



MEMBER NEWSLETTER AUGUST 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, non-profits), 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 WORK GROUP UPDATES

Energy, Water, and Waste Efficiency (EWWE)

One of the projects being supported by the EWWE Workgroup is the Renewable Energy Regional Exploration Project which will demonstrate a coordinated community effort towards the establishment of a local level regional energy plan. Designing a Renewable Energy Exploration Plan for that part of the South Shore community served by the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) will provide a framework of feasible renewable energy sources, enabling technology, and grid integration possibilities. The goal of our Strategic Action Plan is to identify actions that will allow STPUD and project partners to pursue the most economically and environmentally viable renewable energy and technology options outlined in the Exploration Plan. It will highlight the steps, partnerships, technical and environmental barriers to overcome, and the financial resources required for project implementation. Coordination involving local government and the community will facilitate the necessary flow of information to and from project partners and stakeholders.

BYOB Ordinance Receives Support from South Lake Tahoe City Council

On June 11th, members of the Sustainability Collaborative represented the Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) ordinance to the South Lake Tahoe City Council. During the presentation, Sustainability Collaborative members addressed questions raised at the January 22nd meeting about studies on reusable bag bacteria contamination, bag fees, impacts to low-income populations, and public support for the initiative.

After public comment and discussion, three City Council members expressed support for the BYOB ordinance. City Council member Laine was a proponent of the ordinance. She believes that as the City bans plastic products, vendors would follow suit by banning similar products. City Council

member Swanson supported the ordinance and wanted to explore how to channel the user fees on paper bags to a non-profit or local charity for environmental education. City Council member Cole stated he would support a revised ordinance that reduces the fee on paper bags from 10 cents to 5 cents. City Council members Davis and Connor did not support the ban. They each stated they did



not see plastic bag litter as a prominent problem within the City of South Lake Tahoe. Councilmember Connor explained she would prefer an incentive-based initiative to reduce plastic and paper bags, as well as an environmental education effort.

The City of South Lake Tahoe Attorney Office is currently working on drafting a revised ordinance and staff report. The BYOB Ordinance is expected to return to the Council for a 1st Reading this August and a 2nd reading in September.

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

This Work Group is developing a parent-supported nutrition education program for the Lake Tahoe Unified School District (LTUSD). In this program, volunteer parents would teach four nutrition classes per year for kindergarten students. The group is using a set of materials that the school nutrition coordinator, Kathy Martinez, was funded to develop and deliver for a subset of the student population last year. Among other features, the program teaches participants how to make a healthy snack.

Seven parents are committed to date, with more volunteers possible as another school year approaches. To further support the program, Ms. Martinez will lead parent training sessions so they can reinforce at home what the children learn in class. This program builds upon the successful "We Can!" nutrition and fitness program launched collaboratively between Barton Health and LTUSD and focused previously on 3rd and 4th grade students and their families. The general intent of the approach with kindergarten grades is to establish healthy habits early. Eventually, Work Group members hope to partner in promoting a district-wide committee of parents, teachers, and health professionals that can support other programs and share ideas across schools.

Community Mobility (CM)

Group members have volunteered time to identify opportunities to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety. They submitted their written suggestions to local governments and Caltrans in a series of meetings this past spring. Some examples of successful implementation to date include:

- The City of South Lake Tahoe painted "sharrows" on Ponderosa Street, a popular bicycle corridor.
- El Dorado County established Black Bart as an official Class III bike route with fog lines (painted shoulders) and "Share the Road" signs.
- The County painted Class II bike lanes as wide as possible on Pioneer Trail, widened the section from Hekpa to Hekpa, and repainted the "sharrows."
- Caltrans striped Highway 50 through the City of South Lake Tahoe.

- Caltrans added large, bright "Share the Road" signs at all of their construction sites along Highway 50 and State Route 89.
- Douglas County agreed to stripe a Class II Bike lane on the stretch of Lake Parkway from Highway 50 to Stateline (on the Edgewood Golf Course side) and is exploring the opportunity of additional striping behind Mont Bleu and Harrahs where a new sidewalk has been constructed.

The group has sent thank you letters to commend and further encourage each entity that took affirmative steps to implement mobility safety improvements.



Other Mobility Initiatives

Safe Routes to Schools Grants

In recent years, the City and El Dorado County have each unsuccessfully applied for grants from the Safe Routes to Schools program (SRS). Going forward, California will be incorporating SRS into the State's proposed new "Active Transportation Program." The Community Mobility Work Group wants to help develop successful grant proposals for the next funding cycle. Members plan to schedule separate meetings to focus on this initiative and assign a "lead champion" with the goal of preparing a compelling and comprehensive application, securing letters of support, and demonstrating how school-related improvements fit into the broader scope of community mobility safety.

Showing Progress

Members of the Work Group issued the following statement for this newsletter: *"In order to encourage a higher priority for community mobility projects, we need to demonstrate that the efforts undertaken by ourselves and local, regional, and state partners are increasing bicycle and pedestrian "mode share." There have been sporadic bike counts in and around South Lake Tahoe. We note and commend the Tahoe City Public Utility District for having the most consistent trail use counts in the Tahoe region. TRPA also has a useful set of collected data, a great deal of which is "before" improvements. We support an expansion of count locations and commit to help recruit and train volunteers to conduct the appropriate surveys."*

Economy, Education, Culture (EEC)

The EEC Workgroup has continued to discuss actions needed to strengthen effective career pathways for locals as a key to developing a more vibrant economy. The group has conceptualized a Regional Workforce Roundtable which will provide a facilitated dialogue between workforce providers and employers designed to identify needs and gaps in our current workforce "system".

Originally planned for August 14 the Roundtable has been moved to the first week in October to enable Members to outreach to a broad cross-section of workforce leaders and focus the Roundtable process agenda to maximize participation and value for all. One example of a workforce program recently developed and ready for delivery is the Hospitality program soon to be offered by Western Nevada Community College and designed to lead to certification timely to the current growth cycle in this market sector. The Workgroup has positioned as a convener and hopes to activate regional and sub-regional collaboration between education providers, the public workforce agencies and employers in targeted growth sectors.

Communications Committee

The Committee continues to meet 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. The new web site in development for the LTSC is targeted for August completion.

The Sustainability Collaborative was also invited to participate in the Lake Tahoe Outreach Collaborative to bring a citizen-Member voice to the Stewardship Messaging focus of this multi-entity regional partnership. LTSC Members are encouraged to participate in the Stewardship Messaging survey here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TahoeTruckeeStewardship>