# Sustainability in Bozeman

The City of Bozeman works tirelessly towards its sustainability goals. Use this resource to become familiar with these efforts.

## **City of Bozeman Sustainability Office**

The City of Bozeman Sustainability Office collaborates with residents, businesses, and organizations to inspire action and reduce the community's carbon footprint now and for future generations. Below you will find information about the office and their projects/initiatives.



bozeman.net/government/sustainability

## **Bozeman Climate Plan**

In 2017, the City of Bozeman passed a resolution to join the Climate Mayors partnership of over 400 United States mayors committing to uphold the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement through local action.



Even with a rapidly growing population, Bozeman's greenhouse gas emissions in 2016 were nearly equal to its emissions in 2008, while community emissions per person declined by 22%.

In the summer of 2019, the City set out to reimagine it's climate plan in accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement, assessing climate equity and human health & well-being in the following focus areas:

Greenspaces & Natural Systems, Community Development, Buildings, Energy & Utilities, City Assets, Consumption & Waste, and Transportation.

The plan's development timeline was set to take place from July 2019 to July 2020, though impacts from COVID-19 lengthened this timeline, setting the plan's implementation back to October 2020.

Numerous other smaller-scale climate action plans are simultaneously underway within the City, each touching on different combinations of the focus areas listed above.



## **Residential Energy Efficiency**

Residential energy use accounts for almost a quarter of the City of Bozeman's greenhouse gas emissions, so individual actions can both reduce utility bills and help the City meet its Climate Action Plan goals, reducing emissions.

Residential energy use includes heating and cooling your home, lighting, cooking, appliances, and powering all of your electronic devices.

Bozeman's Sustainability Office website provides in-depth information on how individuals can reduce their energy and resource consumptions from home, divided into four cost-level checklists: No Cost, Low Cost, Moderate Cost, and Investment Level.

## **Bozeman Energy Project**

Helping local businesses save money and reduce energy use while also helping the community and the environment.

Participating businesses benefit from lower energy bills, potential rebates from Northwestern Energy, and a cash incentive of up to \$2,500 from the City of Bozeman. They also benefit from reduced environmental impacts, recognition and publicization through the program, marketing and outreach, and access to resources in energy efficiency and conservation technologies, strategies, and best practices.

## **Climate Info**

Information on global climate change, its local impacts, and Bozeman's climate action plans and policies can all be found on Bozeman's Sustainability Office website.

## **Bozeman Climate Partners**

The Bozeman Climate Partners is an energized citizen working group that meets weekly to support both conservation work underway in Bozeman and efforts to reduce the City's carbon footprint. They hope to inspire, focus, and tap the vast reservoir of talent and knowledge within the Bozeman community.

## **Contact Bozeman's Sustainability Office**

Reach out to sustainability staff Heather Davies (Energy Conservation Technician) and Natalie Meyer (Sustainability Program Manager), following the contact link on their website.













## More City of Bozeman Sustainability Office Initiatives:

### **Bozeman Solar Project**

The City of Bozeman partnered with NorthWestern Energy to install a 385 kW utility-scale solar array at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The project covers 2.5 acres, incorporating 1,152 solar panels, and it will produce enough electricity to offset the annual consumption of 60 Montana homes.

### • Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Resiliency Strategy

In the coming years, Bozeman is projected to be impacted by extreme heat, floods, drought, decreased snowpack, more extensive, frequent, and intense wildfire, and more severe winter storms. Serving as a precursor to the City's 2019 Climate Plan, this initiative assessed local climate impacts, prioritizing vulnerabilities, and developing adaptation strategies and an action plan for resiliency.

### SolSmart

Working with the Montana Renewable Energy Association, the City of Bozeman is reviewing local processes to identify opportunities for improving efficiencies in solar energy system installations, making solar power more accessible to Bozeman residents and businesses.

### **Energy Retrofits** $\bullet$

The City of Bozeman continues to prioritize the energy efficiency of their facilities and operations by implementing LED street light retrofits and completing energy efficiency upgrades in select facilities.

#### $\bullet$ **Idle Free Bozeman**

It's as simple as turning your key when you'll be stopped for 30 seconds or longer. Save gas, save money, no-brainer. Idling contributes to poor air and water quality, and generates unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions.











## **More Sustainability in Bozeman**

## Water Conservation

Bozeman is semi-arid and drought-prone, sourcing 80% of its water from snowmelt in the Gallatin Range. With shifting climate patterns, future water supplies are likely to become less reliable, with more rain replacing snow and warmer temperatures causing earlier peak flows and drier summers. Bozeman is also growing rapidly, further straining the water supply. The City of Bozeman has identified water conservation as the largest water source for Bozeman's future, increasing water supply by reducing water usage in and around homes and businesses. The City provides water-wise resources, cash rebates for installing

water-efficient appliances, and free services for swapping shower heads, installing faucet aerators, and assessing sprinkler systems. Learn more by visiting the City of Bozeman Water Conservation website.

## **Stormwater Division**

Stormwater is rain or snow melt that flows over impervious surfaces (roads, rooftops, and driveways). It picks up pollutants such as trash, dog waste, lawn fertilizers, car washing soaps, bacteria, and oil. Stormwater is transported through underground pipes and dumped, without treatment, into local waterways like Bozeman Creek. Polluted stormwater can negatively impact water quality, fish populations, wildlife habitat, public infrastructure, and community health. Learn more about cleaning up stormwater from the City Stormwater Division Website.

## **Streamline Bus**

Economical, efficient, eco-conscious, and fare free! Routes provide service to and from Bozeman, Belgrade, Four Corners, Livingston, and seasonal routes to Bridger Bowl. Streamline also connects with the the Skyline Bus System for travel to and from Big Sky. Track buses and find information online at streamlinebus.com or download RouteShout 2.0,

the mobile app to access this information remotely. Learn more about sustainable transportation in and around Bozeman from our "Bozeman Commuter Project" resource.

## **Recycling, Compost, and Waste Collection Services**

Numerous resources are available in the City of Bozeman to help make waste collection more sustainable. See our "Recycling in Bozeman" and "Composting" resources to learn more.









