

CITY OF HELENA
Citizen Conservation Board
Thursday, December 14, 2023 from 4:30-6 pm
Zoom Online Meeting:

<https://www.helenamt.gov/Calendars/Board-Committee-Meetings/Citizen-Conservation-Board-Meetings-2023>

City-County Building, Room 426

Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes Draft

Updates from City Staff – Miranda Griffis, Sustainability Coordinator, and Leea Anderson, Public Works Dept.

Regular Items

- A. Officers' Report

- B. Consider Unfinished Business: CCB Priorities for Annual Report to the Commission
 - 1. Public Comment
 - 2. Motion

- C. Consider Unfinished Business: CCB Suggestions for the State's Priority Climate Action Plan
 - 1. Public Comment
 - 2. Motion

- D. Consider Emerging Issues/New Business
 - 1. Public Comment
 - 2. Motion

Member Communications/Proposals for Next Agenda

Public Communications

Announcements

Adjournment

The City of Helena is committed to providing access to persons with disabilities for its meetings, in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Montana Human Rights Act. The City will not exclude persons with disabilities from participation at its meetings or otherwise deny them the City's services, programs, or activities.

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in the City's meetings, services, programs, or activities should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Ellie Ray, as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to arrange for the requested accommodation, at any of the following:

Phone: (406) 447- 8490

TTY Relay Service 1-800-253-4091 or 711 Email: citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov

Mailing Address & Physical Location: 316 North Park Avenue, Room 445, Helena, MT 59623.

Details of each potential Priority

ENERGY: Prioritize upgrades to existing buildings to avoid upfront/embedded carbon emissions - City owned or funded as well as Privately-owned buildings (Prioritize upgrades to existing buildings to avoid upfront/embedded carbon emissions; Electrical upgrades to allow for building electrification; Heating and cooling upgrades (heat pumps); Hot water (heat pump water heaters); Envelope tightening and insulation; High performance windows and doors; High performance requirements for new city buildings and funding to assist; and Passive House standards preferred.)

TRANSPORTATION: Mode shifts (bikes, e-bikes, walking, etc.) are very important and readily available. Funds should be provided to enable such shifts (Sidewalk infill and upgrades or new sidewalks where they don't already exist; Prioritize based on safe routes to school, access to essential services (grocery, pharmacy, etc.), equity; Protected bike lanes (so all people traveling by bicycle feel - and are - safe); Incentives for workplace charging infrastructure for private EV users (to shift peak charging to daytime when demand is lower and solar renewable energy production is higher); Funds to build charging stations and infrastructure for multifamily housing; Incentives for e-bikes (rebates, etc.); Incentives for carpooling; Incentives to avoiding driving).

TRANSPORTATION: Fleet and Municipal Operations (Funding for electrical infrastructure improvements to allow EV charging; Charging equipment; Funding for replacement of ICE with EVs (fleet cars and trucks, four-wheelers, skip loaders, mowers, police cars, etc.); Buses for transit).

SCHOOLS - if part of a coalition that could enable participation (Buildings - efficiency and conservation; Buildings - electrification; Transportation - safe routes to school funding; Transportation electrify buses).

COMPOSTING FOOD WASTE - decomposing organic material produces methane in landfills (Development of composting capabilities; Curbside pickup for composting; Facilitate unused food sharing).

GREEN ELECTRICITY (Fund electrical infrastructure improvements to allow for solar or other renewable energy; Fund solar installations - both net metered systems, and behind-the-meter systems that would be appropriate for facilities with high demand during each day such as water and wastewater treatment plants; Cost share for renewable rate option, if approved by PSC in time; Fund zero-interest revolving loan program (like Helena's) to fund solar and energy efficiency projects for individual homeowners; Provide funds to implement SolarApp for solar permitting (to reduce cost and time spent for permitting solar).

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (Preservation and restoration of mature woodlands - outright purchase or conservation easement; Preservation and restoration of native grasslands - outright purchase or conservation easement); Preservation and restoration of wetlands - outright purchase or conservation easement; Increase canopy cover by planting trees along streets and other city properties - quick growing, long-lived species preferred); Implementation of green infrastructure systems - such as bioswales, rain gardens, tree trenches).

WATER AND ENERGY CONSERVATION: WTR-3 from the City's 2009 Climate Action Plan (Recommend City policy that all landscaping on City owned and managed properties be low water, drought-resistant native and/or climate-appropriate species; Develop outreach and education program and incentives for area residents).

GREEN TEAM: IMP-2 from the City's 2009 Climate Action Plan developed by the CAP Task Force ("...recommends forming a Green Team of staff from each City Department to ensure implementation of the Task Force recommendations, and to ensure input from City staff in the ongoing development of effective sustainability policies and practices...Green Team participation should be integrated into day-to-day City business creating efficiencies and cost savings."

FULLTIME SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR: IMP-1 from the City's 2009 Climate Action Plan developed by the CAP Task Force ("To ensure implementation of the individual recommendations... related to both municipal and city-wide GHG reductions and water conservation, the Task Force recommends": Administer energy and conservation grants; create programs and policies that promote environmental sustainability; Track implementation of sustainability recommendations; Coordinate with the Green Team; Report on savings related to GHG emissions, water, energy, fuel, etc. in annual report to the Commission; Coordinate with MDEQ; Seek additional funding; and Staff and coordinate with the Green Team and Citizen Conservation Board).

ENCOURAGE USE OF REUSABLE BAGS: RWRP-5 from the City's 2009 Climate Action Plan (Outreach to local businesses to *encourage* (recent State legislation prohibits any mandate or requirement) the use of reusable bags. Several local businesses have already adopted this practice voluntarily).

ENCOURAGE USE OF REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES AND INVEST IN A MOBILE REFILLING STATION: RWRP-6 'Back to the Tap' from the City's 2009 Climate Action Plan (Outreach to local businesses to *encourage* (recent State legislation prohibits any mandate or requirement) the use of reusable bags. Several local businesses have already adopted this practice voluntarily).