

July 10, 2020

Dear Mayor Burke and the Hailey City Council,

We wanted to express our deep concern that Hailey's current budget is taking a step in the wrong direction with regards to Hailey's work becoming more sustainable and resilient, keys to its long term health. Reducing the hours of the resiliency coordinator with no continuing line item for funding and vague plans on how the staff would continue that work seems irresponsible.

During Pizza and Politics last fall, Juan Martinez, Sam Linnett, and Martha Burke all expressed their support for making the Resiliency Coordinator a full-time position. This clearly is not a step in that direction. If COVID has taught us anything, it is that we need to prioritize resiliency and take heed of science. Climate scientists are telling us that we must be carbon neutral as a world by 2050 if we have a chance of avoiding the worst of the impacts. Our leaders need to act on this science.

We are not naive to the immense budget pressure this year. However, the plan to reduce hours and make it up with more coordination with already overburdened city staff is vague enough to leave us wondering if it will really happen.

There is so much to be done. With a county-wide carbon inventory currently being finalized, carbon reduction goals will need to be set and a plan to reach them created. That takes expertise and leadership and time. A composting program is in the works; a needed addition to our waste management but not a simple undertaking to put in place effectively. In addition, efforts to cut the waste stream through increased construction recycling and cutting single-use plastics at public events on City properties and in City business need to be more fully addressed. The list continues to grow and that will take dedicated effort from dedicated staff.

While we appreciate that paying consultant hourly costs are too high, it is possible to find other avenues to get staff on board to help prioritize and manage sustainability efforts. Americorp and internships are two possible avenues to get lower-cost labor. In addition, partnering with Blaine County and other cities in the valley could be other ways to improve the program while saving costs.

We so appreciate all your recent efforts to keep us safe in the face of COVID and your recognition that our community should be safe and welcoming to all people. In that spirit, we need to recognize that the immense challenges of climate change haven't gone away and will continue to affect us. We need to both play a role in reducing our contribution and adapting to the inevitable change. To do that, we need staff and funds dedicated to that role.

We urge you to not cut funding to the resiliency line item and find ways to make that money go farther. Coordinating with city staff is to be applauded, but the city needs a dedicated staff person coordinating those efforts.

Thank you for all your service to our community.

Respectfully,

Scott Runkel 1610 Northridge Drive, Hailey

Naomi Runkel 1610 Northridge Drive, Hailey

Sara Runkel 1610 Northridge Drive, Hailey

Elizabeth Jeffrey, 201 N. 3rd Ave. , Hailey

Rob Lonning, 201 N. 3rd Ave. , Hailey

Gretchen Basen Hailey Resident

Sue Petersen 731 Northstar Drive, Hailey.

John Reuter 102 S 4th Ave, Hailey

Lexie Praggastis 102 S 4th Ave, Hailey

Dana Dugan 317 E Silver St., Hailey

Lisa Horton 1110 Silver Star Drive, Hailey

Sharon S.H.Linville PhD, 711 E.Myrtle Str. Hailey,ID

Annie Weber 611 E Elm Street Hailey, ID 83333

Molly! Goodyear Hailey Resident

Sloan Storey 311 Aspen Dr. Hailey, ID

Sabrina M. Roblin Hailey Resident

MaryCarol Nelson 1541 Baldy View Drive, Hailey, Idaho 83333

Cece Osborn PO Box 361 Hailey, ID 83333

Amy Mattias 411 N River Lane, Hailey

Chris Mattias 411 N River Lane, Hailey

Erin O'Toole 418 S 4th Ave, Hailey

Kathryn Graves 750 Buckhorn Dr Hailey

Herbert Romero 211 W. Cottonwood St. Hailey, Idaho

Marycruz Romero 211 W. Cottonwood St. Hailey, Idaho

Paige Redman 210 W. Cottonwood St. Hailey, Idaho

Ryan Redman 210 W. Cottonwood St. Hailey, Idaho

Samantha Mora Hailey Resident

Sun Valley Institute Hailey, Idaho

Sierra Club

Conservation Voters of Idaho

Kiki Tidwell Blaine County Resident

Dave Larsen 4023 Bluff condo drive, Sun Valley

Pam Larsen 4023 Bluff condo drive, Sun Valley

Tom Rule Altura Drive, Hailey

Andrea Rule Alturas Drive, Hailey

Deborah Berner 6 Fox Lane Sun Valley, ID

Mitch Long PO Box 4228 Ketchum, ID

Heather Dawson

From: Ken Lagergren <lagergren@cs.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:07 PM
To: Martha Burke; Sam Linnet; Craig Aberbach; Cole Balis; Stephanie Cook; planning; Heather Dawson; Lisa Horowitz; Nancy Arellano; Kaz Thea; Brian Yeager
Cc: hcac2030@gmail.com; ScottRunkelrunkel1610@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: 2021 budget question

