

AGENDA

JOINT WORK SESSION CITY OF ASPEN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSIONS & PITKIN COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

**Sister Cities
130 S. Galena
Aspen, Colorado**

May 26, 2009

4:30 PM WORKSESSION

1. Review of the Aspen Area Community Plan update
 - a. Review Aspen Idea and Blog – 20 – 30 min
 - b. P&Z Discussion of Environmental Quality – 1 hour – 1 ½ hours
 - c. Relationship to Growth Discussion – 10 min

7:00 PM ADJOURN MEETING

MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Aspen Planning and Zoning Commission; Pitkin
County Planning and Zoning Commission

FROM: Jessica Garrow, City Long Range Planner
Ellen Sassano, County Long Range Planner

THRU: Chris Bendon, City Community Development Director
Cindy Houben, County Community Development Director

DATE OF MEMO: May 20, 2009

MEETING DATE: May 26, 2009

RE: AACP Update: Environmental Quality

RECAP FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: The May 12th joint P&Z meeting focused on a review of the revised Goal Statements and Action Items for the “Sustaining the Aspen Idea” chapter, as well as an introduction to the “Environmental Quality.” Topic Experts for the “Environmental Quality” chapter gave an overview of their top two or three breakthroughs. There was some time for P&Z questions, but there was not enough time for a substantive conversation about the topic.

The meeting summary for the April 28th meeting where the Aspen Idea was discussed in depth are attached as Exhibit A. The revised Goal Statements and Action Items for the “Sustaining the Aspen idea” chapter were placed on the blog (<http://aspencommunityvision.blogspot.com/>) following the May 12th meeting. They are also attached as Exhibit B.

A detailed summary of the May 12th meeting is attached as Exhibit D. The major discussion points (i.e. the breakthroughs identified by each expert) are outlined in the Discussion section of this memo. The more detailed summary is in Exhibit D.

REQUEST OF P&Zs: No formal action is requested at this time. This is a joint meeting with the City and County Planning and Zoning Commissions to continue the discussion of the “Environmental Quality” chapter. Staff would also like to review the “Sustaining the Aspen Idea” revised Goal Statements and Action Items and the blog.

BACKGROUND: The Environment has been a topic in the AACP since 1993. In the 1993 and 2000 AACPs, the Environment was combined with Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails. Staff felt it was important to give the environment its own chapter in this AACP update because the environment has no more or less to do with Parks or Open Space than it does with Growth or Transportation. Additionally, the Environment has been an emerging area of focus in both the

City and County as well as in the private and non-profit sectors for a number of years, so Staff felt it made sense to have its own, focused topic.

Because the Environment was combined with Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails in past plans, there are very few statements about the environment or environmental quality in the text of the 2000 plan. The statements in the plan are fairly general. For example:

- Intent Statement: “Support an environment that better the lives of all, preserves our natural beauty and provides opportunities and access for all to enjoy.”
- Philosophy Statement: “...the community must reflect the commitment to preserve our environmental and wildlife resources.”
- Goal Statement: “Protect and enhance the natural environment.”

However, there are three (3) specific Action items in the 2000 AACP that deal with the Environment. These are attached as Exhibit C and include a staff analysis. Overall, the Action Items are clearly worded, measurable, and directive. The one staff critique of these goals is that they do not relate well to the text in the chapter. In the update, better context for why the Action Items are included and how they relate to the Goal Statements will help this chapter.

DISCUSSION: As mentioned above, the environment has been broadened as a topic for this update to have its own chapter. This reflects the increasing importance of this topic to the community. Given all the work done in the area of Environmental Quality, and well as the feedback from the community during the public process, it is clear that Environmental Quality is something people value and care about. Staff believes this chapter is likely to be more Action Item heavy compared to other sections because there is strong and consistent agreement that caring for and improving Environmental Quality is important. Staff believes a Goal Statement like the 2000 “Protect and enhance the natural environment” no longer goes far enough for this chapter.

At the May 12th meeting topic experts for each category outlined where they feel the “breakthroughs” in the topic exist. These are the areas staff suggests the P&Zs focus their conversation, though the P&Zs should bring up other items as necessary. The detailed minutes that outline the questions raised by P&Z at the May 12th meeting as well as the breakthrough areas identified below are attached as Exhibit D.

