

April 10, 2024 ASAC Meeting Summary

The committee discussed various sustainability initiatives and climate action plans in Jeffco, including updates on the Jeffco Climate Action Plan, a sustainability tour in Arvada, and funding opportunities for climate action from the federal government. Speakers also discussed building codes and energy efficiency standards, with a focus on the adoption of the model low energy and carbon code by local jurisdictions in California. Other topics included Earth Day and Kite Fest, logistics and volunteers for upcoming events, and education on extreme weather events and environmental justice.

Action Items

- [] Send out Qualtrics survey for officer elections.
- [] Attend BID meeting to promote upcoming energy assessment walks.
- [] Lead a composting discussion meeting.
- [] Provide notes from national climate funding session.
- [] Update committee on waste collection contract discussions at May 13 meeting.

Outline

Land acknowledgement, committee updates, and election of leaders.

- Laurel Mattrey leads meeting, discusses agenda items and elections.
- Laurel Mattrey chair of the committee, introduces herself and others.
- Committee members share their names and roles, including new members.

Staff updates, energy assessments, and nominations for council positions.

- Elections for three positions to be held via survey, with nomination period starting tomorrow.
- Initiative to assess small business energy efficiency in Old Town faces challenges.

Climate action, sustainability, and ozone bills in Arvada.

- Speaker 1 mentions Lotus consulting firm will present slides on climate action and sustainability.
- Upcoming events include festival bonus, partners, and qualitative surveys on sustainability.
- Speaker Randy shared updates on Jeffco Climate Action Plan, including a new sustainability manager position and subcommittee opportunities.
- Group discussed composting efforts at schools, cities, and county level, with a potential meeting led by Randy on the topic.
- Speaker 5 updates on sustainability tour for high school students, including mentoring program and scavenger hunt.

- Speaker 1 highlights ozone issues in Arvada, relevance to environmental justice and bill passage.

Waste collection, funding for climate action, and subscription rate for yard waste collection.

- Speaker 6 discusses House Bill 1341, which passed the Senate and is headed to the governor's desk for signing.
- Stewardship Council is considering three options for its future: status quo, changing the mission, or discontinuing the council.
- Speaker 6 discusses waste collection contract with Republic, including pricing increase proposal and yard waste collection options.
- Council member expresses concern about opt-out fee and potential for seasonal yard waste collection at curb.

Waste hauling program for homes and HOAs in Denver, including recycling rates and funding sources.

- Speaker 6 discussed the increasing cost of mattress recycling and the potential impact on pricing for the bulky item collection program.
- Speaker 6 mentioned a statewide grant program for waste diversion and the possibility of joining it for mattress recycling, with a bill in the legislature to expand the program.
- Speaker 6 explains challenges with HOAs in waste hauling program due to locked contracts.
- HOAs must provide recycling under city ordinance, with 9 joining the program so far.

Updating building codes for energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

- Speaker 7 updates building codes to 2024 IECC and Colorado model electric ready code.
- In 2026, local jurisdictions must adopt state's model low energy and carbon code, requiring infrastructure for future systems like electric vehicles and solar panels.
- The code prepares builders to install the necessary infrastructure for these systems, making it easier for new homeowners to install equipment without major remodels.
- Speaker 7 explains local jurisdictions' flexibility in adopting energy-efficient building codes.
- Speaker 7 anticipates stricter energy efficiency standards in 2024 ICC codes, including carbon reduction strategies and tighter building envelope performance requirements.

Energy code requirements and their impact on building costs.

- Speaker 8 explains the complexity of building code compliance, including factors such as jurisdiction, existing building code, and gray areas in the code.
- Speaker 8 provides information on upfront costs associated with adopting new building codes, including code books, staff training, and publication notices.
- Speaker 8 estimates added costs for single-family homes to be between \$3,000 and \$1,600 due to new energy code requirements.

- Speaker 5 mentions that there are exemptions and waivers for commercial buildings to avoid making energy code compliance too costly.

Energy-efficient building codes and their impact on savings and payback time.

