

12-1-10 Minutes of Town of Silver City Climate Protection Committee

Task force members Present: Allyson Siwik, Jim Kerstetter, Debaura James, Gary Edwards, Sharman Russell, Community Members present: Denise Smith (Neighborhood Program Manager with Of. Of sustainability), Marco Grajeda (Tom Udall's office), Kurt Albershardt.

Lack of a quorum prevented us from approving the minutes from the Nov. 3 and Oct. 5 meetings.

County Conservation Strategy for the Office of Sustainability: This group is one of several stake-holder groups that will participate in answering these questions on a test basis. This will count as one set of responses to these questions.

- Water Usage**—waste, desert, conservation, supply, treatment, demand, pumping costs, resource depletion, contamination, reuse, water harvesting, golf courses

Energy—waste, money, conservation, alternative, fossil fuels, renewable, inefficient market, aging GRID, the sun, lifeblood, limited , reduce, lifestyle change, emissions

Renewable energy—future, transition, financial models, solar, wind, jobs, storage, incentives, subsidies, national security, independence, sustainable policy, education, market forces, reality, reallocation of subsidies

Quality of homes—ageing, poorer, energy efficient, longevity, smaller but better, life-cycle analysis, environmentally friendly, new paradigm, site orientation, cooperative living, right-sizing, new solutions, national budget-buster, qualified builders, training programs, craftsman ethos

Multi-modal transportation—dedicated bikelanes, carpool, trains, lightrail, inner-city redesign, education, new urbanization, land-use planning, tele-working, tele-commuting, walking, walkability, subsidies for public transportation, higher gas taxes, common sense, shred automobile ownership.

Food connection to energy and water—embodied energy, pollution, embodied fossil fuels, local production, aquifer depletion, irrigation, inequitable labor, bad diet, unreasonable consumer expectations, migrant labor, food safety, industrial agriculture, farm bills/subsidies, reallocating, organic, over-grazing

Green Building—standards and codes, “green washing”, integration into mainstream, retrofitting homes, expensive, energy efficiency, life-cycle, non-toxic, recyclable, appropriate, enduring, sustainable, deconstruction, local materials, natural/renewable materials

Retrofits—growth industry, opportunity, smart, low-hanging fruit, best ROI, financing, low-interest loans, quality control, education, outreach, energy security, aging population, aging in place

Cost Effective—good idea, time horizon, increasing utility costs, big picture, saving \$\$, standardization methods, hidden costs, best things in life are free, there is no such thing as free lunch, sustainable.
- What are the benefits, barriers, and negative consequences of water conservation?**

Benefits—extend supply, reduction in pumping costs, prep for hotter, drier summers, less species extension, stewardship/moral responsibility, avoided exploration/infrastructure costs, cost-effective

Negative—perception by agricultural community and consumers, reduced income to water dept., restricted personal options, lifestyle changes

Barriers—inefficient market (prices don't reflect true cost), lack of education, regressive policies, political policies (use it or lose it), commercialization of water

3. **How do we insulate ourselves as a community from any negative effects of potential rate increases?**

- conserve energy, water
- local power generation
- demand accountability
- deprivatize energy
- incentives for energy efficiency
- S. America—gov'ts own power grids
- turn off lights/unplug unused appliance
- social inequity

Positive effects

- price signal use less
- saner pricing reflects true
- change in behavior
- subsidize (need consideration for poverty/low/fixed income)

4. **What does sustainable mean to you?**

--community gardens, sunshine, local food production, inexhaustible—traditional farming methods, adobe, bicycle community, current process—large scale solar facilities, pedestrian community, food coop, farmer's market, strong environmental activism, Green Chamber of Commerce

5. **Additional comments:**

- Brainstorming needs to lead to facilitated discussion.
- Will #4 lead us to the desired strategy?
- Practical tie between brainstorming and practical strategies.
- Need to ask a specific question on energy efficiency.
- How will this lead to a strategy?
- Who will the various groups be who will answer these questions? Geographical outreach?
- demonstrate a diversity (ranching, political groups, religious, city employees, service organizations)
- multiple forums as valuable as the end product..

Gratitude: This is Jim Kerstetter's last meeting. Many thanks to Jim for this 3 years of service.

EECBG:

On residential side, have done over a hundred homes, many of which are in bad shape. Water leaks, water damage, etc. Many clients are senior citizens who are immensely pleased with the "fixes".

Large-scale solar: Proposals are in. Two facilities planned: 5000 200W solar panels at well-fields Booster station and wastewater treatment plant. We're entering a heavy grant writing phase. Lost the Governor's \$100K opportunity, as that money had to be spent by end of December due to change in administration. RFP's going out for the solar charging stations for the Chamber parking lot.

USDA grant proposal discussion was tabled because Sam Costello couldn't make it.

Announcements:

Green Chamber and Main St. will holding a meeting at the Silco, Mon., Dec. 13th from 5-7 called the "Community Development Loan fund" which will provide useful information for small businesses refinancing opportunities with funding from the US Small Business Administration Microloan Program and will provide details on applying for those loans. Reps will describe the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debaura James