Stormwater Breakthroughs, April Barker the City Stormwater Manager: Reduce the amount of urban pollutants in the Roaring Fork River

1. Reduce runoff from impervious areas
2. Treat runoff before it enters the Roaring Fork River
3. Reduce the number of pollutants/potential for pollutants in the river

Energy Breakthroughs, Phil Overeynder the City Public Works Director: City gets 100% of its energy from renewable sources

Water Breakthroughs, Phil Overeynder the City Public Works Director: Ensure consistent water levels (minimum stream flows) in the Roaring Fork River

1. Make progress on the divergent end
2. Better administration of water rights

Water Breakthroughs, John Ely the County Attorney (emailed):

1. Develop a reliable methodology for dedication of water rights for instream flow purposes.
2. Improved mitigation to offset the detrimental effects of river diversions for that stretch of the Roaring Fork River between Stillwater and the confluence with Maroon Creek.
3. Improve the water quality of the Roaring Fork River as it is impacted by various return flows and storm drainage systems throughout the Aspen Metro area.

Landfill Breakthroughs, Chris Hoofnagle the County Solid Waste Operations Manager:

Continue diverting material to be recycled and use the landfill as long as possible

1. Ensure we have the ability to protect the environment beyond the landfill's life
2. Facility needs for recycling at the landfill

Recycling/Landfill Breakthroughs, Lee Cassin the City Environmental Health Director:

Extend the life of the landfill, continue to address the amount of construction and organic waste.

Air Quality Breakthroughs, Lee Cassin the City Environmental Health Director: Improve overall air quality in the area

1. Achieve a 50% reduction in high pollution PM10 days. Address ozone levels
2. Create a shift in public awareness of toxic pollutants (i.e. pesticides)
3. Implement a comprehensive system to address environmental impacts of new development as it goes through the land use process.

Development Regulations Breakthroughs, Stephen Kanipe the City Chief Building Official:

Continue work on ensuring the Aspen Area has environmentally responsible development.

1. Continue REMP in residential and commercial development
2. Reduce conflicts between the land use code and building codes → incorporate the ability to have on-site renewable energy systems (like photovoltaics) into the land use code

Global Warming and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Breakthroughs, Kim Peterson the City Canary Initiative Director: Overall reduction in the carbon footprint of the Aspen Area

1. By 2020, Aspen will have reduced its community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 30% from the baseline.
2. Aspen area residents (full and part-time) will have undertaken committed efforts to reduce their personal carbon footprints by 30%
3. Aspen will be viewed as a global leader in investing in renewable energy production and will have had influence on national policy to reduce emissions

Energy Conservation breakthroughs, Dylan Hoffman the County Energy Program Manager (emailed): 3 things that will change the energy world:

1. Tackle energy use in our existing building stock by creating a "Clean Energy Financing District" in order to allow government bonding of residential and commercial energy

efficiency and renewable energy projects. This “loan” would then be attached to the building’s property tax assessment to be paid back over time.

2. Create a “Construction Carbon Mitigation Program” to address the energy impacts from the construction and operation of new buildings within Pitkin County.
3. Achieve our goals of 5% utility use reduction annually through energy efficiency and renewable energy promotion.

Weed Management breakthroughs, Crystal Yates-White the County Vegetation Manager (emailed): In order to avoid reduced water quality/quantity in the regional watershed due to neglectful ditch management, and to avoid the increased spread of existing and new invasive noxious weed species, there must be a commitment of all landowners to proper natural resource management on their lands. There must also be resources available (informational or otherwise) to assist landowners. Some specific ideas:

1. The County should invest in a local CSU Extension office, to provide expertise on natural resource issues/sustainable living. The office could partner with Eagle/Garfield extension in order to limit costs and not duplicate information. Currently there is simply not enough expertise and time among County Staff to adequately address all the resource management questions that arise among landowners.
2. The County should continue to offer cost share funds to landowners for noxious weed control.

Pitkin County has a Strategic Plan that addresses many of the items in the AACCP. Their Strategic Plan includes six goals related to the environment that may serve as good topics of discussion. These are attached as Exhibit E.

The State of the Aspen Area includes an impressive list of environmental quality projects undertaken since 2000. The presentations at the meeting will help illustrate the next steps that can help further the Environmental Quality in the Aspen Area.

Materials to Review: Please review the materials listed below prior to the May 26th work session. If you are missing any of these items, please contact Jessica Garrow or Ellen Sassano.

