers, monthly outreach and communications with our municipal communications managers (in process), Facebook/Instagram/website

blog for more frequent updates (in development) and plans to host a public community event in April or May.

- 4) Follow up on Working Group requests from previous meeting
 - a) Emailed invitation to Christine Oxley
 - b) Inquiry re: UCHealth contact
 - c) Inquiry re: Legacy Vacation Resorts contact

- 5) Looking forward: Discussion of sample output (Yampa Integrated Water Management Plan - p.6)
 - a) Revisited 6-month timeline for the Economy working group
 - b) Think about leads/budgets for proposed recommendations
 - c) How to help stand up Yampa Valley Green Business Network
 - d) Get our projects shovel ready to take advantage of current funding opportunities.
 - e) Aiming to have a working group session at the end of March for all CAP Working Groups to share recommendations

- 6) Discuss connections between EasyRetro platform and recommendations spreadsheet
 - a) Focus on reducing emissions in built environment, reduce carbon in waste
 - b) Support collaboration building and communicate identified recommendation crossovers with Waste, Energy and Transportation
 - c) **ECS1: Consume goods with lower embedded carbon - A1 (Green purchasing programs)**
 - i) Developing green purchasing programs at government, commercial and residential level a unique Economy Working Group recommendation
 - (1) Hire local, buy local/contract local for gov't (Chamber already has a buy local program, but could expand it to cover food)
 - (2) Costs low to implement, carbon reduction potential high
 - (3) When we bring in industry partners - conduct LCAs of goods used frequently in these places (e.g., cleaning materials, shampoo for hotels and lodging)
 - (4) Educate local businesses/schools/entities about how to secure local government contracts (PTAC - Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Center)
 - (5) Support bulk purchasing of green products (compostable wares/utensils, refill options for cleaning, laundering, bathing supplies) and businesses that buy these products
 - ii) Establish a buy local campaign and educate the public/businesses about why/how to buy local
 - (1) Increase education and access of local farmers markets
 - (2) Sorocco school a great example of investing in students, connecting training and workforce development - Students provide a lot of things locally used - future farmers of America programs, plantings for all the downtown planters, cut metal from high school getting put into signs. They sell Oak Creek their products to put

back into their program. Inspires entrepreneurialism, develops job skills. How to scale this up for other school districts and connect with the S3 program?

(a) Sorocco may be providing 120-140 plantings for baskets in downtown Steamboat by 2024.

(3) Lots of state interest to invest in student job training/internships/apprenticeships (CMC, CNCC)

d) ECS2: Develop green markets

- i) Fund a study that evaluates our waste streams to understand best fit sector to attract or grow
 - (1) Add Xcel interest in biomass, get them to use diseased, felled trees for biomass - what are other feed stocks being underutilized that could attract new clean energy to our region
 - (2) No recycling in Moffat County - provide access to the Waste feasibility when it is done
 - (3) Explore coal ash from Hayden Station for use in building materials
 - (4) Explore opportunities for clothing waste or other waste (e.g., Big Agnes, Moots Cycles)
- ii) Develop end markets for current compost operations -- use for ag and landscaping
- iii) Support transition/expansion of Materials Recycling Facility
- iv) Support local hay production for ranchers, increase agricultural stewardship training opportunities to promote benefits of land stewardship for the community (grazing, leasing, water rights)
 - (1) Encourage large residential owners to lease their land at favorable/green rates to local ranchers to raise and harvest grass for feeding stock (also falls under ECS3 - A1)

e) ECS3: Expand base industries for regional self-reliance

- i) A1 - Expand and coordinate the existing buy local campaigns (work with Chamber) (also part of ECS1)
- ii) A1 - Support local meat processing and use of all products (e.g., hides, offal)
 - (1) NWCDC local Ag -value ad agriculture, develop with help of CAA
- iii) A2 - Support Yampa Valley Green Business program partnership with RCEDP Entrepreneurship Center
 - (1) Educate on ROI, business plan development, maintaining successful businesses, increased awareness for education and support for green businesses, trainings at the center to incentivize green industry plans
- iv) A2 - Consider sustainability-related components in Town of Hayden - Business Pitch Day

- v) A2 - Support the greening of Hayden Industrial Park (provide energy consultations, economic diversification, job creation)
 - (1) Research opportunities for carbon sequestration and drought tolerant landscaping, going full electrification or natural gas (lots of cost questions there), soft surface trails instead of sidewalks, enhance riparian area surrounding for wildlife habitat
 - (2) DOE just launched a program to support micro-grids (possible solar funding source?)
 - (3) Connect with Brown Ranch Energy Plan contact to explore cost savings of geothermal over the longer-term.

f) ECS4: Enhance environmental sustainability efforts undertaken by business

- i) Scale up Yampa Valley Green Business Program (cooperative effort of YVSC, Steamboat Chamber and RCEDP)
 - (1) Fund, staff and implement a Yampa Valley Green Business and Entrepreneurial Training program
- ii) Establish a cooperative for businesses to jointly purchase eco-friendly packaging in bulk for cost savings/convenience (also ECS1)
- iii) Create a sustainability toolkit for businesses (best practices, resources, funding opportunities, include a carbon offset option)
- iv) Create a database/resource site for funding that supports green practices
- v) Research and communicate resources and funding to businesses that encourage eco-friendly practices
- vi) Encourage businesses to use less packaging or recyclable packaging
- vii) Reward sustainable practices by highlighting businesses via a newsletter, success story in the paper that encourages other businesses to participate

7) Next meeting and proposed work plan for recommendation development

- a) March 16, 2023 - 10-11:30 am (virtual)
- b) Homework - Continue to populate the CAP Economy Current Initiatives and Recommendations and Funding spreadsheet