

Missoula County Media Release

Contact: Diana Maneta

Energy Conservation and Sustainability Coordinator

dmaneta@missoulacounty.us

406-258-3424

March 12, 2019



Missoula County Commissioners to Vote on Adopting Climate Action Resolution

Missoula County commissioners will consider adopting a goal of carbon neutrality for county operations by 2035, as well as an interim goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 30 percent below 2016 levels by 2025, at their public meeting this week.

In addition to setting emission reduction targets, the Climate Action Resolution, which commissioners will consider at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 14, in the Sophie Moiese Room of the Missoula County Courthouse Annex, would direct the county's energy conservation and sustainability coordinator and county staff to create a Climate Action Plan to achieve the targets.

"The science is clear: We have a narrow window of time to reduce carbon pollution in order to avoid massive disruption from climate change," commission Chair Cola Rowley said. "While Missoula County can't solve this problem on our own, we have an obligation to do our part."

The Climate Action Resolution follows the county's first greenhouse gas emissions inventory, which determined that county government operations emitted 7,583 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2016. That includes emissions from county buildings and facilities, vehicle fleet, water and wastewater treatment facilities, and employee commuting.

"While there's a lot we can do to reduce our impact, we can't reach carbon neutrality on our own; that will require larger-scale changes, such as a shift to cleaner electricity sources throughout the state," Commissioner Dave Strohmaier said. "That's why we've also been working with the City of Missoula and Climate Smart Missoula to investigate our options to achieve 100 percent clean electricity for the entire Missoula urban area."

A draft of the resolution is available at <http://apps.missoulacounty.us/go/j>. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the meeting and provide input.

"The power of our actions here in Missoula County is not limited to the reduction of our output of greenhouse gases, and we can and should serve as a model and inspiration for other municipalities," Commissioner Josh Slotnick said. "Together, our collective impact could actually begin to address this crisis."

For more information, call Diana Maneta, Missoula County energy conservation and sustainability coordinator, at 406-258-3424 or email dmaneta@missoulacounty.us.

###