

The Green Team Meeting will be held in person at Basalt Town Hall. Members of the public are welcome to join the meeting from the audience.



TOWN OF BASALT MEETINGS

Basalt Green Team

Monday, January 8, 2024

Basalt Town Hall

101 Midland Avenue

- 3:30 PM** **Roll Call**
- 3:31** **1. Approve Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2023**
- 3:35** **2. Housekeeping Items.** Nominations for Green Team Chair and Vice Chair for 2023; Check-in regarding meeting times/day.
- 3:45** **3. Community Compost Discussion.** *Staff to present additional information to the Green Team regarding possible options to involve the Basalt community in composting in 2024.*
Recommended Action: *The Green Team may choose to make a motion to support an option presented or pursue another option related to community composting.*
- 4:05** **4. 2024 Basalt E-Bike Rebate Program.** *Staff to present information regarding additional funding received for enhancing the E-Bike Rebate Program in 2024.*
- 4:10** **5. Willits Lane Connectivity & Town Wayfinding Plan.** *Staff to provide a brief update on the process.*
- 4:15** **6. Member/Supporter Updates**
- 4:25** **7. Future Agenda Items**
- a. Pay-As-You-Throw Presentation by DS: discussion of the program's benefits and challenges.
 - b. Other
- 4:30** **Adjourn**

**Green Team Meeting
November 13, 2023
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Basalt Town Hall**

Green Team Members Present: Mike Steiner, Charlie Eckart, Doug Goldsmith, Eileen Fagan
Town Staff: Sara Nadolny, Catherine Christoff, Michelle Thibeault, Carlos Peugnet, Mitzi Rapkin
Guests: Jake Lapp, Amanda Poindexter, Clare McLaughlin, Sean Satterfield

Agenda Items

- Approve Minutes from October 9, 2023.
- Building Benchmarking
- Community Compost Discussion
- Member/Supporter Updates
- Future Agenda Items and Other

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm.

1. Approve Meeting Minutes from October 9, 2023

M/S Eileen and Charlie to approve the meeting minutes from August 14, 2023. Motion passed 4 to 0.

2. Building Benchmarking

Clare McLaughlin, Sustainability Programs Administrator with the City of Aspen, provided an overview of Aspen's Building IQ program. She noted that Aspen has different climate action plan goals, with a 63% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030 and 100% by 2050. Building IQ is a strategy to address greenhouse gas emissions through the building sector. About 50% of all emissions in this category can be attributed to residential buildings.

Benchmarking tracks energy and water use over time, and Building Performance Standards sets targets to improve energy use over time. These programs provide building owners with crucial data to help in making decisions related to financial and energy savings.

Building Performance Standards is a performance-based program, set over a period of time, that includes targets. Users have choices about how to reach the targets.

Clare explained that Aspen's Building IQ program was launched in 2020 with voluntary opt-in from building owners but was made mandatory in 2022. The program is made possible through a partnership with CORE which undertakes outreach to building owners, a walk-through of the mechanisms, the portfolio manager, and creates easy to read scorecards.

The Green Team engaged in a discussion with Clare regarding her experience with Aspen's Building IQ program.

Upgrades that are identified through the program are generally made by building owner with grants, incentives and rebates. Denver has taken a different approach to their benchmarking program, allotting funding based on equity priority buildings with a tiered structure to determine building owners that receive the most support. Denver also institutes fines for those that do not meet their target, with penalties as high as the cost of the required improvement(s).

A building owner has no obligation to disclose anything learned through the Building IQ program to a potential buyer at this time. However, Clare noted that it could be leveraged as a point-of-sale strategy.

Clare indicated that the goal of the program is to not allow people to pay their way out, as that does not get at carbon reduction. On June 1, 2024, Aspen will enter its third cycle, which will require benchmarking for commercial buildings beginning at 10,000 square feet, and residential buildings at 20,000 square feet.

Regarding the program's timeline – the benchmarking is ongoing. June 1st is the beginning of each program year and will continue to capture buildings of lesser sizes in different cycles until every building in Aspen has been onboarded. City-owned buildings which are 20,000 square foot in size and greater were the first to be introduced into the program. Clare noted that there is a committee that has been established to provide feedback on a building's performance.

To get a similar program started, Clare said it is helpful to perform an analysis of a community's existing building stock. For Aspen's analysis, a good deal of the original data was gleaned from the County Assessor with some internal analysis, after which Aspen contracted with Group 14 Engineering for a deeper analysis. Aspen also took data from its latest greenhouse gas inventory report to understand more about the existing building stock. This is helpful in understanding the breakout of residential, multi-family and commercial buildings, how emissions are attributed to different types of buildings, identify the "heavy hitters", etc.

Jake Lapp confirmed that CORE does have the bandwidth to work with Basalt (and other Valley communities) in a similar type of program.

Clare said that starting with the municipal buildings is a great way to get experience in the program, as well as showing the public that the Town will be going through the same process as the constituents.

3. Community Compost Discussion

Sara presented the community composting model that Aspen has been implementing over the past year which entails allowing the public to drop off their home compost in bins located within a shed at the Rio Grande Park in Aspen. Yard waste is not permitted. Interested parties sign up online and complete a composting quiz to help inform them what can go into the compost. After approval is provided by the City, the resident is given a code to enter the shed and drop off their compost. The Green Team could consider a similar program with drop off locations in downtown and Willits.

Alternatively, the Green Team could consider subsidizing the cost of home compost pick up for a certain number of people, for a certain amount of time. Those variables would be determined after a cost analysis.

Doug made the point that an outdoor dumpster may have issues in the winter with the lock freezing, and thought that the Green Team should consider installing a shed with compost bins inside, like in Aspen's model, if this pathway is accepted.

Michelle strongly suggested adding a location in Southside, and the possibility of getting the high school involved.

M/S Doug and Mike to pursue exploring options for a six-month community composting pilot program for free compost collection in 2024. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Next Steps: Staff will return with more information and a recommendation on the community composting for the Green Team to consider at its next meeting.

4. Member Updates and Other

Mike (Holy Cross Electric) reported that Holy Cross has released a public roadmap regarding how they will get to 90% clean energy by next year. The final 10% is going to be difficult, but Holy Cross is working on developing programs to incentivize batteries to help move toward this goal. Next year the fuel switching efforts will be highlighted. Holy Cross is also exploring different funding mechanisms.

Doug (Mountain Waste) informed the Green Team that his wife will be part of the art opening at The Art Base on December 15th.

Glenwood Springs adopted a pay-as-you-throw for waste model that went into effect on November 1st. This model was also implemented in Frisco six weeks ago, and Kremmling is also looking at this model. This includes mandatory recycling. Dough reported that Rifle will be switching from dual to single stream recycling next year.

Jake (CORE) reported that CORE is finalizing its 2024 grants and rebates programs, which will be rolling out soon. John Dougherty, CORE's interim director, has secured funding for REMP which was threatened at Pitkin County. CORE is also currently hiring a Programs Team Director to oversee all programs, as well as an assistant position.

Sara provided an update on the Leaf Drop, indicating more information regarding the program's overall cost and metrics will be provided at a future meeting.

M/S Eileen and Doug to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 4 to 0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm