



**Northwest Colorado Energy Steering Committee
July 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes
9:00 to 11:00pm Center of Craig building, Craig**

Attendees: Rich Beason, Meg Bentley, Gene Bilodeau, Terry Carwile, Jim Chappell, Linda Dill, Jim Ferree, Susan Holland, Audrey Danner, Dale Dunbar, Sasha Nelson, Kate Nowak, Kai Turner, Tim Winter

I. Introductions

II. Review mission statement and agree on draft. Our current draft is

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

Review vision statement “where we want to be”. This needs a bit of word work so please email Kate suggestions.

The vision of our Northwest Colorado energy initiatives is to have a vibrant all-energy economy, educated public and integrated energy efficient business, government and residential community.

III. We performed a GAP analysis to determine where we are currently. What programs or initiatives do we have in place?

Residential Programs:

Steamboat: Residential Green building code, Talking Green happy hours that are educational

Rio Blanco: WREA has appliance rebates

Moffat: Had Fuller housing center renovating existing buildings under a green code. Moffat County has willing and able contractors to perform residential services.

Need in all 3 counties: loan program because people cannot afford to upgrade or renovate in this economy.

We recommend that all our utilities are a great resource for residential education. For example the bill inserts and newsletters.

Industrial:

Moffat County – Trapper Mine has cut energy consumption in half. Uses renewable energies such as solar on site. CNCC is putting a geo exchange system. YVEA has 14 industrial clients such as hospital, ski corp, mine
WREA has 93% of its business is industrial. Most are gas compression stations along with Colowyo. In Rio Blanco, Williams is self generating with heat exchanges

In Steamboat the chamber has a sustainable business program with 70 businesses participating. They are beginning to track their energy and water usage.

Access to capital: need 3rd party purchase program. Power purchase agreements where investors get tax incentives. PACE program- multi-jurisdiction financing. GEO Rebate program, USDA finances 25% of total project cost

Information: Both chambers in Steamboat and Meeker have an EE information program. In Steamboat it is the eco-guide. Here are other organizations in our area that are either doing work or providing energy efficiency information. NE COG, CEC, GEO, Rocky Mtn Youth Corp.

Services: Rio Blanco: Has some contractors but also dips into Grand junction market

Moffat and Routt have contractors.

It was noted that in Rio Blanco the new building codes can be ownerous, that they require structural changes and be expensive. That there is no return on investment for a 30 year mortgage. UBC 2006 rules. . [The International Energy Conservation Code became effective in Colorado July 1, 2008 via HB 1146.](#) This is in addition to the other International Construction Codes (plumbing, mechanical, building, etc.) we use

Solar: On Routt County Justice center and library, agriculture uses solar, there are a few off grid homes. Routt County jail will have a solar hot water system. Trapper mine uses solar. Both City of Steamboat and Craig uses traffic speed monitors that are solar

Hydro: Stagecoach dam, WREA power plant ditch feasibility study, there is a hydro project on a Rio Blanco ranch

Biomass: South Routt school has wood pellet boiler. There are wood pellet bioliers in some residential homes

Wind: there is 25Kw station in South Routt. Trapper Mine uses wind power. GPS repeaters

There was a question about Elk head reservoir- retrofit? City operates dam, river district is involved, tri-state owns some of the water?

YVEA gets their power from Xcel that has 10.2% power from renewable sources.

Water: In Moffat and Rio Blanco there was a consensus of the group that there is room to grow on water conservation practices.

Petroleum Reduction: Routt County is monitoring and tracking their emissions. City of Steamboat Springs has several hybrid vehicles.

In Moffat County there is check and balances for abuse but not for conservation.

Rio Blanco: starting discussions about CNG, in particular compressors.

IV. Strategic Issues What must we address in order to achieve our mission?

1. Education to government, residential, commercial and industrial. Use case studies when applicable.
2. Cost & Financing
3. Business/Economic Development – encourage innovation
4. Regulations & incentives: enforceable measures, incent people/businesses to do energy efficient practices. NOTE: Remote areas are different that metro areas.
5. Communication

V. Goals: We just began our work on selecting goals.

Goal 1: Education

Government: get education to county and city department heads

Schools

Chamber of Commerce

Homeowners/ property manatee companies

Form a happy hour once a month with education, networking, be consistent

VI. Next meeting we will continue working on our goals.

Next meeting August 12, Thursday morning 9:00 to 11:00am at the Center of Craig building.