



Northwest Colorado Energy Education Plan

Produced by the Northwest Colorado Energy
Steering Committee

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2010-2013

REGIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Yampa Valley Partners (YVP) received a 2-year grant from the Governors Energy Office (GEO) in April 2010 to facilitate the development of a local regional energy education plan. Other duties consist of being a liaison between the Governors Energy office and the local region and informing the region on rebates and other money-saving programs. Yampa Valley Partners invited all communities in Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt counties to participate in creating the energy education plan. YVP asked community members from city and town councils, county commissioners, workforce, economic development, higher education, businesses, utility companies and non-profit organizations. There is a wide representation of community members participating on our steering committee.

The Steering Committee (named the Northwest Colorado Energy Steering Committee) convened for the first time the last week of May 2010 and meets monthly. We created the name of the committee, the mission, vision, the plan including goals and strategies. Although the GEO has funded the facilitator, the plan was created by the local community members. This local plan is ours to implement for our local benefit and has total local control.

The Northwest Colorado Energy Steering Committee has created a 3 year Regional Energy Education Plan that educates citizens on energy efficiency practices in Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt Counties. The process of creating the Northwest Colorado Energy Education Plan was facilitated by Yampa Valley Partners and includes: a mission and vision, conducting an environmental scan and gap analysis, benchmarking, identifying strategic issues and goals, developing action items, and facilitating plan implementation.

PURPOSE OF PLAN

The purpose of the Northwest Colorado Energy Education Plan is to provide energy education for citizens. In order to be inclusive we have addressed all sectors of our communities including businesses, industrial, government and residential users of energy. When we looked at reports indicating where energy use was the most, we found that buildings used the highest energy in our area. Therefore, we spent a good deal of time creating strategies to educate building users on energy efficient options. Our hope is that this plan will:

- Help to educate citizens so they can make informed decisions about their energy use.
- Assess our building stock to improve energy efficiency.
- Reinvest energy savings in local economies.
- Revitalize building trades through energy efficient construction practices.

The energy education plan is a comprehensive community-based approach that will identify baseline data, cost effective solutions and address potential barriers to these solutions. Potential barriers might include: cost, lack of incentives, incomplete information, and inaccurate valuation of long-term, social or environmental benefits. **The regional energy education plan is focused**

REGIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION PLAN

on creating a more energy literate community through data access, information on success stories, or providing project impetus. Many of these barriers can be met at a local level, and the solutions have local benefit. Local efforts can currently be matched by a variety of incentive opportunities from the state and federal government, and energy service providers.

The role of Yampa Valley Partners will be to initiate action on the plan goals utilizing the energy steering committee as well as current community groups and proposed working groups. Some efforts are already well on their way and it will be our intension to support these efforts and work with existing groups. The steering committee has committed to participate in implementation of the strategies in the areas of their expertise and interest. A regional strategy in energy education and programs will save resources because our counties have integrated economies and workforce.

Northwest Colorado Energy Steering Committee Members

Moffat County City of Craig	Audrey Danner, Commissioner Ray Beck, City Council Member Terry Carwile, City Council Member Jim Ferree, City Manager
Rio Blanco County Town of Rangely	Kai Turner, Commissioner Pat Hooker, County Manager Vicky Pfennig, Enforcement
Routt County City of Steamboat Springs Town of Hayden	Tim Winter, Facilities Manager Tom Sullivan, County Manager Meg Bentley, City Council Member Steve Hoots, Facilities Manager Stef Nijsten, Hayden EDC
Higher Education	Gene Bilodeau, CNCC
Utility Companies	Dale Dunbar, White River Electric Association Jim Chappell, Yampa Valley Electric Association
Business	Susan Holland, Emerald Mountain Energy Forest Luke, Trapper Mine
Non-Profit	Audrey Williams/Angela Ashby, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council Sasha Nelson, Colorado Environmental Coalition
Workforce Development	Linda Dill, Craig Workforce: Labor & Employment Specialist

REGIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION PLAN

Economic Development	Richard Beason, Member of Craig Moffat Economic Development Council
Facilitator	Kate Nowak, Executive Director, Yampa Valley Partners

PLAN FRAMEWORK

The following areas will be addressed in this plan:

- Building energy use: residential, commercial, government, industrial
- Transportation
- Waste minimization, recycling and composting
- All sources of energy

Success

A successful plan will yield concrete results, create systematic change throughout several functional areas, and institutionalize change as part of ongoing business and practices.

Vision

The vision of our Northwest Colorado energy education plan is to create a vibrant all-energy economy, educated public and integrated energy efficient businesses, government and residential communities throughout the region.

