

California Net Zero Collaboration

California Energy Alliance Summit Program

Monday, October 27, 2008

Hosted by USGBC C4

for the USGBC California Chapters and AIACC COTE

Location: UCSB Student Resource Center
Santa Barbara, CA



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Findings Summary:

Breakout Session 1

Organizational Assessment and Strategic Plan Effectiveness

This session provides the stakeholders with an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of their strategic plans and implementation strategies in place today.

USGBC:

1. Communication & Education: Providing curriculum and a technical group that travels through educational facilities throughout year.
2. Metrics: WATER, EXISTING BLDGS> FIRE< PLANNING NET ZERO, Embodied Energy
3. Collaborative portal: Tools for public to understand with quantifiable data, case studies, readily available, easy to understand
4. Look at different scales: building, community

ASLA, AIA, CONTRACTORS:

1. Landscape:
 - a. Cooling effect, carbon sequestration, Science of how carbon is released and stored, how much.
 - b. Water Use Reduction: energy metrics tied to water savings (20-30% of CA electricity is water delivery)
 - c. ASLA Sustainable Sites Initiative
 - d. Less 'end of a pipe' solution i.e. water collection; break down to smaller pieces; translate to building energy
 - e. Grey water mainstreaming: municipalities onboard; brain storm from state down to on the ground applications; reclaimed water – salt build-up issues; make good for plants; use to flush toilets
2. Who are we missing? Civil engineers, fire departments, ASLA, health departments, water quality board, contractors, ASID
3. Cap & Trade: common benchmark so CA, and early adopters like Santa Barbara, are not penalized for exceeding minimum standard

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4. Educational opportunities: educate public, not just the choir to get community buy in
5. Upgrading existing building stock: financing and incentives
6. Follow-up and Commissioning to make sure building is running properly
7. Toolkit: State should provide guidance for cities to adopt more restrictive standards and to check in to see status of ordinances in other cities.

STATE & MUNICIPAL Agencies:

1. Lack of info, lack of baseline, risk averse culture, uneducated workforce
2. State mandating new structure for prioritizing energy upgrades
3. Capital and operating budgets working in tandem so upfront costs taken into account at same time
4. Maintaining, defining leadership at highest level
5. Obtaining funding from utilities through gatekeeper, streamline funding process to reduce stress on system
6. Residential, retrofits: implementation gaps
7. Lack of advocacy at state level, point of sale energy audits (realtors)
8. More utility financing for residential retrofits
9. AB811 solution as ways to help incentivize
10. Building the industry and workforce
11. Educating the homeowners (Jonathan's tools)

Breakout Session 2: ACTION PLANS

Identify Opportunities and Implementation Plan

This session will develop collaborative opportunities between stake holders to meet the objectives of the collective strategic plan. The groups will identify five strategic action items for the stakeholders to take back to their organizations for implementation statewide and for future collaboration to bring about the market transformation included in the various strategic plans in 2009.

Group 1

1. Net metering and DG: values
2. Existing bldg retrofit programs: whole bldgs, retro commissioning
3. Rating systems: common/baseline understanding of EE for various consumers
4. Education campaigns for laypeople, not just professionals

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5. Viewing bldgs from lifecycle cost analysis perspective, not planned obsolescence

Group 2

1. Campaign finance reform (Utility interests control our governmental representatives)
2. Financing: put forth economic arguments and mechanisms to make green building too good to pass up
3. Education across industries and education levels
4. Municipal ordinance toolkit
5. Requiring regular bldg tune-ups involving design professionals

Group 3

1. Redefine mission and context; reframing of issues, objectives
2. Create local and regional collectives (i.e. solar assessment districts)
3. Ecosystem marketplaces and services based on carbon and water in local/muni contexts
4. Fee-bate revenues: reward bldgs for actual savings, not projected savings. Tax laggards based on measurement and verification
5. Education and advocacy – 2030 Challenge requires training two generations! Continuing sustainable design education addressing values
 - a. Web portal for shared resources
 - i. Planning updates
 - b. Marketing assistance: provide message in common language

Group 4

1. Measurement and tracking using common metric to assess progress
2. Common language resulting from common metric to facilitate effective education
3. improve tools: calculators and models to address issues beyond direct energy uses (water, landscape)
4. better support for existing bldg retrofits
5. Funding mechanisms to address inefficiencies, specifically where one region's activities benefit other regions
6. Continue to improve green building code, increase floor