



Energy Sector Working Group
Meeting #6
February 1, 2023
YVEA Conference Room, 2211 Elk Road

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to order and roll call
 - a. Present
 - i. Dan LeBlanc (Chair)
 - ii. Todd C. (Co-Chair)
 - iii. Brian Adams
 - iv. Jeff Milius
 - v. Scott Conner
 - vi. Hedda Flage Kukla
 - vii. Ken Fogle
 - viii. Norm Weaver
 - ix. Bob Major
 - x. Paul Bony (YVSC technical assistant)
 - b. Not Present
 - i. Steve Johnson
 - ii. Mark Lyman
 - iii. Paul Komor
 - iv. Clay Schrader
 - c. Member updates
 - i. Matt Piva needed to step off the Energy Sector Working Group.
 - ii. Todd Carr has scheduled two Public Forums to discuss the new proposed Energy Codes and Outdoor Energy Recommendations. Please email Todd to RSVP (tcarr@co.routt.co.us). Space is filling quickly. A third meeting may be scheduled if needed.
 1. March 2, 8am-2pm (Routt County Courthouse - BCC Room)
 2. March 23, 8am-2pm (Routt County Courthouse - BCC Room)
2. Update from the Board meeting
 - a. City Hall/Fire Station Complex letter
 - i. Based on Board input, the Energy Working Group will write two different letters. The first, in line with the current draft, will be directed to City Council requesting that City of Steamboat Springs staff utilize the Energy Working Group to assess and consider best practice energy use design

- solutions and building envelope concepts for decisions related to the new Steamboat Springs City Hall Complex.
- ii. With the City facing an overstretched budget for the new complex, the Working Group still sees an important opportunity to revise snowmelt plans for both economic and carbon reduction reasons.
 - iii. The second will be addressed to all the municipalities letting them know the Energy Working Group is available as a resource for technical expertise and advice.
 - iv. A sub-committee will draft these letters with the hope of getting the letter to the City out as soon as possible.
- b. YVEA net-metering technical memorandum
- i. YVEA's new net-metering policy relevant to CAP Energy goals. Working Group believes bigger and faster PV systems could account for as much as 4% of CAP identified carbon, particularly with an adoption rate of 20% by residences
 - ii. While the typical PV sizing for an average residential customer is currently below the 10kw allowance, as homes get more electrified PV sizing over 10kw is likely.
 - iii. Net metering limits could pose a barrier to a small business that wants to put in a 30-40kw system and other mid-large commercial customers. Special contracts may need to be drafted to reduce barrier.
 - iv. Technical memorandum to the Board did not include an economic analysis. Board open to possibility of spending money for a deeper net-metering analysis.
 - v. Sub-committee will take another look at the summary and provide additional commentary to bring back to the Board
 - vi. Group agreed working session attention should be on recommendations to the Board moving forward.
- c. CAP Board work session on Working Group recommendations
- i. Board to meet Monday to come up with filters for recommendations. Need to develop a rubric to frame recommendations.
 - ii. Working Group hopeful they can come up with recommendations that might actually reduce costs.
- d. CAP website/newsletter subscription
- i. Working Group encouraged to share new CAP website and newsletter subscription with their network.
- e. 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.

3. Continue to identify and review wording of current “big wins” and recommendations
 - a. Use Building Department adopted codes to address outdoor energy use unless it is offset by 100% renewable as part of the 2021 code adoption process (January 2024)
 - i. Write code that limits BTU use - sensor controls, hot tub/outdoor fireplace timers
 - b. Implement an aggressive energy and carbon reduction program targeting existing buildings that fail an established energy use profile
 - i. Educate home owners, provide information not mandates and programs to fund it
 - ii. YVEA has qualified solar installers they work with, develop a list of chosen contractors for these jobs
 - c. Require all municipal/government funded construction and key facility replacements to be carbon free/low carbon using best practice, Life Cycle Cost decision making (with social cost of carbon) cost tools and professional peer reviews
 - d. Establish a Permanent Funding Source for a dedicated sustainability position or team to focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency and carbon emission reduction
 - i. Include IRA in funding source options
 - e. In line with Utility Industry practice, have YVEA add 1% to rates to build an "Energy Smart" Investment Fund amounting to approximately \$600,000/year (~\$20/year to a typical residential electric bill) - Including, for example:
 - i. Continue to grow YVEA's existing program of Energy Hero
 - ii. Support local training of energy efficiency trades and EE best practice “continuing education opportunities”
 - iii. Support community “get Energy Smart” outreach
 - iv. Support energy residential and commercial energy benchmarking
 - f. Require all government built/owned housing to be net zero carbon by no later than 2030
 - g. Engage with Atmos Energy to make sure Routt County is a full participant in their pending Demand Side Management Program
 - h. Implement Funding to provide County Wide Annual Trainings for or skilled contractors focused on Energy Efficient and Carbon Emissions Reductions
 - i. Reduce barriers to deployment of renewables (solar, wind, other)
 - j. Adopt, fund and implement a strategic action plan to improve the energy efficiency and electrification of existing residential and commercial buildings and industrial process in Routt County
 - k. Plan for future electrification of all buildings
4. Next meeting and proposed work plan for recommendation development:
 - a. Wednesday, March 1 1:30-3:00pm
 - b. Get through Big Win list next meeting. Think about things in the CAP not addressed in our list (orphaned actions and tactics)