- 2000 AACCP: Parks, Open Space, & the Environment Chapter
- State of the Aspen Area: Environmental Quality
- Small Group Meeting Synthesis: Pages 23 – 25 and Page 35
- Survey Results: Questions 9, 16, 17, 91, 92; Colored Survey Tables
- Keypad Results: Questions 14 – 17
- Draft AACCP Update: Environmental Quality

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A: Meeting Summary from 4/28 discussion on Aspen Idea

Exhibit B: Revised Aspen Idea Goal Statements and Action Items

Exhibit C: List of 2000 AACCP Action Items related to Environmental Quality

Exhibit D: Meeting Summary from 5/12 meeting on Environmental Quality

Exhibit E: Pitkin County Strategic Plan related to Environmental Quality

Summary of Joint Planning and Zoning Commissions Meeting
Sister Cities Room / April 28, 2009

The following is not intended to serve as minutes of the 4/28/09 meeting, but to summarize areas of consensus and discussion on major issues. The topic was Sustaining the Aspen Idea.

Arts and Cultural Facilities

We should clarify that question in the Community Survey that asked whether we should “providing assurances for adequate facilities.” I don’t think anyone knows what that means and we need to clarify that.

What criteria should be evaluated when it comes to future development or expansion of an arts, cultural and educational facility? In other words, “if there is an expansion, what do we get back?” and “Who does it serve?” Suggested criteria included:

- Integration and permeation of the community by the arts and the physical environment.
- Reaching out, having art on the streets, music on the streets, etc. Push art more into the community rather than getting the community to come to an arts facility. The idea of “art in unexpected places” is a great example of that.
- A sense of belonging. People feel a little removed and separated from it all. Spirit is lacking is because the town has become more stratified.
- Real locals passes and inclusion in all the elements is very important.
- There is a strong need for more community space.
- Do all sorts of cool green things, integrate the schools into ‘green’ learning.
- Make the buildings cool and unique places that are clearly part of the public realm, relating indoors to outdoors.
- Integration is not just physically getting attendees, but also the social-economic issues. We need equal offerings at equal values.
- Get more locals involved in these activities. Needs to be less stratification. The affordability aspect is important.

A Council on the Arts?

Is there more interest in getting a council created again relating to the arts?

If you have one of these commissions, you need to have a third party facilitator.

If there is a commission created it is crucial that the group really capitalizes on using email notifications. It’s happened so many times to me that if I hadn’t received a reminder, notification, I would have missed out.

ACRA is trying to broaden the marketing by targeting different age levels and backgrounds to advertise Aspen in a comprehensive manner. The idea of having an Arts Council again would be a big help to coordinate these efforts. The SkiCo does an incredible job digitally including everyone with what is going on. They email you when opportunities arise.

Mind, Body, Spirit

As we move along, we cannot address mind, body, and spirit as individual concepts. They need to be a collaborative. How can our new plan be more effective towards this trilogy?

Link to Managing Growth

One thing to remember is how any of these improvements could be tied to a future rise in population and how our thinking now could change. Another issue is the traffic one which might impact how these facilities are implemented.

Goals and Action Items

Staff will present revised wording for goals and action items to be presented on 5/12.

Aspen Idea Revised Goal Statements and Action Items

Goal Statements

1. A sustained cultivation of the arts and culture is a core element of the Aspen Area's identity -- enriching the quality of life for the Aspen community, reinforcing its national and international profile and diversifying its arts and culture economy.
2. Through collaboration, local non-profit groups and businesses can illustrate how they are honoring and carrying forward the Aspen Idea through dramatically improved outreach to those who live, work, play or visit in the Aspen Area.
3. As mind, body and spirit are fully integrated parts of a whole and balanced person, local non-profits and businesses have an opportunity to integrate their offerings together to reflect the Aspen Idea. This approach can rebuild local enthusiasm for the Aspen Idea, provide common ground to reduce unintended stratification in the community and diversify our visitor base.
4. Aspen at its best represents a place of education, personal improvement and new experience.
5. The future potential expansion or development of arts and cultural facilities should:
 - Provide multi-purpose space for the Aspen Area community;
 - Integrate the wide range of people who live, work and play in the Aspen Area;
 - Reach outside the facility and into the public realm, making art and culture visible in the community;
 - Facilitate meaningful and affordable local participation and local talent;
 - Emphasize reuseable materials and renewable energy;
 - Collaborate with other non-profit groups to broaden the purpose of public space;
 - Maintain high quality facilities.
6. Sustaining the Aspen Idea should be a goal that is shared by local governments as well as a wide range of local organizations. Public-private partnerships can lead to a myriad of opportunities that could strengthen the Aspen Idea.

