

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



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Sub-Committee

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~Minutes~

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Monday

Mayor's Conference Room

November 18, 2024

6:00 PM

206 E 3rd Street

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina Hilding, Mary DuPree; Mac Cantrell; Elizabeth Stevens; Al Poplawsky; Nancy Chaney; Sophie Gilbert

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Kelli Cooper, Staff Liaison

Call to order

1. Implementation Planning

Group will review the google form created for evaluation of potential action items by other commissions and community members.

ACTION: Receive the report and provide feedback

Cooper presented the group with a link to the draft of the newly named Climate Action Prioritization Tool in Google Forms. Discussion was had on general layout as well as some of the language choices. Due to time constraints at the meeting and to create easier access for review, Cooper suggested that additional comments on content be shared with her via email for consideration. The goal is to have a final draft by the next Sustainable Environment Commission meeting for testing.

2. Newspaper Column

Group will discuss upcoming topics for the column and who will write them.

ACTION: Receive the report and provide feedback

Group discussed whether to continue the column and what topics should be included. Everyone agreed that the column should be continued. It was also suggested that the group look into expanding the reach of the column to include the Lewiston Tribune since the Daily News has reduced its delivery to twice a week.

3. Community Solar Update

Kelli Cooper will provide any update on a potential community solar project.

ACTION: Receive the report and provide feedback

Cooper informed the group that some internal discussions have occurred around a potential community solar project on the new city shop that is to be built as well as the police station. The details of how such a program could work are still being developed but the general idea is that the City buildings would host the panels and the energy would directly reduce city costs for energy consumption through net metering. Either the tax benefits or the renewable energy credits or both could then be given to the subscribers of the program participants. The idea being the monies to buy and install the panels would be participant funded. There could also be some benefits retained to benefit low-income households, which would help the project qualify for grant programs.

4. Avista Planning

The group will discuss the recently released Integrated Resource Plan from Avista and what it could mean for climate action planning for Moscow.

ACTION: Receive the report and provide feedback

Several members of the group attended the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) presentation by Avista. Avista faces several mandates for clean energy in Washington and discussion centered around what that means for Idaho. Generally speaking, all energy Avista produces that does not meet Washington requirements will essentially be credited to Idaho. This is not conducive to helping Moscow reach it's climate goals.

5. MT 2030 Conference Report

Kelli Cooper attended the 2024 Mountain Town 2030 Conference in Jackson, Wyoming last month. She will provide a brief report on the summit.

ACTION: Receive the report and provide feedback

Cooper provided a brief summary of the 2024 Mountain Town 2030 Conference that she attended last month. She said that it was a great conference and that she hopes to go again and perhaps bring a council member or the mayor with her next time. The main focus during the conference was how to get climate action accomplished in red states. No matter the specific topic of the individual sessions, there were multiple examples provided by communities in attendance on how they were able to get a project off the ground. She gained many new ideas on actions that could be taken or how actions that have already been discussed could be achieved.

6. Announcements/Other business

Adjourn