

**Town of Silver City Climate Protection Agreement Citizens' Advisory Committee**  
**April Monthly Meeting**  
**4/7/10**

In attendance: Allyson Siwik, Sharman Russell, Jim Kerstetter, Nick Sucillo, Gary Edwards. guests: Gayle Simmons (Green Chamber), Kurt Albershardt, Walt Mellberg, John Crow.

Meeting called to order at 5:08.

Agenda Review: Green Jobs, CLEAR resolution, Solar financing district update were all added to the agenda.

Gary made motion to approve the minutes from last meeting. Nick seconded. Minutes were approved as read.

**Announcements:**

The Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant was signed. We are now cleared to hire a Director. We hope to begin interviewing next week and to have someone hired by the end of the month. Office of Sustainability will be run through the Grant County Coalition for Economic Progress. Memorandum of Agreement between Silver City and Grant County will be adopted through a Coalition resolution to specify the working relationship for the Office of Sustainability.

Meeting with Doug Campion on March 24 of Community Action Agency (CAA), Las Cruces, who has agreed to train our new workers in July. It will be a week-long training on performing energy audits and basic weatherization, including caulking, weather stripping, retrofitting light bulbs. There will be a hands-on component. Those homes that qualify will be referred to Community Action, or is severe enough, to Housing Rehab. There was some question about who to employ: sub-contractors vs. AmeriCorps/VISTA. Two to three energy auditors will need to be hired by the new Director before July.

Brewer Hill: Nick announced that a schedule is being implemented for the subdivision. Site plans, elevations, and floor plans have been presented to the Community Development Department and are expected to be approved. Infrastructure is expected to be laid in the fall. 56 units are being planned. First house is expected to be started in spring of 2011. Questions were asked about solar orientation, alternative energy usage plans.

NM Economic Development Dept. (EDD) meeting 3/26/10: Met with Brendan Miller and Secretary Mondragon. It was a productive meeting in that it gave us a chance to have the ear of people at the state level and many community stakeholders. The secretary announced that he would have the Green Jobs cabinet come to Grant Co. (est. by Gov. Bill Richardson) and that the secretary would come for two hours during that visit. We hope to present a concise and clear proposal for a Green Jobs initiative in Grant Co. Trying to set up that meeting for July. We could meet with regional mayors in early May to prepare for this important visit.

Sen. Bingaman's office organized Energy and Green Jobs task force meeting in Deming on April 6<sup>th</sup> to talk about coordination of renewable energy and green jobs initiatives in the SWNM region. It was a networking session and an information-gathering session. Renewable energy and energy efficiency goals were discussed, with the possibility of creating a strategic plan discussed. We learned that the \$6M we thought our Workforce Solutions SW earmarked for green/building/energy efficiency in our

region has been diverted into biofuels.

CLEAR Act: Jamie Thomson, Town Counselor, has asked us to support a resolution to support this act (Cap and Dividend as opposed to Cap and Trade) to counter the Lieberman-Kerry-Graham and Waxman-Markey Bill. Sharman will email the details for our evaluation the Act. We will discuss the resolution at the next meeting.

Solar Financing: Kurt presented his research on the Berkeley model for solar financing. We could create a system for a homeowner using retirement funds to create local financing for solar. A venture-capital company is replicating programs like this all over the country and is working on a program in Santa Fe. Since this hasn't been found to be financially feasible in small municipalities, Kurt suggests that we work on creating a state-wide effort that our community could tap into.

Climate Action Plan: Copies were distributed and members were asked to look it over carefully so that we can make a progress report to give to the Town Council. We were given the option of getting a report ready for this month's meeting or to discuss it at our next meeting and prepare the report for the May Town Council meeting. Allyson will accept email comments on the Climate Action Plan over the next two weeks so that the committee can develop a draft report to be approved in May. Some suggestions that we use visuals/graphs to portray the progress we've made on the Climate Action Plan.

The next meeting will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06.

Respectfully submitted,

Debaura James