- Speakers discuss the payback period for energy-efficient home upgrades, ranging from 15-20 years.
- Stakeholders discuss strategies for promoting energy code compliance in new construction, including education, technical assistance, and collaboration with local jurisdictions.

Building codes, incentives, and cost savings for new construction and renovations.

- Speaker 7: Researching state packages, language, and triggers for building code compliance.
- Speaker 3: Seeking estimated cost and savings tables for multifamily sector in ASHRAE and IECC.
- Speaker 3 mentions \$5,000 tax credit for builders meeting 2024 energy code requirements.
- Discussion on potential for going beyond state requirements for energy efficiency in commercial buildings.

Adopting and amending building codes for energy efficiency.

- Speaker 7 mentions a building code advisory board that approves code adoptions before they go to council.
- Speaker 7 is open to discussing ideas with the committee and presenting them to the building code advisory board.
- Speaker 9: Asks for clarity on building code provisions, timeline for adoption
- Speaker 7: Goal is to get code changes in front of advisory board by end of 2024
- Speaker 7: Aiming to adopt energy code as-is, with no amendments.
- Speaker 7: Jurisdiction has few amendments to state electrical code.

Energy efficiency codes and standards for new and existing buildings in Arvada, Colorado.

- Speaker 5: Email from building program director at Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, expressing frustration with code amendments.
- Speaker 10: Discussion on adopting pre-written and vetted amendments, with potential to go beyond for a "clean code".
- Speakers discuss incentives for new development in a landlocked area, with existing buildings making up a large percentage of the total square footage.
- Participants suggest a range of percentages for the percentage of existing versus new builds, with some estimating over half of the total square footage is existing.

- Arvada considers benchmarking and efficiency programs for existing buildings, similar to Denver's sustainable development standard.

Building codes, fire safety, and affordable housing.

- Speaker 7 discusses how Louisville or Superior updated their building codes before the Marshall fire, including fire sprinkler systems for residential homes.
- Arvada city officials debate fire safety measures, affordable housing goals clash.
- Advocates argue for single staircase in apartment buildings for flexibility and density, but fire marshals oppose due to safety risks.

Sustainability events and logistics.

- Speaker 1 mentions Earth Day and Kite fest
- Speaker 2 discusses logistics of giving out energy kits and info sheets.

Weather preparedness and education in Colorado.

- Speaker 1 discusses the importance of education about extreme weather events, citing the need for people to understand the mechanisms behind them.
- Speaker 2 suggests making the education interactive and providing resources such as FEMA directives to help people prepare for events like the recent windstorm.
- Speaker 1 plans to attend kite fest with kids, wants to fly a kite and wear a related T-shirt.
- Speaker 3 suggests demoing a wind turbine at kite fest, wants to prepare for windy conditions.

Prioritizing environmental justice actions for city council letter.

- Council priorities letter focus areas identified, including Enviro screen tool.
- Environmental justice Action Task Force prioritizes top three action items for city council.

Climate action plan priorities for council education and community outreach.

- Speaker 6 emphasizes the importance of education and understanding for council members regarding the climate action plan.
- Speaker 6 advises starting small and breaking down the plan into smaller components to present to council for approval.
- Speaker 1 prioritizes supporting education on climate action plan, citing funding challenges.
- Committee encourages City Council to prioritize community outreach, education, and support for climate action plan.

Improving transportation and reducing emissions in the city.

- Council member expresses desire for more aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals.

- Speakers discuss potential benefits of synchronizing traffic lights with environmental goals in mind.
- Speaker 5 suggests establishing a conduit to council for sustainability-related comments and concerns.
- Speaker 5 and others discuss public comment opportunities for climate action and transportation issues.

Sustainability efforts in the city, including public comment and strategic planning.

- Speaker 6 suggests organized public comment to council for effective action on specific issues.
- Committee members have been attending other committees' meetings to overlap with parks news and tack.
- Speaker 6 mentions a strategic plan presentation on April 22, and encourages the group to provide public comment.
- The group discusses how to access the draft strategic plan and write a letter to council.

Planning and recognition for a committee with new members.

- Committee discusses election and nominations process for leadership positions.
- Committee discusses ways to acknowledge departing members.