Action Items

1. Local non-profit organizations should explore reconvening a local Council on the Arts to promote collaboration and mutual support between arts and cultural organizations. The mission of such a Council on the Arts could include methods to better integrate the wide range of people who live, visit and play in the Aspen Area, to establish a more powerful web-based "information outreach and

- clearinghouse,” to explore shared housing opportunities for visiting artists and other mutually beneficial purposes.
2. Local non-profits and businesses should explore integrating their offerings into a package of activities and experiences that reflect the balance of mind, body and spirit, clearly carrying forward the unique heritage of the Aspen Idea.
 3. Explore options for the housing of visiting artists to assist local non-profit organizations in their effort to produce special events. Options include an ADU database available to non-profit groups.
 4. Propose amendments to the City Land Use Code to include standards to ensure that community needs with respect to Arts, Cultural and Educational facilities are addressed when facility expansion and/or development is proposed. Future expansion or development of Arts, Cultural and Educational facilities should:
 - Provide multi-purpose space for the Aspen Area community;
 - Integrate the wide range of people who live, work and play in the Aspen Area;
 - Reach outside the facility and into the public realm, making art and culture visible in the community;
 - Facilitate meaningful and affordable local participation and local talent;
 - Emphasize reuseable materials and renewable energy;
 - Collaborate with other non-profit groups to broaden the purpose of public space;
 - Maintain high quality facilities.

2000 AACP Action Items: Environment

This chart shows 2000 action items, current status and an analysis on whether the action item was effectively stated.

<u>2000 Action Item</u>	<u>Status Update</u>	<u>Effectiveness of Action Item</u>
<p>16. Ecological Bill of Rights</p> <p>Revisit the Ecological Bill of Rights. Develop a specific action plan for each “Right” to reflect the Bill of Rights.</p>	<p><i>Examined, Partially Completed.</i></p> <p>The Ecological Bill of Rights was adopted by City Council. A “Canary Action Plan” was also adopted by City Council and implementation is underway. Action plans for each EBOR item are not in place.</p>	<p><i>Good</i></p> <p>This is a clearly stated goal that can be easily measured. It would be helpful to have better context on why the Ecological Bill of Rights was chosen.</p>
<p>32. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle</p> <p>Promote the concept of “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle” as a way to protect our environment and extend the life of the Pitkin County Landfill.</p>	<p><i>Ongoing.</i></p> <p>The City is in the process of implementing various environmental programs including the Zgreen Program which certifies green businesses and events, and instituting new building standards for commercial buildings. The City's comprehensive recycling ordinance has significantly increased recycling, but there is potential for other increases in recycling. Council agreed to the Canary Initiative recommendation to join the "2030 Challenge" and further reduce building energy use. According to the Landfill staff, at current filling rates the landfill is expected to reach capacity between 2033 and 2038.</p>	<p><i>Very Good</i></p> <p>This is a clearly stated goal that can be implemented in a number of ways. It is descriptive without being overly prescriptive. This is an action item that has some flexibility over time.</p>
<p>33. De-Icing Alternatives</p> <p>Study the impact of the use of de-icing applications on vegetation and water quality. Explore alternatives to using chemicals or establish a policy of a dilution ratio to minimize the impacts of de-icing and dust abatement agents such as Magnesium Chloride or other chemicals.</p>	<p><i>Done.</i></p> <p>CAST – The Colorado Association of Ski Towns – studied the environmental and health impacts of Magnesium Chloride in coordination with the City of Aspen. The City Council directed staff to discontinue use of Magnesium Chloride for direct use on roadways and to use sand minimally consistent with safety. The City experimented with alternative deicers, which were found to be expensive so discontinued. The city uses biodegradable summer dust control agents.</p>	<p><i>Very Good</i></p> <p>This is a clearly stated goal. It outlines a number of alternatives and is very directive. It would be helpful to have better context on why this was included as an action item.</p>

Joint P&Z Meeting, 5-12-09, Plaza 1 Meeting Summary

The following is not intended to serve as minutes of the 5/12/09 meeting, but to summarize areas of consensus and discussion on major issues. The group had a brief discussion on the Aspen idea revised Goal Statements and Action Items, and heard a presentation on Environmental Quality.

