

Basalt Green Team Report: the first three years 2007 - 2010

In 2007 Basalt Town Hall Manager Bill Efting organized the Basalt Green Team after he attended a Sonoran Institute Community Energy Futures Initiative conference with Town staff and concerned citizens. The Green Team meets monthly to promote public interest in activities and projects related to environmental protection. Its goals emphasize energy conservation, using renewable resources, recycling, and reducing carbon emissions in the area in and around Basalt. The volunteer membership consists of several Town administrators, officials from Roaring Fork Valley agencies dedicated to environmental causes, and motivated Basalt citizens. The current members are listed at the end of this report.

The initial impetus for the Green Team was to encourage the Town of Basalt to maximize its own sustainability. To that end town administrators were asked to conduct an energy audit of the structures and procedures under their jurisdiction. An outside engineering firm was hired to undertake such an audit. As a result several modifications in ventilation were made in the Town Hall and Public Works buildings. The water heating systems were updated. More efficient toilets were installed. The lighting systems were made more efficient by the installation of more energy-saving lower-voltage CFL light bulbs. In addition on/off proximity switching in several rooms was introduced. Insulation around windows and doors was checked and updated.

As a result of Green Team research, Town staff were able to obtain grant funds to purchase additional bear-proof recycle containers which were placed in strategic areas in and around the Town. With grant funds obtained from the SkiCo Environment Foundation and Eagle and Pitkin counties, photo-voltaic and solar panels were installed at the Town Maintenance Building.

Solar panels have been installed at the Town Pool in Arbaney Park to supplement the system of heating the swimming pool water. . The panels and their assembly were purchased with grant money from the Aspen Ski Corps employee environmental fund and funds from the Town of Basalt. The savings to the Town are currently being assessed.

With Green Team encouragement the Town is now pursuing funds to install a micro-hydroelectric facility to generate clean energy from one or both of the two spring water sources above Basalt's water filtration plant.

The Green Team has been particularly concerned with recycling of waste. Dumpsters for newspapers, magazines, cardboard, and recyclable plastic, glass, and metal containers are now conveniently located off Two Rivers Road and are monitored by the Town. Currently the Team is discussing the collection and recycling of some types of waxed milk containers for composting.

The Green Team has also written recycling guidelines for events held in Basalt, including a set of rules for materials used, e.g. biodegradable plates and plastic utensils; other waste materials; and proper receptacles for disposal. Event organizers will be required to follow these guidelines.

The Green Team has also been involved in a number of other projects and activities in the three years of its existence. The Team has promoted and publicized opportunities for residents to upgrade their homes with improved environmental protection and money-saving measures. Residents have been informed that they can obtain savings on loans for environmentally-related home improvements and rebates on more energy efficient appliances. The Team has made presentations at Council meetings and sponsored the Green Drinks program.

Members of the Team have actively promoted the use of reusable bags by Town shoppers. As a result of these endeavors the Town of Basalt won the Colorado Association of Ski Towns grant of \$10,000 because it used more reusable bags than the other competing Mountain towns. The grant is to be used for a photovoltaic system to be installed at the Basalt Middle School. The schools have been of particular concern to the Team. It has promoted efficient outdoor lighting and has involved students in Green activities.

The Team has also promoted effective and efficient lighting for businesses and parking lots. It has focused on both energy conservation and preservation of the valley's dark-sky policy. Some changes have already been made to correct the most serious violations. In addition the Team brought the two-minute idling limit ordinance to the Town Council for its ratification, and promoted signage and enforcement to encourage motorist compliance.

At its monthly meetings the Team has hosted a variety of guest presentations from Roaring Fork Valley conservation groups and has also cooperated in some of the activities of these groups. Finally the Green Team has facilitated a program by which the Basalt Town Council would recognize through its "Green Citizen" and "Green Business" awards those individuals and organizations whose activities have been consistent with the goals of a Green valley.

Anyone who would like further information or more detailed technical data about the Green Team projects, and/or would like to participate in its activities and goals is urged to contact the Green Team Facilitator Mary Kenyon (e mail

mary@realtime-marketing.com).

The current members of the Basalt Green Team are:

Tripp Adams citizen

Amy Capron - Town Council Representative, landscape architect

Anne Freedman - Town Planning and Zoning Commissioner

Phil Freedman - citizen

Jason Haber - Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE)

Bentley Henderson - Town Head of Public Works

Dorothy Howard - citizen

Michael Hutton - citizen

Bill Kane - Town Manager

Mary Kenyon - Roaring Fork Energy Star

Kirsten Dibble Morey - Chaffin Light Real Estate

Pam Schilling - Town Clerk

Gerry Terwilliger - citizen

Larry Thompson - Town Engineer

Eric Vozick - citizen