



MEMBER NEWSLETTER APRIL 2013

LTSC MISSION

Sustain a citizen-based effort to accelerate a shift toward a healthier Lake Tahoe-Truckee community, environment and economy.

LTSC PURPOSE

The Sustainability Collaborative provides an active forum for citizens - including stakeholders from multiple sectors (business, government, non-governmental organizations, nonprofits), residents, and second home owners - to help discuss, inform and guide the selection and adoption of sustainability policies, projects, tools, investments, and lifestyle practices that are well suited to the region and consistent with the desires and expectations of the Tahoe Basin and Truckee communities.

CURRENT LTSC ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

New Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Truckee

The Cedar House Sport Hotel in Truckee recently installed an Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station to its on-site facilities. Through his participation in the Lake Tahoe Sustainability Collaborative, Truckee Town Manager Tony Lashbrook became aware of a grant program managed by another LTSC Member (Erik Mason of Clipper Creek) helping to fund charging stations. In a subsequent random conversation with hotel co-owner Patty Baird, she expressed interest in the program. On April 3, the EV Charging Station at Cedar House Sport Hotel was added to a Web site (CarStations.com) that identifies the location of stations throughout North America and in other countries around the world. In an e-mail to the Truckee Town Council, Lashbrook said, "These are the benefits of living, working and running a business in a small, well-connected community. Thanks to Michael Ward and the Sustainability Collaborative for the information sharing that led to this success."

COLLABORATIVE WORK GROUP UPDATES

Community Mobility

This working group was organized as a grassroots effort to identify and advocate for improved community mobility and connectivity with a clear emphasis on walking and biking and other human-powered transportation and the infrastructure necessary to support these activities.

The group recently sent a letter to Caltrans District 3 Director Jody Jones requesting bicycle lane striping and seasonal construction detours on U.S. Highway 50 in and around South Lake Tahoe.

The letter made three primary points:

- 1) It is our understanding that a portion of Highway 50 (from Trout Creek to Ski Run Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe is designated as a Class II bicycle route. Caltrans recently re-striped Highway 50 for automobile traffic, but bike lanes and fog lanes were not striped at the same time. Please explain your striping procedures and whether it is standard practice to stripe bicycle and automobile lanes at different times. Going forward, we would like to ensure that Caltrans synchronizes striping of all lanes, facilities and fog lines on Highway 50 from Meyers to Stateline.
- 2) California MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices) Section 6D.101(CA) Bicycle Considerations contains a standard: "Bicyclists shall not be led into direct conflicts with mainline traffic, work site vehicles, or equipment moving through or around a TTC (Traffic Control) Zone." In the summer of 2012, bicyclists were regularly led into all three direct conflicts explicitly prohibited. During the planned construction along Highway 50 throughout the summer of 2013, we ask that Caltrans accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians in TTC zones in accordance with the applicable Standards and Guidelines.
- 3) There were a large number of times throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2012 where Caltrans (or contractors hired by Caltrans) placed temporary warning signs and other devices such as orange cones directly on a sidewalk and in bike lanes. This presents a danger to bicyclists and pedestrians, forcing both directly into lanes of 40 mph traffic along Highway 50. In accordance with the *Guidance* provides in "Notes for Figure 6H-103 (CA) Detour for Bike Lanes on Road with Closure of One Travel Direction" (Transportation Operations Policy Director, page 7), "13. All advance warning signs should be placed so that the path of travel for bicycles is not blocked, while maintaining visibility for road users." We ask that Caltrans not place warning signs in a location that partially or wholly obstructs sidewalks or bike lanes along Highway 50 without providing safe, accessible, and clearly-signed bicycle and pedestrian detours.

Other recent correspondence prepared and sent by the Community Mobility Work Group included letters to the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County with similar requests as to bike lane and fog line striping on priority local (non-state) roads heavily used by cyclists and pedestrians, and a letter of support for the Caltrans Community-Based Transportation Planning grant application submitted by the El Dorado County Department of Transportation for Meyers.

Human Health and Social Well-Being

Among this working group's goals are to: Encourage local food production and integrate food growing into education. Members are currently working on proposals to construct a "growing dome" at Sierra House Elementary School in South Lake Tahoe and at Truckee Elementary. They are in active dialogue with school district officials, community leaders, engaged in fundraising, and learning more every day about how growing domes work in our High Sierra environment. The group was awarded a South Lake Tahoe Soroptomist Community Grant of \$25,000 grant to support the project.

An existing project in Truckee provides a good example. Sustainability Collaborative member Susie Sutphin is farm manager for the Kelly family at their growing dome in the Glenshire area. The Kelly dome was built in October 2011 with the first seeds planted in early March 2012. By the second week of April, volunteers were harvesting 12 pounds of vegetables and beginning to



"THE KEY TO A HEALTHY COMMUNITY"

make donations to Project MANA, a hunger relief agency serving the North Lake Tahoe-Truckee area.

South Lake Tahoe *Sierra House Elementary School* Principal Ryan Galles was quoted recently in the Tahoe Daily Tribune: "Living in a mountain climate, I don't think the kids have a true sense of how things grow and where things come from," Galles said. "It's something I hope the kids will connect with. It will make the learning in the classroom real because they'll have a laboratory."

Economy, Education and Culture Work Group, and LTSC Communications Work Group

These two groups continue to collaborate in the development of a Sustainability Directory and Speakers Bureau for the Tahoe-Truckee region. The Sustainability Directory is available online and current LTSC Members are "opting in" via a web-based application. Individuals, businesses, and organizations interested in a Directory listing and/or participating in the Speakers Bureau will find more information under "Sustainability Directory" on the home page of www.sustainabilitycollaborative.org.

The Speakers Bureau is being developed simultaneously and represents a partnership between the LTSC and numerous other organizations currently providing "speaker" services in support of advancing education and understanding of sustainability principles and how to live sustainably in the Lake Tahoe Region.

Communications Work Group Co-Chair Hannah Greenstreet has begun regular interviews on KTHO Radio and writing feature articles for the Tahoe Daily Tribune on Sustainability Collaborative and Work Group activities and projects.

Energy, Water, Waste Efficiency

This workgroup has doubled in size with active participation by LTSC Members seeking to advance and promote Energy, Water, and Waste efficiency strategies in the Lake Tahoe Region. The workgroup has launched a LinkedIn group for LTSC Members to communicate actively about Sustainability interests and concerns. Enrollment is open to interested Members.

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=4849879&trk=anet_ug_hm

This Workgroup is also coordinating a region-wide dialogue addressing the prospects for establishing a comprehensive and attractive "Green Business Certification" program. Current LTSC Members are already leading the *Keep the Sierra Green* program in Truckee which is being discussed as the prospective model for the regional program. Updates on this initiative will be reported in the May Member Newsletter.