Aspen Idea Recap: Staff and P&Z reviewed the revised Goal Statements and Action Items for the Aspen Idea. There was agreement that the current format of reviewing revised Goal Statements and Action Items at the next meeting is the most expeditious way to review the document. Any comments from the Experts will be included in future meeting summaries. There was also agreement to put all the revised Goal Statements and Action Items on the blog (<http://aspencommunityvision.blogspot.com/>) following each topic meeting to allow the P&Zs to comment on the revisions. Staff and P&Zs will review the Aspen Idea Goal Statements and Action Items again at the May 26th meeting to give everyone time to try out the blog. The idea of a writing subcommittee was raised, but was not supported by the group.

The following changes were proposed to the Aspen Idea Goals and Action Items and have been incorporated into the draft that is on the blog:

- Number the Goal Statements and Action Items
- Goal Statement 1: Include the concept of “diversification of arts and culture” in the Goal Statement.
- Goal Statement 5: Regarding the future expansion of arts & cultural facilities, change the 3rd bullet point to include both arts and culture.
- Goal Statement 5: Add a bullet that says “Maintain high quality facilities.”
- Goal Statement 6: The group liked this style of writing better than the others
- Action Item 4: Make it clearer what code amendments might be considered. The bullet list from Goal Statement 5 was added to this Action Item for clarity.

The issue of the Isis and the Explore Bookstore and potential partnerships with the City/County was raised – these will be addressed as part of the Economics Chapter.

Environmental Quality:

Staff requested that each Expert provide their top 2 or 3 “breakthroughs” in their area of expertise. The breakthrough areas are intended to capture the major things that, if completed in the next 10 years, would move the topic of Environmental Quality forward. Below the “breakthroughs” are identified, as are the questions raised by the P&Zs on each topic.

Stormwater Breakthroughs, April Barker the City Stormwater Manager: Reduce the amount of urban pollutants in the Roaring Fork River

- Reduce runoff from impervious areas
- Treat runoff before it enters the Roaring Fork River
- Reduce the number of pollutants/potential for pollutants in the river

Questions on Stormwater:

- Q: How are these items paid for? A: Standard development fees and apportions that were voted on in 2007.

- Q: Has there been discussion regarding changes to construction rules? A: The City is revising the Engineering section of the Municipal Code to better address impervious areas. It will state that the amount a building needs to treat is related to the amount of impervious area on the site. A project could build lot line to lot line if they wanted to, but it would have to treat all the runoff.
- Q: As an action item, are you stating that you need more treatment? A: We are just identifying where we need treatment facilities and how to get there. In terms of Action Items we would want to see mitigation for development, and regional planning for stormwater treatment. The updated plan could address implementing code changes that address impervious surface regulations and stormwater regulations.

Energy Breakthroughs, Phil Overeynder the City Public Works Director: City gets 100% of its energy from renewable sources

Water Breakthroughs, Phil Overeynder the City Public Works Director: Ensure consistent water levels (minimum stream flows) in the Roaring Fork River

- Make progress on the divergent end
- Better administration of water rights

Background from Phil on Water:

Since the 1960's we started development systems for treating water. Basically if you tracked water usage in 2008 it would look like 1966. Every time a development comes, we count are the fixtures and usage numbers. Today we could treat over 30,000 housing units so we are okay in the long run in terms of capacity.

Questions on Water:

- Q: Concerning infrastructure, are we sound for the next 30 years? A: We aren't in perfect shape, but the system is in good shape. The efficiency of new fixtures and better leak detection have improved the system's overall efficiency.
- Q: Is water and electric use up in last few years? A: Water use is way down; it's close to 1966 levels. Electric goes up about 1% each year.
- Q: Could the recent bond for rivers help fight this diversion battle? A: It possibly could, but water rights dedication for in-stream flow could also help.
- Q: What is the current policy on additional connections? Q: Our policy is actually to dissuade people from hooking up, because then we would have substandard systems to maintain.
- Q: It's interesting that electric is up and the water is down. How much of the water use is due to second homeowners use, and how much is due to lots having big yards, redeveloping and not having a big yard to maintain? A: A lot of it has to do with yards and also the technology of water efficiency. And I think that our occupancy is actually higher now than it used to be, but there is less water usage because of more efficient systems.

Water Breakthroughs, John Ely the County Attorney (emailed):

- Develop a reliable methodology for dedication of water rights for instream flow purposes.
- Improved mitigation to offset the detrimental effects of river diversions for that stretch of the Roaring Fork River between Stillwater and the confluence with Maroon Creek.

