MOUNTAIN TOWNS 2030

WORKSHOP · WED, OCT 14 · 2:30-3:30 PM

Meeting 2030 Climate Goals (in these times!)

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With 2030 close and federal support pulled back, three local sustainability leads compared how their climate goals actually drive work and budgets. A cleaner grid has done much of the lifting, but buildings, fleets and getting other departments to own actions now decide progress.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Broad goals, specific actions.** Blaine County pairs 15 broad goals with 57 specific actions, each badged county, municipal or partner owned. Flexibility let Ketchum and Hailey write the plan into their comp plans.
2. **A cleaner grid buys time, not the finish.** Holy Cross Energy is about 90% clean, yet Vail's modeled actions reach only 44% of a 50% goal. Vehicle electrification is the biggest lever, and a town can't compel it.
3. **Retuning existing systems pays.** Vail saved $120,000 in one year by adjusting its snowmelt system. Staff once measured pavement at 106°F in January.
4. **Pair retrofits with failing equipment.** Eagle County's boilers and chillers were failing, so it put in geothermal and fully electrified its main building, cutting 142 metric tons.
5. **List what is required, not what is fundable.** Eagle County's decarbonization plan costs every project needed for 2030: about 40 projects, around $25 million. It shows the board the real to-do list.

WHAT LOCAL OFFICIALS CAN DO

- ☐ **Adopt internal clean energy policies.** Replace failed systems and vehicles with electric by default. Policy outlasts staff turnover.
- ☐ **Make goals public and tie them to owners and budgets.** Goals drive change when paired with ownership, funding and accountability, and when elected officials stand behind them.
- ☐ **Integrate your climate plan into comprehensive plans.** Have councils adopt it by resolution so it becomes each city's plan too.
- ☐ **Spread fleet transition across departments,** start with light-duty vehicles, and demo heavy electric equipment before buying.
- ☐ **Retro-commission big energy users first,** like snowmelt and town buildings, through performance contracting.
- ☐ **Where state law blocks policy, educate and partner.** Promote utility incentives, use C-PACE, and work through nonprofits and private grants.
- ☐ **Pace your GHG inventories.** Every one to three years; outsource it so it doesn't eat staff time.

BY THE NUMBERS

~40%
Blaine County plan actions underway or done (8% done)

57
Specific actions in Blaine County's 2024 plan

$120K
Vail's savings in one year from snowmelt tuning

142 t
CO2 cut by Eagle County's geothermal retrofit

~$25M
Cost of every project in Eagle County's 2030 plan

40%
Cut in Vail town operations carbon

WATCH OUT FOR

- ! Idaho's House Bill 287 (2022) bars local green building codes above the state standard. Net billing also makes rooftop solar hard to pencil.
- ! Heavy fleet (fire trucks, backhoes, semis) won't be ready by 2030, so buildings have to overperform.

RESOURCES

Climate Action Collaborative (Eagle County)
climateactioncollaborative.org

CLEER
cleanenergyeconomy.net (GHG inventories, Glenwood Springs)

Sustainability Solutions Group
ssg.coop (community climate strategy modeling)

Idaho Power Clean Energy Your Way
Opt-in renewable energy certificate program

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Summarized from the session recording and presenter slides. Figures are as presented; confirm with presenters before citing.

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