

23 February, 2009

City Of Hailey, City Council and Mayor
City of Hailey, Idaho

Re: Sustainable Building and Planning Advisory Committee update

Dear City Council Members,

As chairperson for the Sustainable Building and Planning Advisory Committee, I am presenting our first update to you regarding the Committee's activities since the group's formation. We have been meeting since December of 2008 on a bimonthly interval. We have typically had around 8-10 rotating participants at our meetings from a diverse cross section of professionals: planners (city and county), building officials (city and county), architects, attorneys, builders, contractors, energy consultants, Energy Star and LEED Raters, green building consultants, and energy efficient product suppliers.

Our goal is to provide recommendations to you, regarding the creation of a sustainable building program, by this summer. The Committee will propose a preferred program with potential alternatives for your consideration. These recommendations will be based on improving the sustainability of the City of Hailey. As a Committee we are focusing on improvements that offer the greatest economic payback for the environmental benefit.

Committee Efforts to Date

So far the Committee has begun research on other municipalities' Green building programs to evaluate their appropriateness for Hailey and to avoid "reinventing the wheel." The Committee has evaluated their implementation process, effectiveness, community receptivity, costs of the project, city administrative capacity, success of improvements, return on investment benefits to the project owners, and pride of being a role model community. The municipalities and programs that have been reviewed so far are:

1. Aspen/Pitkin County
2. Jackson Hole area
3. Teton County, Idaho
4. Austin, Texas
5. Boulder, Colorado
6. Eagle County, Colorado
7. Telluride, Colorado
8. Energy Star and LEED for Homes

As a Committee, we have similar ideas regarding what type of program should be recommended to the Council; however, we realize the importance of education and outreach as part of the overall process. Through our own professional capacities we are informing others of the benefits to sustainable building and the different programs that have been successful in other jurisdictions.

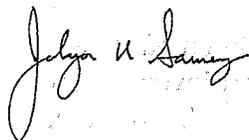
We have paused on our in-depth green building models research to focus on taking our Committee goals to the public. We will provide education on green building, while acquiring feedback from citizens' desires and goals as well as concerns and issues for introducing and possibly implementing a higher standard of construction.

Our intent is to conduct outreach to professional groups such as builders, architects/AIA, professional trade organizations such as the Wood River Contractor's Association, realtors, and Rotary. We hope to host educational events for the public regarding Energy Star, Energy Efficiency and power consumption with support from Idaho Power, and present green building programs already being practiced in other municipalities. We plan on incorporating a prepared survey into our outreach efforts, to gain insight on the public's green building knowledge base and willingness to support these improvements. We envision that this process will last until early June.

SUMMARY

Based on our Committee's effectiveness so far, we are hopeful that in June and July we will be able to then produce a summary of our findings and provide recommendations for a new green building program for your review.

Thank you for your willingness to consider improving Environmental and Energy Efficiency standards on behalf of our City of Hailey.



Jolyon H. Sawrey, Architect, Environmental Consultant