

Buildings as Climate Action Group: Meeting #3

April 1 2020 via Zoom Conference

Agenda

19 in Attendance: Chris, David, Helen, Desiree, Wayne, Lynn, Owen, Joel, Aaron, Thad, Pat, Barb, Keegan, Kirk, Bob, Christopher, Jeff, Rachel and Zach

Intro and Welcomes

Everyone introduced themselves and said how they were doing.

Opening remarks: Lynn Fitz Hugh, on Climate Change in the time of Pandemic

Lynn offered perspective on the Pandemic considering that Climate Change will mean permanent disruption. It's more important than ever that we keep working on Climate issues!

Call to Action#3: Alternative Energy and Transportation in Buildings

Call to email city council / county commissioners about solar energy and electric vehicles.

Actions needed from the group on community outreach to our local elected officials. See Action Alert #3 slides.

Education on Building & Energy Actions: There will be a regular educational session during future monthly meetings, to get the group on the same page about policies and projects being discussed:

- C-PACER Update

Discussion of new C-Pacer law just signed by Governor: Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing coming soon in Washington. Need to urge to adopt early or immediately once State guidance has been issued (by November). **Will clarify the C-Pacer understanding (lien with property) and share the link for the PACE video.**

- Hemp Building materials

Pat Rasmussen of Edible Forest Gardens has planted 80+ food forests in Olympia for ten years. She reported on the new availability of US-grown hemp building products, since the US legalized industrial hemp 3 years ago. Now available: Hempcrete, Hemp Wool insulation, Hempboard and more. Now we need to develop the market demand to get local suppliers to start distributing locally to bring cost down. **Will share links and information Pat shared.**

Ed topics for Next meeting: Status of MLS green appraisers training. More on incentives.

Zero Carbon Building Challenge

Chris gave an intro, and Zack Semke from Shift Zero shared about the genesis of the 20 by 2020 Challenge - the Brussels model - Exemplary Buildings program at Housing Development Consortium is also following **Chris will share information about the Brussels model with the group.** He described Shift Zero's strategy of using the 20 x 2020 Challenge to engage local government in Seattle to adopt incentives and other policies, which has worked.

- What's in a Name

In the process of re-naming for the south sound building challenge. Exemplary Buildings Challenge, Better Buildings Challenge (better buildings initiative was a US DOE effort), Clean and Healthy, or other. See Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V28D6Y3>

Zack said keep in mind - a key audience is local government, so choose a name that will appeal to them. In Seattle, they were our main audience, so 20x2020 appealed to their metrics.

- Marketing value for construction and real estate industry?

Reaffirmed we want both new and retrofit construction, smaller than 20,000 sf i.e. single/mf. In Seattle, their ambitious standard was achievable because it relied on a strong base of existing green builders willing to step up. In Olympia, few green builders are ready - we are trying to make our building challenge approachable by our local industry, we need to appeal to builders' profit motive through positive PR, increased value and income, incentives/grants, and recognition as a leader. Don't reach too high they can't reach it. And a good name.

- Definition of Energy Performance criteria for the Challenge

Chris reviewed how Shift Zero's definition of Zero Carbon came about. Given our local industry/government audience, our energy standard can't be as ambitious as Seattle's, to be approachable and doable in our secondary market. Owen commented we need to treat new and retrofit differently, make it approachable by small builders and owner-builders; maybe for new commercial and multifamily we make them reach more for ambitious goal, and others not so much. Partner with affordable housing providers to demonstrate equity in green building. David and Thad reported on their data-gathering to define energy/gas usage baseline of current building stock by building type. Building stock data request in to the County, and outreach to PSE. Desiree is willing to help with analysis to support David and Thad.

- Launch Event, technology, etc

Chris said we have adjusted our expectations for the planned May 20 event, now looking at doing it as a virtual Zoom event - but pre-record the presentation so we can repeat the event several times to engage more people. Chris will follow-up with Zack about pre-recording his presentation [Zack shared a copy of his slide deck, so if others want to see it I can send]

Reprise: Call to Action #3: Alternative Energy and Transportation in Buildings

Chris re-shared the ask for community outreach via email, to city council / county commissioners about solar energy and electric vehicles. Actions needed from the group on community outreach to our local elected officials. Chris will send slides with contact info and draft/template message to key folks.

Next Meeting: Keeping pace with two week intervals for meetings was met with a thumbs up.
Adjourned 6:36 pm