



MEMBER NEWSLETTER MAY 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 (including 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.

COLLABORATIVE MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

The Lake Tahoe Sustainability Collaborative was launched May 14, 2012 at an energetic, well-attended workshop at Lake Tahoe Community College. Here's a summary of first year accomplishments:

- Began with 83 members, advisors and supporters - now have **113+**
- Adopted a **Charter** and approved **Livability Principles**
- Established a **Mission**, created a **Logo**, and launched a **Web Site** communications platform www.sustainabilitycollaborative.org
- Established 5 sector-based **Working Groups** with Co-Chairs drawn from membership
- Each Working Group established a **Mission/Purpose**, produced a preliminary scan of short, mid and long term objectives, and identified their initial "**Signature Projects.**"
- Conducted 12 full LTSC **monthly meetings** and Work Group meetings for 8 months
- Embedded **Climate Change Action** presentations in a number of LTSC meetings
- Conducted an **8 hour workshop** with leaders from key land use and forest management agencies in November 2012
- Reviewed and endorsed a **Climate Action Database** and **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory** prepared for the Lake Tahoe Basin
- Began informing a **Sustainability Action Plan** scheduled to be completed by December 2013
- Launched a **Sustainability Directory** (available to join through LTSC Web site by identifying your areas of expertise/interests; also the sustainability subjects on which you can speak
- Reported a series of **Work Group accomplishments**, summarized in the first **LTSC Newsletter** (April 2013).
- Provided a continuously operating **action-oriented forum** for passionate volunteers willing to commit their skills and energies for the betterment of our communities and environment

New Collaborative members are always welcome. For more information and an easy to complete application, visit www.sustainabilitycollaborative.org.



COLLABORATIVE WORK GROUP UPDATES

Conservation of Natural Resources (CNR)

Work Group members are exploring ways to expand the Generation Green Program to other agencies in the Lake Tahoe region. Potentially, these could include the California Tahoe Conservancy and California Conservation Corps, perhaps even mountain resort and recreation companies along with continuing enrollment in college level coursework.

Generation Green is a program of the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) designed to teach students about the forest as a living system while they perform volunteer work. It targets low-income youth with diverse backgrounds, typically those who have not had any previous outdoor experiences. Participants are introduced to Forest Service mentors and exposed to a variety of jobs in the natural resources field. Generation Green provides job opportunities while building work ethics, job skills, teamwork, and leadership.

Generation Green program started in 2008 as a direct result of a LTBMU project. A group of local youth worked for LTBMU during the summer, and by the following year, the students, along with Forest Service Conservation Education Specialist Joy Barney and advisors from the Lake Tahoe Unified School District founded the Generation Green Club at South Tahoe High School.

“As we face fiscal challenges, Generation Green is one program we can use to meet our natural resource management needs in the field and simultaneously engage young people and teach stewardship skills,” said a recent work group “white paper” on the subject of expanding Generation Green. A series of meetings are underway this spring to advance the idea.

Energy, Water, and Waste Efficiency (EWWE)

The group organized an April 10th meeting of interested parties throughout the Tahoe-Truckee-Reno region with a goal to better understand various agency and public interest needs in a green business certification program. This was also an opportunity to learn more about existing programs, including *Keep the Sierra Green* based in the North Lake Tahoe-Truckee area.

A number of prospective guiding principles were identified and discussed:

- Focus on how to encourage and reward rather than regulate or audit
- Program should make business sense to the business owners who are engaged
- Link to current established Geotourism principles
- Build on and/or integrate existing green business program frameworks (examples: Keep the Sierra Green, Sustainable Tahoe program, League to Save Lake Tahoe’s “Blue Tahoe,” TRPA Best Management Practices (BMP) program, chamber recognition programs...)
- Frame the program to reflect a “total brand experience” for the region
- Be “education focused” - promoting adoption of sustainability and livability principles
- Operate the program with very low overhead - keep it sustainable for the long term
- Raise the bar over time for increasing levels of recognition.



