

DRAFT MATERIAL

The following draft goals and objectives have been compiled from the November through February focus group meetings along with feedback from listening session worksheets. Please note that similar statements/concepts have been combined and some statements have been sorted into either broad goal statements or more specific objective statements. Also, some statements may have been edited to clarify the meaning, provide consistency in style and format or to conform with legal concepts. Further refinement, consolidation, and even shifting of statements to other focus groups is anticipated.

Environmental Quality Topics, Goals & Objectives

Topic 1: Waste Stream

From solid waste that goes into landfills, to liquid waste in the form of sanitary sewage, energy waste, to electronic waste from computers, cell phones, and entertainment devices, Missoulians are concerned about social, monetary, and environmental costs of waste. Many participants feel that a major effort on the part of government and private businesses should be launched in order to reuse, recycle, and reduce the local waste stream.

Goal 1: Achieve Zero Waste within the Missoula community.

Goal 2: Reduce the community's solid waste to the point that the landfill is only minimally necessary.

Objectives:

1. Increase the options for diverting waste from the landfill through the development of more recycling infrastructure within the city.
2. Develop and community compost program.
3. Encourage local reuse/purchase of recycled materials.
4. Promote reuse and recycling of building materials.
5. Continue and expand water conservation efforts, including increasing land application of wastewater.
6. Explore the increased use of gray water as a water conservation measure.
7. Explore additional ways to reduce the following from the waste stream:
 - Commercial/industrial hazardous waste
 - Household chemical waste
 - Toxins
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Electronic waste

Action Items

1. Educate homeowners, tenants, and business persons on the proper disposal of household hazardous waste and electronic waste.
2. Provide recycling bins for paper, plastic, aluminum, and organic materials throughout the city's public spaces.
3. Identify major system components and processes that comprise the municipal waste stream.
4. Government and educational institutions should adopt "zero waste" programs to provide local examples of best practices.

5. Conduct education and outreach on the environmental and monetary benefits of sustainable practices.
6. Establish a system whereby large scale projects can invest in programs to off-set their waste stream impacts.
7. Increase fees for bringing waste to the landfill from outside the Missoula area as an incentive to reduce that waste.

Topic 2: Energy

As a community, Missoulians have a high level of environmental consciousness, and many have structured their lives to have the least possible impact on the health of the planet. Along these lines, many citizens feel strongly that the local government and the Missoula community should lead the way in transitioning our nation and society from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

Goal 1: Reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Goal 2: Promote energy efficiency, conservation, and green building practices throughout Missoula.

Goal 3: Increase the percentage of renewable energy in Missoula's energy budget.

Objectives:

1. Explore cleaner wood burning technologies for local wood use.
2. Reduce carbon footprint through renewable energy, energy efficiencies, conservation, and carbon offsets.
3. Provide incentives for siting renewable energy generation in preferred locations.
4. Establish a meaningful community-wide carbon neutrality target.
5. Support the creation of a local renewable energy company that can meet the energy needs of Missoula.
6. Promote green building design in all public buildings as models for the community.
7. Implement a decentralized energy system not reliant on fossil fuels.
8. Reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles and continue support for the expansion of public transportation and cycling/walking systems.

Actions:

1. Promote and incentivize green building infrastructure.

Topic 3: Air, Soil & Water Quality

Missoula citizens generally consider clean air and water to be the cornerstones of what they consider their quality of life. The community has worked hard to improve its historically poor air quality, and is now considered to be in compliance with national ambient air quality standards. The Clark Fork of the Snake River runs through the heart of the community, and it is heavily used for recreation. Backyard gardens and other sources of locally grown food require both clean water and soil, and the community is more than willing to accept the challenge of protecting and enhancing the quality of their environment.

Goal 1: Improve Missoula's air quality and visibility.

Goal 2: Protect and enhance Missoula's surface and ground water quality.

Goal 3: Protect and enhance Missoula's soil quality.