Mission

The mission of Northwest Colorado Energy Steering Committee (NCESC) is to educate and communicate sustainable and energy efficient practices so that our tri-county area will utilize resources effectively, make informed decisions and help our local economies.

Regional Strategic Issues

We identified our regional strategic issues as cost & financing, education, regulations and incentives, communication and economic development.

REGIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION PLAN

Building Energy Use

Goal 1: To reduce energy consumption by segment per capita

Strategy A: Educate residential users and their families about behavioral changes and ways to save energy.

1. Identify 5 teachers (one in each district) interested in using energy and sustainability education to children with possible partnerships.
2. Create an energy efficient brochure.
3. Promote existing utility energy audit programs.
4. Partner with local utility companies to provide outreach to community members on how they can implement the audit's energy efficiency recommendations through financing, rebates, etc.
5. Have 2 to 4 educational events per year with local partners.

Strategy B: Provide education on energy efficient building alternatives.

1. Educate local appropriate departments (building/planning) on LEED, ENERGY STAR and green building programs if appropriate.
2. Example: Suggest insulation inspections are a part of the inspection program through educational partnership with DOLA.
3. Talk about the possibility of implementing Energy Star requirements for new construction.
4. Talk about using green building points system as part of permitting process (scrutinize design: day lighting, insulation, task lighting, equipment, etc.)
5. Educate citizens on LEED and ENERGY STAR programs.
 - a. Create several focuses; architects, planners, construction, homeowners.

Strategy C: Educate on available funding options for energy efficiency projects in existing residences.

1. Educate on energy audit rebate program.
2. Educate on grants for improvement projects: equipment renewal, insulation, house sealing and windows. www.rechargecolorado.com

Strategy D: Educate commercial building users and owners.

1. Develop baseline data for 3 actual case studies to use in educational material. Focus on what and how energy is consumed for tenants and property owners.
 - a. Review actual case study base usage every 2 years and educate businesses on results.
2. Inquire about financial incentives to conserve commercial energy use.
3. Utilize performance contractors and financial partners in Rangely/Meeker, Craig and Steamboat Springs.

REGIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION PLAN

- i. Utilize the Main Street process to begin informing businesses on energy saving investments and loans for upgrades.
4. Work with local utility companies to perform commercial audits as part of their customer service program.

Strategy E: Educate each city and county government on the state's Greening Government program, specifically energy use and building new construction.

1. Set up a working group of sustainability representatives from each entity to discuss opportunities and discuss options for goal setting.
2. Set up educational sessions with GEO Greening Government Program Manager or other sustainability managers to help identify opportunities for cost savings.
3. Provide education and support for achieving sustainability goals.

Strategy F: Visit large energy consumption industrial companies in each county to discuss their energy plans.

1. Solicit good examples of dollars saved to communicate best practices to other businesses.

Transportation

Goal 2: Increase uses of multi-modal transportation systems and alternative fuels.

Strategy A: Provide 3 educational events in 2 years to promote uses of multi-modal opportunities and use of alternative fuels for transportation.

1. Market the Steamboat Springs Transit system and the Craig Bus route with a promotional weekend commute for shopping with a round trip bus ride from Steamboat Springs to Craig and Craig to Steamboat Springs for shopping opportunities in each City.

Strategy B: Identify opportunities to educate and promote carpooling or other mass-transit uses at places of employment or areas of high pedestrian traffic.

1. Explore with existing transportation groups the potential of a regional carpooling website and an informal park & ride system throughout the region.

REGIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION PLAN

Waste Minimization, recycling and composting

Goal 3: Educate the public on waste minimization, recycling and composting

Strategy A: Research and document BEST PRACTICES in the three county areas.

1. Develop best practice media campaign.
2. Measure waste and recycling poundage or penetration and communicate results yearly.
3. Determine if curbside recycling in Moffat and Rio Blanco counties is feasible.
4. Educate on composting in areas that do not have programs.
5. Explore potential Xeriscape program at local community college or other organization.
6. Create or use existing pamphlet education for homeowners on xeriscape and water conservation.

All Energy Sources

Goal 4: Educate homeowners and business on all energy sources and choices so that citizens can make informed decisions.

Strategy A: Integrate all-energy information into education plan.

1. Develop a section of the Yampa Valley Partners website that will be a resource for people to find out about solar, biomass and other energy sources locally. This website section will include expert's contact information and contractors in the region.
2. Integrate all energy education and awareness in the regional plan literature, meetings we attend and workshops we develop. Have all energy sources covered in written format and in an educational workshop or presentation.