- Improve the water quality of the Roaring Fork River as it is impacted by various return flows and storm drainage systems throughout the Aspen Metro area.

Landfill Breakthroughs, Chris Hoofnagle the County Solid Waste Operations Manager: Continue diverting material to be recycled and use the landfill as long as possible

- Ensure we have the ability to protect the environment beyond the landfill's life
- Facility needs for recycling at the landfill

Background from Chris on the Landfill & Recycling:

Landfills are nasty and harmful to the environment, but we have done studies to show that there is no impact (environment) to land outside of the landfill. There is an immense funding need to ensure that we are not harmfully impacting the environment offsite. Recycling has to be comprehensive, not just plastics, glass, and cardboard, but organics as well.

We would like to construct a new recycling facility. The existing ones are literally falling over. It's important that we take one of the most favored programs the county has and invest in that. But there is a challenge: if we invest funds in facilities, we have less to spend on environmental conservation of the landfill. So, the main thing I would like to see is some public funds invested into recycling.

Questions on Landfill:

- Q: There are some communities doing zero waste. Is this something we could do? A: Sure, but there needs to be more education. We are probably one of the more advanced communities in the area of recycling and reducing waste. It would be good to coordinate efforts so there is a "one-stop-shop" for this kind of stuff at the landfill. But, that does not mean that other efforts in the City should be stopped.
- Q: What volume of the waste is from construction? A: 60 – 70%.
- Q: If that much is construction waste, is that the bulk that you want to have a new facility for? To sort that stuff out? A: The recycling of construction is complicated. In order to recycle building materials you have to deconstruct the building, not demolish it. If you just demolish a building there is a very low amount of material that can be recycled. We usually just sort it, use what we can, then grind the rest and then inject it to the landfill. The metal is almost always captured and recycled.
- Q: Is it possible to require construction waste created in Pitkin County to be dumped at our landfill rather than at a landfill elsewhere? A: It is complicated, but you could provide incentives to do that. There is some case law about regulation of hauling waste.
- Could we encourage dumping of construction waste at our landfill by waiving dump fees, but charge a landfill fee at the building permit stage to help fund needed facilities? A: It's something to consider.

Recycling/Landfill Breakthroughs, Lee Cassin the City Environmental Health Director: Extend the life of the landfill, continue to address the amount of construction and organic waste.

Air Quality Breakthroughs, Lee Cassin the City Environmental Health Director: Improve overall air quality in the area

- Achieve a 50% reduction in high pollution PM10 days. Address ozone levels
- Create a shift in public awareness of toxic pollutants (i.e. pesticides)

- Implement a comprehensive system to address environmental impacts of new development as it goes through the land use process.

Questions on Air Quality:

- Q: Were you addressing vehicles with your first goal? A: Yes, PM10 is associated with vehicles.
- Q: So is a part of that getting public employees out of gas pollutant cars into better vehicles? A: That is definitely a part of our consideration, but that alone will not get us to the goal. Getting people out of cars and onto buses, for instance, will also help reach this goal.

Development Regulations Breakthroughs, Stephen Kanipe the City Chief Building Official: Continue work on ensuring the Aspen Area has environmentally responsible development.

- Continue REMP in residential and commercial development
- Reduce conflicts between the land use code and building codes → incorporate the ability to have on-site renewable energy systems (like photovoltaics) into the land use code

Background from Stephen on the Development Regulations:

The City Council adopted the 2009 Energy Conservation Code on May 11th, 2009. This code is referenced in the federal stimulus plan, so by adopting it we are not eligible for stimulus dollars.

Questions on Development Regulations:

- Q: Did we adopt that code because that's what the feds want, or is it better than the Pitkin County Conservation Code? A: We did not step backward at all. The benefit is that we don't have to write our own and go through that whole process. We now have one in full along with the training material.
- Q: What about thinking about a goal that is not just specific to us here? Why don't we have an efficient building scoring system adopted by the state? A: That is next on Stephen's list. It is very awkward because it is a lot like LEED.
- Q: What about unfunded mandates? Is there any money for the installation of photovoltaics, for instance? A: Yes there are incentives -- the incentives are about 40% of the installation cost of a PV system. But we could lobby for additional tax incentives.