Objectives:

1. Explore specific programs to reduce air pollution from vehicles, industry, and space heating.
2. Quantify threats to Missoula's surface and ground water quality, including spills, pipelines, pesticides, fertilizers, and underground storage tanks.
3. Actively reduce the need to manage storm water from impervious surfaces.
4. Support joint/regional efforts that contribute to clean air and water.
5. Encourage consideration of health impacts and air quality when reviewing and formulating policy for transportation, development regulations, and industrial development.
6. Work with city-county public health officials to promote health, environmental health, and sanitation through education, community outreach, and enforcement.
7. Encourage public agencies to divest holdings or investments in polluting industries.
8. Integrate parks as part of a green infrastructure system that will help manage stormwater and improve water quality.
9. Protect and restore riparian, wetland, and floodplain areas from development.
10. Manage water quality according to final TMDL (total maximum daily loading) for each impaired water body. (Facilitator suggestion for group discussion.)
11. Encourage carbon neutral industries to locate and grow in Missoula.

Actions:

1. Provide and incentivize alternatives to asphalt and concrete in land development regulations and storm water management master plans.
2. Work with state government on groundwater permitting to better protect the quality and quantity of Missoula's groundwater resource.

Topic 4: Natural Resources

While Missoula is located in an area with bountiful natural resources, there are also significant resources within the community itself. Missoula has an excellent urban forest and abundant wildlife. And due to the river corridor and other community open spaces, there is significant wildlife habitat even within the urbanized area. There is also excellent soil for growing food crops and (mostly) small-scale agriculture exists within city limits. Missoulians are willing to take steps through the Growth Policy to protect these values, and to not lose them to rampant, unplanned growth.

Goal 1: Protect and enhance critical wildlife habitat and travel/migration corridors.

Goal 2: Protect Missoula's trees and other vegetation in urban spaces.

Objectives:

1. Protect intact ecosystems from **the impacts of** urbanization and point and non-point pollution.
2. Quantify and address issues of invasive plant and animal species.

3. Give preference to indigenous plant species in regulations, city projects, and design contracts. (Note: Facilitator suggested revision to better explain what this objective is geared to do,)

Topic 5: Growth Pressures & Sprawl

Many Missoulians are concerned about the impacts of unplanned growth---especially sprawl. Some see sprawl as a threat to open spaces and agricultural lands. Others see sprawl and leap frogging as inefficient development patterns that result in underutilized infrastructure and potential land use conflicts in the future when by passed parcels are finally developed.

Goal 1: Protect and enhance Missoula's open spaces.

Goal 2: Develop a safe and efficient transportation system that emphasizes walking, bicycling, and transit while reducing reliance on driving.

Goal 3: Protect agricultural land and water.

Objectives:

1. Ensure new development has a variety of land uses, services, and active transportation options.
2. Protect stream corridors and floodplains from development.
3. Prioritize farm/ag land preservation over urban sprawl.
4. Acquire key private lands for community open space using bonds and grants.
5. Explore carrying capacity modeling to guide land use planning and development in greater Missoula.
6. Protect farmland through mitigation, designation of key ag preservation areas, and through incentivizing infill and cluster development.
7. Explore policies and incentives to discourage sprawl and leap frog development.
8. Discourage encroachment into the wildland-urban interface, while establishing WUI standards to protect human life and property.

(Note: Facilitator had #6 and #7 as actions.)

Topic 6: River

Few things define Missoula as a unique place like the Clark Fork. It provides open space, visual relief, a multi-modal transportation corridor, and recreation as it makes its way through the heart of the community. With many demands placed on the river, residents want to make sure that it remains clean and accessible. Because it does run through the urbanized parts of the community, it is susceptible to both point and non-point pollution sources, including chemical and petroleum spills from the city's railways.

Goal 1: Reduce recreational impacts on the river.

Goal 2: Maintain and enhance the general environmental health of the river, including healthy riparian zones and water quality.

