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Hailey Sustainable Building Advisory Committee to Present Recommendations on Above-code Building Program

(Hailey, Idaho) – The Hailey Sustainable Advisory Committee will present its recommendations on cost effective and energy efficient building practices to the Hailey Council at its April 26th regular meeting.

The committee's recommendation is based on information collected over the past 16 months including feedback from several community workshops and presentations, research of the strengths and weaknesses of existing above-code building programs and financial savings gained from energy efficiency design and construction. The recommendation reflects the committee's priority on energy efficiency and water conservation and addresses both residential and commercial new construction, and only specific alterations and additions.

The committee's research has found that case studies show it is reasonable to expect a 10-20% increase in energy efficiency for new construction for approximately 1% more than baseline construction costs. In some cases no additional costs are incurred. The paybacks generated from energy bill savings are often less than 5 years.

According to the "U.S. Metro Economies: Current and Potential Green Jobs in the U.S. Economy," a report prepared by Global Insight for the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2008, efforts to increase energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings increases demand for green building work and generates new employment opportunities for electricians, HVAC technicians, carpenters, plumbers, roofers, laborers and insulation workers. Simultaneously, demand for green building materials is stimulated which provides additional sources of jobs in associated manufacturing industries and distributors.

The building sector is responsible for approximately half of U.S. energy consumption and carbon emissions annually and is growing faster than any other sector, according to the U.S. Green Building Council. Forty-three percent of U.S. carbon emissions and 76 percent of U.S. electricity consumption happen in buildings, through heating, cooling, lighting, hot water and appliances. With global acknowledgment of climate change and finite energy resources, governments around the globe and within the U.S. are making policy changes to curb greenhouse gas emissions from buildings to help ensure future energy needs can be met. The Hailey Sustainable Advisory Committee was created by the Hailey Council in December 2008.

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