Dear Mayor, City Council and Staff,

We are sympathetic to the budget difficulties of our present times. But we are also encouraged by the response we got when we asked Heather Dawson about planning for Rebecca Bundy's work on Resiliency issues, where she reported that:

"The budget reduces the contractual line item that pays for Rebecca's time, and will result in her moving more into a supervisory/directive role than as the sustainability worker bee. She will be directing city staff to be the sustainability worker bees. Mayor Burke has stated that with reduced hours from Rebecca, she does not want to see less accomplished. A broader group of people will be working toward those accomplishments." (our original emails are shown below)

We wish you all the very best in your endeavors to maintain the honorable work before you. Apologies, if anyone's name is not mentioned above for this email.

Sincerely,

 Ginna and Ken Lagergren
 215 E Myrtle, Hailey

-----Original Message-----

From: Heather Dawson <heather.dawson@haileycityhall.org>
To: Ken Lagergren <lagergren@cs.com>
Sent: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 11:44 am
Subject: RE: 2021 budget question

Hi Ken and Ginna,

The budget reduces the contractual line item that pays for Rebecca's time, and will result in her moving more into a supervisory/directive role than as the sustainability worker bee. She will be directing city staff to be the sustainability worker bees. Mayor Burke has stated that with reduced hours from Rebecca, she does not want to see less accomplished. A broader group of people will be working toward those accomplishments.

Heather Dawson
Hailey City Administrator
208-788-9814 ext 1518

From: Ken Lagergren <lagergren@cs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Heather Dawson <heather.dawson@haileycityhall.org>
Subject: 2021 budget question

Hi Heather,

We hope you are still doing well in this unusual time.

We were reading about the City of Hailey 2021 budget as well as info from the Hailey CAC and have a question.

Is it proposed that Rebecca Bundy's hours for resiliency would be reduced or eliminated for the 2021 budget?

We realize the pandemic is creating a financial and emotional stress on the City and hope the best for you all.

Thanks, Ken and Ginna Lagergren

Heather Dawson

From: Elizabeth Jeffrey <makeitgreen@me.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 11:20 AM
To: Lisa Horowitz; Rebecca Bundy; Martha Burke; Brian Yeager; Heather Dawson
Subject: climate change's latest time table

I think this article is pretty well researched and documented and makes the point pretty strongly that, no matter the immediate obstacles, our community's contribution and preparedness for the impacts of climate change have to be addressed now (during the next 5 years) and have to be significant changes rather than gradual. If the richest developed nations contribute the most to global warming's greenhouse gases, then our very rich and material rich communities are living at the peak of that curve. Strong leadership will be vital during this next administration.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/new-climate-report-highlights-enormous-challenge-ahead-meeting-paris-agreement-n1233258>

Thanks for being the leaders you have been and here's hoping for more hard and creative decisions.
Elizabeth Jeffrey

July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM MDT
By Denise Chow

The world is struggling to slow the effects of climate change, according to a report released Wednesday by the World Meteorological Organization that outlines new projections for rising temperatures over the next five years.

The so-called [Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update](#) states that global average temperatures are likely to be at least 1 degree Celsius above preindustrial levels each year from 2020 to 2024. The new forecasts also show that there is a 20 percent chance that global average temperatures could exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius in at least one of those years.

The new outlook, based on models from climate prediction centers around the world, highlights the need for drastic action to curb climate change — particularly if the world has any hope of meeting the goals set out by the Paris Agreement, which aims to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius by the year 2100.

“This study shows — with a high level of scientific skill — the enormous challenge ahead in meeting the Paris Agreement on Climate Change target of keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius,” WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

Those efforts are likely to be an uphill battle. Earlier this year, an analysis by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that the [past decade was the planet’s warmest on record](#), and the past five years have been the warmest since record-keeping began in 1880.

A 2018 report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated that Earth has already warmed by 1 degree Celsius since the 19th century and warned that further warming by 1.5 degrees could have catastrophic consequence, including melting ice, extreme heat and rising seas, that may be life-threatening to tens of millions of people around the world.

The WMO report states that over the next five years, almost all regions of the planet are likely to be warmer than in the recent past.

In 2020 alone, the Arctic, which has been in the grips of a heat wave in recent weeks, will likely warm by more than twice as much as the global average, according to the WMO. Last month, the Siberian town of Verkhoyansk recorded a temperature of 38 degrees

Celsius (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit), likely setting a [new record for the hottest temperature recorded that far north](#).

The WMO's projections account for natural climate variations and provide a look at how temperatures, precipitation and wind patterns may change over the next five years. The new outlooks do not, however, include changes in greenhouse gas emissions or other impacts from the coronavirus pandemic.

