



OUR EARTH

Our Town, Our Future

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In The Community

Grow-A-Row to Fight Hunger and Shrink Your Carbon Footprint at the Same Time

Local gardeners are dedicating more space to vegetables, which satisfies their taste buds (fresh is best!), their pocket books (seeds are cheap!) and their interest in shrinking their carbon footprint (no industrial chemicals or fuel from farm to table). Now we have the opportunity to help *The Hunger Coalition* provide fresh produce to its expanding food assistance program.

The *Grow-A-Row* program asks local gardeners and farmers to commit to adding some space in their gardens or farming operations, to grow extra food that will be donated to *The Hunger Coalition* and then distributed to local families through the new mobile food bank. *Grow-A-Row* works in conjunction with a new program called the *Perishable Goods* program, which provides fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and breads (perishables) to our community. Our fresh, locally grown produce through *Grow-A-Row* will be a huge contribution in the fight against hunger in our valley! For more information call Julie Fox Jones at 788-9266 or email her at Julie@adager.com.

Sustainability News

Sustainable Building Effort Progresses

Last November, Hailey's City Council created Hailey's Sustainable Building and Planning Advisory Committee to research and develop recommendations to increase the sustainability of homes and commercial buildings constructed within the city. The committee attendees include architects, builders, contractors, sustainability professionals, building inspectors and officials, representatives from non profits, and interested citizens. The committee has been meeting regularly since last November, researching various green building programs which have been implemented across the U.S. to help them develop a new sustainable building code recommendation to the City Council.

The committee's most recent efforts include education and outreach through scheduled presentations with the

American Institute of Architects, Wood River Home Builder's Association, and Sawtooth Board of Realtors to inform these stakeholder groups about the committee's objective and to obtain feedback to use in developing their recommendations. In addition, the city's committee and Blaine County's Build Smart Committee co-sponsored an education and outreach event on June 16th which included a presentation, with over 80 attendees, on "green" building by the Britt/Makela Group, Inc. and a stakeholder's forum with approximately 40 attendees, to discuss the difficult policy issues, which the respective committee's feel feedback is most needed on. The results of the forum and presentation to the various stakeholder groups will be posted on the following website later this month: <http://www.haileycityhall.org/GreenBuildingandPlanningAdvisoryCommittee.asp>

Through this research and feedback from the public, the committee has identified water conservation and energy efficiency as priority areas. Water conservation has been identified as a priority due to the area's high demand and the diminishing capacity to support our increasing consumption rates; the 2009 US Geological Survey's report concluded that the valley's per-capita water usage is significantly greater than the average for Idaho communities and our groundwater resources are in fact being depleted. Energy efficiency has been identified as a priority because the energy consumed by buildings nationwide is 38% of the total energy used in the U.S. (greater than transportation!). In an effort to plan for the future of energy and be more economically and environmentally sustainable, the City of Hailey is looking for ways to increase the energy efficiency of buildings, beyond the minimum standards of today's building code, while maximizing the financial benefits that come with building more energy efficient buildings.

The committee will now begin developing its recommendations and will present them to the City Council for its consideration for adoption sometime in fall 2009. The committee meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 5:30-6:30pm in City Hall. These meetings are informal, open to the public, and are a great opportunity to come share your thoughts on sustainable building or participate in the development of recommendations. If you would like to be involved or have questions regarding the committee's efforts please call Mariel Platt, Hailey City Planner, at 788-9815, ext. 24.