



OUR EARTH

Our Town, Our Future

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Programs & Initiatives

Sustainable Planning & Building Committee Update

The Hailey Sustainable Building and Planning Advisory Committee has been meeting since December of 2008, following the Mayor and Council’s formation of the committee. Communities worldwide are recognizing the need to reduce the impacts of construction, increase energy efficiency and promote sustainability in all residential and commercial buildings.

The committee has been formed specifically to respond to this need. Its goal is to provide recommendations by July to the Hailey City Council regarding the creation of a sustainable building program. It has been given the task of proposing, for adoption into City Ordinance, construction techniques and policies to benefit all new construction projects and remodels.

Only those techniques and policies which are clearly advantageous, cost effective and offer an exemplary return on investment will be considered by the committee. Implementation of the committee’s recommendations will responsibly reduce energy costs and enhance property values with a minimal initial investment.

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.

Realizing the importance of community outreach and education, the committee also focused on taking committee goals to the public. While providing education on green building, the committee will acquire feedback from citizens as well as concerns and issues about the possible implementing of a higher standard for construction.

Hailey’s Shrinking (its carbon footprint)

Hailey city offices have been busy implementing energy efficiencies and it is paying off. Natural gas consumption for its buildings has been reduced 25% from the 2006 levels for a two-year savings of almost \$6,000. City building electricity consumption has been reduced 13% from the 2006 level for savings of over \$23,000! In addition, 2008 summer residential, multi-family and business water consumption has been reduced by over 22% from the 2007 level. We are making a difference; thanks for your help.

P&Z Passes Sustainability Ordinance

Several Zoning Ordinance Amendments have been presented to allow for a variety of sustainable practices in our community. Recommendations include roof-mounted solar, small roof-top wind energy systems and freestanding solar panels, urban agriculture and accessory dwelling units in an attempt to use Hailey’s Zoning Ordinance as a tool to increase sustainability within the City of Hailey and beyond. Sustainability integrates economic, social and environmental spheres and helps to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The recommendations will be presented to City Council in the coming months.