A study published in May in the journal Nature Climate Change found that strict lockdowns and restrictions that banned travel and scaled back economic activity contributed to an [estimated 17 percent decline in daily global carbon dioxide \(CO2\) emissions](#) compared to daily global averages from 2019.

The study's researchers added that the drastic drop could also fuel a decrease in this year's annual carbon emissions of up to 7 percent, though the declines likely won't have a long-term impact after countries return to normal.

The WMO stressed that any observed decreases in emissions from the coronavirus pandemic should not replace meaningful action to address climate change.

"Due to the very long lifetime of CO2 in the atmosphere, the impact of the drop in emissions this year is not expected to lead to a reduction of CO2 atmospheric concentrations which are driving global temperature increases," Taalas said.

He added that global warming could have even more far-reaching health and economic consequences than the current global health crisis.

"Failure to tackle climate change may threaten human well-being, ecosystems and economies for centuries," he said in the statement. "Governments should use the opportunity to embrace climate action as part of recovery programmes and ensure that we grow back better."



Denise Chow

Denise Chow is a reporter for NBC News Science focused on the environment and space.

by [Taboola](#)

Sponsored Stories

Heather Dawson

From: Eric Willadsen <eric.willadsen@sierraclub.org>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Martha Burke; Kaz Thea; Heidi Husbands; sam.linnett@haileycityhall.org; Juan Martinez
Cc: Heather Dawson; Austin Walkins; Ryan McGoldrick
Subject: Request to continue sustainability funding in Hailey
Attachments: Hailey Sustainability Staff Coalition Letter.pdf

Dear Mayor Burke, Council President Thea, and Councilmembers Martinez, Linnet and Husbands,

On behalf of Conservation Voters for Idaho, Idaho Conservation League and the Idaho Chapter of the Sierra Club, I'd like to present you with a joint letter that we drafted urging you to retain funding for sustainability and in-house staffing for your FY 2021 budget. The City of Hailey has been a strong leader for sustainability, climate resiliency and natural resource conservation in the state and region.

We are available at your convenience for follow-up communication. Thank you for your time and consideration, and strong leadership during these difficult times.

Eric Willadsen (he/him)
Conservation Program Manager
Idaho Chapter Sierra Club
Boise, ID, 860-985-7501
Shoshone, Bannock Traditional Lands

I may send emails at odd hours, please don't feel like you have to reply.



July 10, 2020

Dear Mayor Burke and Hailey City Council,

The City of Hailey has been a leader in the state and region for implementing smart, cost-efficient and reliable sustainability policies and initiatives.

We know that this is a difficult time and economic environment for municipal agencies and budget management, and we hope that you'll consider maintaining cost-efficient sustainability staff that can help conserve the Idaho we all know and love. As you look to balance the budget, we hope that you'll consider retaining city staff funding that can focus on:

- Implementing energy efficiency programs that can net Hailey taxpayers huge savings on utility and operational costs while also mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from the region
- Preparing Hailey and its agriculture and tourism based-economy for climate resiliency, from implementing impactful water conservation initiatives, to preventing wildfires and enhancing habitat restoration projects
- Working collaboratively with government agencies, NGOs and land managers, as an official representative of the City of Hailey, to prepare the region for a bright and sustainable future

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your continuing leadership in our region. We are available for conversation, assistance and questions at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Ryan McGoldrick
Program Associate
Conservation Voters for Idaho

Austin Walkins
Climate Campaign Coordinator
Idaho Conservation League

Eric Willadsen
Conservation Program Manager
Idaho Chapter of the Sierra Club

Heather Dawson

From: Martha Bibb <marthabibb@me.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Martha Burke; Heather Dawson; kaz.thea@haileycitycouncil.org; sam.linnett@haileycityhall.org; Heidi Husbands; juan.martinez@haileycitycouncil.org
Subject: Future savings

> Dear Mayor Burke, City Council Members and Staff,

>

> Please do not defund our much needed city resiliency coordinator. This is exactly the wrong time to turn away from the steps that we have taken to move toward a more healthy energy future for our town and its citizens.

> While we recognize the city's competence we also know that the scientific background, time and expertise to achieve a carbon neutral future is a full time job and the city council and staff are already burdened with the new reality of coping with the Covid-19 pandemic as well as all of their numerous "normal" duties. We worked to get two new city council members elected who are climate change supporters. Our climate resiliency coordinator will lead the way to saving money...oh, and our future. We need all of the city staff to adopt climate resiliency as a high priority now for our tomorrow.

>

> Please reconsider this and do not abandon our future energy resilience and the progress that we desperately need to make on the local level, here and in all of our country.

>

> Sincerely,

> Dr. Martha S. Bibb

> 810 CD Olena Dr.

> Hailey, ID 83333