Objectives:

1. Strive for a high level of recreational safety on the river.
2. Guard against toxins such as pesticides, fertilizers, material from railroad spills, pipelines, and underground storage tanks from entering the river system.
3. Preserve/restore wildlife habitat along the river while allowing appropriate public access.
4. Develop a river corridor plan to address and balance development, recreation, environmental considerations, and community aesthetics.
5. Establish development standard in the river corridor that support clean water and wildlife habitat.
6. Acquire, restore, and protect river and stream corridors and floodplains as open space whenever possible, including outside of the urban service area.
(Note: Facilitator had #5 and #6 as action items.)

Topic 7: Natural Areas/Outdoor Recreation

Another important component of Missoula's quality of life is its access to natural areas in and around the community and ready ability to recreate outdoors. Besides the significant amounts of open space within the community, Missoula is surrounded by the Lolo National Forest. Natural amenities such as these not only make life better for local residents, they are key factors in attracting new businesses and the talented people to own and manage them.

Goal 1: Maintain natural areas for multiple user groups and wildlife habitat.

Goal 2: Protect additional lands for Missoula open space, vistas, wildlife habitat, and recreational trails.

Objectives:

1. Improve access point infrastructure (parking, toilets, roads, etc.) to parks and open spaces.
2. Ensure that the bike/pedestrian trail system provides access to natural areas.
3. Ensure that bike/pedestrian trail system access is within five blocks of every residence in the city.
4. Invest in parks as a way to promote healthy lifestyles.
5. Develop an educational campaign for reducing recreational impacts on natural areas/open space.
6. Promote connectivity between parks through trails and greenway systems.
7. Promote areas for unstructured play that allows youth to connect with the environment.

Topic 8: Local Foods

The ability of Missoula residents and visitors to obtain a healthy and consistent supply of food is a vital, yet often overlooked, consideration in growth policies. While today's global food system provides important benefits, it is also vulnerable in the face of climate change, dependence on carbon-based fuels, and degradation of resources and rural livelihoods. As fewer and fewer agribusiness firms control most food that North Americans eat, Missoula is creating an alternative, regionally based system, which has energy, environmental, economic, and community benefits.

Goal 1: Develop a sustainable, community-based food system to improve Missoula's long-term food security and enhance the regional economy,

Goal 2: Ensure all residents have access to nutritious and affordable food.

(There was a suggestion for an additional goal to the effect "Minimize the adverse impacts that the food delivery system has on the local environment and community." The idea here is that very large tractor-trailer rigs cause problems locally with air pollution and that these vehicles require engineering concessions that are not beneficial to pedestrians. Ellen Buchanan raised this issue at the Steering Committee meeting, and the problem is far larger than the food industry. This issue might be better tackled as a transportation and/or a quality of life issue.)

Objectives:

1. Educate the Missoula community on the importance and advantages of locally sourced food.
2. Encourage neighborhood and community gardens.
3. Adopt public procurement policies that give preference to locally sourced food.
4. Inventory and make viable public land available for community and commercial agriculture within the city.
5. Include provisions in city land development regulations for the limited raising of cash crops in appropriate residential areas.
6. In residential and mixed use planned developments, mitigate the impact of development on agriculture.
7. Require a minimum percentage of locally sourced fresh and/or prepared food vendors in permitting for farmers' markets, festivals, and other community events. (Note: It has been suggested that perhaps incentives rather than a requirement may be more appropriate. Also, that the City's role can be more about marketing and info dissemination, such as spotlighting groups that meet certain goals for featuring locally sourced food. There was also a comment to bring back the "lunch lady", but statements along these lines seem better made as actions. What does everyone think?)
8. Promote locally sourced food as a community amenity (visitation and economic development).
9. Ensure food service workers have paid sick days to ensure the safety of our food.
10. Require all direct markets and groceries to accept Electronic Benefits Transfer (formerly food stamps).
11. Encourage public-private partnerships to appropriate funds to start and expand Double SNAP \$ program to incentivize purchases at farmers markets.
12. Encourage the integration of urban farms in the city (add "urban farm" to the zoning code?)

It was suggested the goal #2 and objectives #10 and #11 be communicated to the Safety and Wellness group as they are dealing with homeless and low income issues.