Economy, Education, and Culture (EEC)

The EEC Workgroup is very focused on the need for effective career pathways for locals as a key to developing a more vibrant economy. The group is focused on how to address seasonal employment in a way that provides better year-round employment opportunities. A second priority is providing a bridge to professional employment emphasizing the green sectors that are helping to keep Tahoe both blue and green.

David Long has been instrumental in conducting the background research and outreach to help the EEC group frame possibilities. Craig Woodward attended a hospitality workforce planning session on May 10 led by Douglas County in partnership with Western Nevada Community College and was enthusiastic in reporting back the potential for a regional collaborative effort. EEC Members are attending the Lake Tahoe Community College job fair on May 14 which will include representatives from Harrah's and other regional employers.

Multiple job fairs within the broader Tahoe/Truckee/Reno/Carson region have been identified as prospective sources of both information on worker interests and employer needs. The EEC Workgroup plans to convene a small scale planning dialogue with employers, educators, and workforce professionals to establish a framework for better connectivity between local talent and jobs while advocating green careers to support the economy of the future here in Tahoe.

Community Mobility (CM)

The City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, and Caltrans have each responded to requests from the Community Mobility Work Group for bicycle lane and related striping to improve cyclist and pedestrian safety.

Work Group Co-Chair Gavin Fieger recently reported: *"In response to our meeting with the City in December, the City striped all of the Class II routes along with auto lanes early this spring. Additionally, the City striped new fog lines on Glenwood and Venice Drive (west of Tahoe Keys) and installed bright yellow signs warning drivers of the presence of cyclists and pedestrians on Tahoe Keys Boulevard. Finally, staff indicated they plan on adding "sharrows" (the symbol of a bike with chevrons pointing in the direction of the route) to some key Class III routes that connect Class II routes and at some confusing intersections heavily traveled by bicyclists."*

"On April 18, we had a meeting with the El Dorado County Department of Transportation to address streets outside the City within unincorporated El Dorado County," Fieger said. They agreed to stripe Apache between Highway 50 and the Lake Tahoe Environmental Magnet School in Meyers with Class II bike lanes. They also agreed to look at the possibility of signing Black Bart as a Class III route in order to change the status from "proposed" to an "existing" Class III. They agreed to make sure the Class II lane on Pioneer Trail is consistently wide, and as wide as possible. They may even add more signs and sharrows."

In a letter dated April 22, Caltrans District 3 Director Jody Jones said, *"Most of the roadwork from Trout Creek to Ski Run Boulevard was completed in late October, so because of the low*



temperature, only temporary striping was done. Permanent delineation, including striping of bike lanes, is scheduled to be performed when work resumes next month (May)". She also addressed the need to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian safety in temporary traffic control zones (TCC). Caltrans construction contracts require that "pedestrian and bicycle access facilities shall be maintained through construction areas within the right of way as shown on the plans and as specified herein. At least one walkway and a bicycle access facility shall be available at all times." Jones said, "Caltrans intends to work closely with our contractors this summer to ensure compliance. We will also work closely with our contractors to ensure temporary construction signs do not obstruct sidewalks and bike lanes."

The Work Group has prepared correspondence to the City, Caltrans and El Dorado County for their actions to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety. *"We know funding and priorities are a challenge,"* said Fieger. *"We appreciate the cooperation and continued commitment of all three agencies to make the South Shore a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly community."*

Note: The annual Tahoe region Bike to Work Challenge is scheduled for June 1-14th.

Human Health and Social Well-Being (HH&SWB)

Among this 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 (\$48,000 received to date) and learning more every day about how growing domes work in our High Sierra environment.

Another group initiative is exploring the opportunity to install a community vegetable garden at Bijou Community Park in South Lake Tahoe. The garden would use permaculture techniques to minimize water use.

Communications Committee

Communications Work Group Co-Chair Hannah Greenstreet continues her regular interviews on KTHO Radio and guest articles for the Tahoe Daily Tribune on Sustainability Collaborative and Work Group activities and projects. The Committee meets monthly to review progress emerging from working groups and determine how best to report and communicate both internally to members and externally to the community at large.

A new web site is in development for the LTSC which will utilize a WordPress platform and content management system. Targeted for July completion the new site will support the outreach and communications goals of the Collaborative for the next couple of years.