



Climate Transformation Alliance Quarterly Meeting

July 12th, 2024 from 9-11 am

Popcorn Project Updates

- Jan Holan – runs Lift Coworking
 - Running climate hub social event
 - Induction cooktop workshop 7/16 5:30-7pm
- Nathan Maton - organizational development consultant at Lift Coworking
- Christa Finn – Truckee Donner Public Utility District
- Deirdre Henderson
 - Webinar series about financing building decarbonization
 - The second in the series coming up
 - Tahoe Forest Hospital has done a baseline GHGi – the first step
- Carmen Lopez – sustainability and program analyst with the Town of Truckee
- Ted Owens – Tahoe Forest Health System
 - The hospital has done a baseline GHGi – a good first step
- Tod Revera – Tahoe Truckee School District
 - Interested in learning more, has a new energy and sustainability manager
- Mike Staudenmayer – Northstar General Manager
- Kathryn Rohlf – Board of Tahoe Truckee Airport District
- Matt Rivera – Airport District
 - Lake Tahoe Electric Transportation Forum
- Steve Frisch – President of Sierra Business Council
 - Working on fire prevention and projects to mitigate fire effects
- Truckee Donner Public Utility District will be launching a time-of-use rate (on peak rate)
 - Can opt to join and pay more for on-peak electricity but pay less for all other rates
- Katya – Sustainability Manager at Sugar Bowl – presenting
- Maria Lopez Godoy - Waste Advisor at Waste Free Tahoe
- Janice Heil – Sugarpine engineering
 - Working with CEC on a load-flexing project
- Mark – Sugarpine engineering
 - Work on many projects that reduce carbon emissions for facilities
- Brad Poalillo –District Team Leader Raleys
- Richard Sanders – Store Director of the Raley’s across the street
- Jason Hays – Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency – treats all local wastewater
 - Working on being more sustainable – reusing gasses that are part of the process but interested in starting to use renewable energy

- Scott Wilson – Board member at Tahoe Truckee Airport District
 - Get the word out about sustainability in the region – educate locals, but also tourists and second home owners (maybe more important)
- Jeff Durtschi – Omni Bioenergy – makes gasification tech and renewable fuels
 - Interested in supporting projects
- Erin Brewster – Sustainability Program Manager for the Town of Truckee
 - July project convening a community meeting on how the town can move forward and support building decarb
- Erica Mertins – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Program Manager at the Town of Truckee Energy
- Marissa Rudder – Representative for Truckee Chamber of Commerce
- Ryan Groat – Manager of Sustainability for Vail Resorts – presenting
- Erik Miller – Palisades Tahoe – Health Safety and Sustainability Manager, presenting
- Jenny Kendrick – East River PR and Marketing
- Hilary Hobbs – Assistant to Town Manager for the Town of Truckee
 - Working on getting new electric vehicles including a police car and public works truck
- Ariel Lovett – Nevada County Project Administrator
 - Dark Sky Project – look at the Nevada County Arts Center site for pictures of this
- Mandy Steward – Nevada County Administrative Analyst
 - Start a Climate Action Plan
 - Using SNEW to do GHGi
 - Third annual sustainability summit
- Robb Etnyre – Truckee Tahoe Airport District
 - Working on lots of projects, working with fire districts to reduce fuel load

CTA/SBC Updates

- Happy Hour tonight! – 4-6pm at RMU
 - Space to network and continue discussions, no agenda
- Governance documents are updated and on the website
 - Member expectations, strategic plan, and charter updates
- Made Subcommittee Structure, recruiting for them now
- Webinar Series on Decarbonizing Tahoe Truckee
 - June webinar on Thermal Networks, [recording is on the CTA website](#)
 - July 24th Webinar, Financing Building Decarb - [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Updates from Steve
 - Climate Bond passed in the legislature – was proposed to be 16 Billion, passed at 10 Billion
 - Will be on the November ballot as Proposition 4 – funds a variety of climate-related work
 - Now an estimated 6.7 million units of housing require AC that didn't 20 years ago
 - Will have a full campaign for the climate bond with SBC
 - SBC is 30 years old this year!
 - Having a 30th-anniversary party at Gravity House on September 13th in the

evening

- Updates from Brittney
 - Truckee Tahoe Building Decarbonization Pilot Program is fully operational now
 - Online workforce training videos are up and available for participants
 - In-person training July 17th
 - Free coaching service is available to homeowners and commercial building owners to assist with switching to heat pumps for space heating & cooling and water heating. Services include helping find a qualified contractor, navigating funding opportunities, and supporting completing a home assessment.
 - Dark Sky Outdoor Lighting Program
 - Been able to help retrofit 57 lighting fixtures so far
 - Lots of positive feedback
 - An additional bonus of \$20 per fixture for fixtures with motion sensors
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Subcommittee Structure

- Structure Overview
 - 1 Chair and 4-5 members per subcommittee
 - 2-4 hours per month working on the project plus being members of CTA and joining meetings
 - [Subcommittees](#)
 - Program
 - Membership
 - Communications
 - Financing and Funding
 - Volunteers - [fill out this form](#)
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Member Presentations

Sugar Bowl - Katya Christian Presenting

- The first role was specifically for sustainability at Sugar Bowl
 - More long-term project planning
- When she started, Sugarbowl didn't have a sustainability strategy
 - Pillars of Sustainability
 - Engagement
 - Collaboration with the community (like coming to CTA events)
 - Sharing sustainability efforts with people coming to the resort
 - Waste Reduction – managing food waste from food and beverage
 - Want to become landfill waste-free
 - Forest Health – a big portion of her time
 - Privately owns hundreds of acres of land
 - Doing fuel reduction work to make forests more healthy and prevent wildfires from coming in
 - Energy & Emissions

