

Climate Protection Efforts Achieve Positive First-Year Results

In early November, Mayor Susan McBryant attended the U.S. Mayor's Conference held in Seattle. A remarkable resource was made accessible to the City of Hailey through that effort. Conference speakers impressed upon city leaders the importance of municipal government as the form of government most accessible to its constituents and potentially the most effective in addressing many important issues.

The conference focus was on climate protection. Representatives from many of the 726 cities whose mayor's have signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement were present to learn practical steps toward meeting their pledge to reduce their community's greenhouse gas emissions to levels below those emitted in 1990.

The work to achieve this goal has been pursued by the City of Hailey since February of this year and has already produced some significant reductions. Reductions that have been monitored and calculated by the Climate Protection Committee include:

- 256 pounds of lead was diverted from the waste stream through recycling the city's discarded electronics in a partnership led by the ERC, local communities, and Idaho Solid Waste that established the recycling of old electronic devices at the Ohio Gulch landfill.
- 100 pounds of CO₂ per light/ per year will be saved by the replacement of old light bulbs in city offices with CFLs (compact fluorescent lights).
- 13% reduction in the disposal of solid waste is realized by replacing virgin office paper with 30% post consumer recycled paper of the same quality.
- \$760 saved on the city's summer utility billing through a change from 3 to 2 color printing on recycled paper.
- 9.3% reduction in kwh has been achieved from March-October due to conscientious turning off of unused lights and electronics in municipal offices.
- 10% reduction in therms used by municipal buildings from March-September in comparison to the same months last year.

A special Hailey City Council meeting will be held on December 20, 2007 at 5:30 p.m., during which many issues related to sustainability will be discussed. Primarily, a Hailey Comprehensive Plan section entitled Environment will be discussed and potentially adopted as new comprehensive plan component. Other agenda items include:

1. Presenting information to the city council about building development standards and how cost-saving energy efficiency can be achieved in new buildings.
2. Discussion of implementing a construction waste recycling program through Hailey's Rubbish Franchise Agreement.
3. Amendment of Hailey City Standards to include bike rack standards, with proposed incentives to businesses to include bike racks for their customers.
4. Proposed amendments to personnel and internal practices policies to include Sustainability Policies.