Global Warming and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Breakthroughs, Kim Peterson the City Canary

Initiative Director: Overall reduction in the carbon footprint of the Aspen Area

- By 2020, Aspen will have reduced its community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 30% from the baseline.
- Aspen area residents (full and part-time) will have undertaken committed efforts to reduce their personal carbon footprints by 30%
- Aspen will be viewed as a global leader in investing in renewable energy production and will have had influence on national policy to reduce emissions

Questions on Global Warming:

- Q: Is there any research done on how to do emission reduction on air travel? A: There has been some reduction in the last few years, and some of that has to do with commercial airlines buying more efficient fleets, and also the reduction in commercial flights.
- Q: Did you have any actions that could be taken to implement your second goal? A: Education, tools, and data on ways to reduce carbon footprints is always beneficial. We should incentivize

residents to reduce their greenhouse emissions. Some kind of contest in the community about reducing individual carbon footprints could be fun and effective. Getting people out of cars would also be helpful for this goal, and establishing an electric plug-in infrastructure would help.

- Q: What is the metric you are going to use to measure these things? A: A lot of this is going to be voluntary and if we can get people to submit their carbon footprints to us that would be a start. Getting people to take ownership.
- Q: What about gas usage in general? A: Gas needs to be comprehensive – incentivizing the reduction in carbon footprints associated with existing buildings as well as new is important. New buildings are not necessarily the problem -- it's the existing 90% of our inventory that needs to be addressed.

Energy Conservation breakthroughs, Dylan Hoffman the County Energy Program Manager (emailed):

3 things that will change the energy world:

- Tackle energy use in our existing building stock by creating a “Clean Energy Financing District” in order to allow government bonding of residential and commercial energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. This “loan” would then be attached to the building’s property tax assessment to be paid back over time.
- Create a “Construction Carbon Mitigation Program” to address the energy impacts from the construction and operation of new buildings within Pitkin County.
- Achieve our goals of 5% utility use reduction annually through energy efficiency and renewable energy promotion.

Weed Management breakthroughs, Crystal Yates-White the County Vegetation Manager (emailed):

In order to avoid reduced water quality/quantity in the regional watershed due to neglectful ditch management, and to avoid the increased spread of existing and new invasive noxious weed species, there must be a commitment of all landowners to proper natural resource management on their lands. There must also be resources available (informational or otherwise) to assist landowners. Some specific ideas:

- The County should invest in a local CSU Extension office, to provide expertise on natural resource issues/sustainable living. The office could partner with Eagle/Garfield extension in order to limit costs and not duplicate information. Currently there is simply not enough expertise and time among County Staff to adequately address all the resource management questions that arise among landowners.
- The County should continue to offer cost share funds to landowners for noxious weed control.

Pitkin County Strategic Plan goals

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - County Strategic Plan

Strategic Statement: Pitkin County will preserve and protect the integrity of the Roaring Fork watershed and all of its natural resources. Ecological health will be a priority in our decision making and we will advocate its importance in the decision making of others.

ACTION ITEMS

Category: Protection of Water Quantity & Quality

Goal 1: Preserve and protect watershed integrity and water availability and sustainability. Within legal and economic constraints, independently acquire land, conservation easements and water rights. Where prudent, utilize County water rights to enhance instream flows. Support studies designed to quantify the Roaring Fork watershed's environmental and recreational non-consumptive water use needs, as well as the economic value of the non-consumptive use of water to support more informed decision making.

Goal 2: Ensure that authorized development is sustainable and does not exceed the "carrying capacity" of the land, as defined by the County's land use policies. Make ecological health a priority when evaluating the need for further development. Require new and existing development to avoid, or fully mitigate for adverse environmental impacts.

Category: Protection of Air Quality; Promotion of Energy Efficiencies

Goal 1: Through our own actions, including procurements, as well as in County policies and regulations, make the control, prevention, and abatement of air pollution a priority.

Goal 2: Through our own actions, including procurements, as well as in County policies and regulations, promote the use of renewable and efficient energy, recycling, and solid and hazardous waste reduction, whenever feasible.

Category: Open Space and Habitat Preservation and Restoration

Goal 1: Preserve and protect open space and trails and important wildlife habitat. Within legal and economic constraints, independently acquire land, conservation easements and water rights to further this effort.

Category: Regional Activism on Environmental Issues

Goal 1: Aggressively participate in local, regional and statewide organizations, as well as statutory, regulatory and contractual initiatives (e.g., intergovernmental agreements) to pursue cooperative solutions to water-related issues and land management issues, and so as to have the greatest influence on environmental matters of key concern.