- Currently working on tracking energy and emissions – haven't started working on cutting down on them
 - Starting with low-hanging fruit – clean energy alternatives
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions – measuring with NSAA Climate Challenge framework
 - Scope 1: Lots of propane, not on natural gas
 - Trying to move away from this
 - Scope 2: Trying to figure out the emissions factor from Pioneer Community Energy
 - Scope 3: Mostly solid waste right now
- Graph of emissions from 2020-2024
 - Two years were lower because of COVID
 - The 2022-2023 winter had very high emissions due to the huge amount of snow and the long winter
 - Lower in 2023-2024
- Sustainability Projects
 - LED Lights
 - Moving to all LED lights – also saves money for the resort
 - Seeing ⅓ electricity reduction from installing LED – did through On Bill Financing through PG&E
 - Fuels Reduction Projects
 - Over half funded by local grants
 - Doing fuels reduction on 291 acres
 - Waste Reduction
 - Switched to reusable dishware at the Judah Lodge
 - Want to make Judah Lodge fully reusable
 - Difficult to do this in the other two lodges because there isn't space in the kitchen to do more dishes
 - Composting – been a challenge
 - Currently food waste goes to landfill
 - Need to do on-site composting cause it is too remote to take compost somewhere else
 - Transportation
 - No public transportation to Donner Summit – TART doesn't go there
 - Wants to make public transport from Truckee to Donner Summit
 - Revived Donner Summit shuttle which goes around Donner Summit
 - Woody Biomass Energy
 - Received a grant to start this project
 - Helps solve fuel load issues and provides more renewable energy
- Challenges – being in a place controlled by weather
 - Makes it harder to do sustainability work because often don't have the funds to pay for it themselves (weather changes cost a lot of money)
 - Need grant money to get things done faster – otherwise, it happens slowly as the resort has the money

Palisades Tahoe - Erik Miller Presenting

- Palisades now owned by Alterra – for the past 6 years
- Alterra Forward Stance Commitment – has three targets for sustainability to meet by 2030

- Reduce Carbon Emissions by over 50%
 - Transition to 100% renewable
 - Become carbon neutral
- At Palisades Tahoe – 3 people in the department – but also working on safety
 - Has a working group that helps with sustainability efforts
- Energy reduction and efficiency
 - Extensive energy audited and GHGs
 - Audited all existing buildings through Altera this past year
 - Lots of low-hanging fruit that haven't been done yet
 - Sustainability is key to saving Palisades money
- Renewable Diesel Transition
 - Now using hydrotreated vegetable oil-derived diesel – chemically identical to diesel
 - Emissions reductions come from the lifecycle of the diesel
 - Up to 75% life cycle GHG emissions vs fossil diesel
 - Very difficult to change diesel – can only do it in the summer
- Parking and Transportation
 - Wasn't designed as a sustainability initiative – but traffic getting to Palisades has lots of environmental impacts
 - 10x increase in Park and Ride bus transport system after parking reservation system started
 - Likely limited VMT by 300,000 with Park and Ride system
 - Employee Carpool – incentives were available, reduced cars going to Palisades as well
 - EV charging stations as Palisades – adding 8 more chargers to Palisades
- Electrification
 - Planning to convert snowmobiles to EV – need to expand charging before can do this
 - On-road fleet – ordered 2 EVs
 - Exploring on-site energy generation options
 - Liberty is at under 50% renewable energy at the moment but working to expand this
 - Palisades is currently on Liberty
- Waste Reduction and Diversion
 - First ski resort to eliminate plastic water bottles
 - Shuttle down food waste from mountain
 - Looking into on-site composters
 - Difficult to get on the mountain
 - EcoChit – recyclable receipt paper – moving toward Alterra-wide adoption
 - Recycling cooking oil
 - Composting
- Advocacy and Collaboration
 - Paid volunteer opportunities for Palisades employers to volunteer at local environmental events
 - Tahoe Earth Day at Palisades
 - Carbon Neutral and Waste Neutral Event pledge – events at Palisades need to be sustainable
- Major challenges
 - Reliant on Liberty – using lots of fossil fuels still
 - Scope 3 emissions – difficult to measure and quite significant

- Altera is giving up on tracking this because it's so difficult to track
- Travel to resorts + vendors
- Cost – Return on Investment
- Technology – limitations more because of location

Vail Resorts/Northstar - Ryan Groat Presenting

- Vail Resorts sustainability program – the goal of 0 net emissions by 2030
 - 100% renewable electricity in North American resorts
 - 15% more energy efficiency
 - Installing solar and wind in some places
 - Northstar Specific:
 - Carpooling has reduced emissions
 - EV charging stations
 - Energy reduction projects
 - Mostly updated to LEDs
 - High-efficiency snow guns
 - Programmable thermostats
 - Tracking emissions from snowcat fleet – reducing idling
 - Energy management program to track emissions
 - Closing checklist – making sure to close things in the summer when facilities aren't in use
 - GHGi collected and reported yearly
 - Supporting biomass project
 - Waste Reduction Initiatives
 - Employee waste sorting – not done by guests
 - Working on upgrading dish machines to be able to wash more dishes – then can use reusable dishware
 - Hard-to-recycle programs
 - Chairs made from recycled material
 - Challenges
 - The ski industry is dynamic and a difficult condition
 - Scale – having so many resorts
 - Trying to scale up projects as acquire more resorts
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