

Draft outline for Comprehensive Energy Plan for Flathead County

This is a draft outline for discussion purposes.

1. Introduction/Purpose of This Energy Plan

The Re-Powering the Flathead group has created this Comprehensive Energy Plan to provide local units of government with a menu of options for energy-related policies that can be implemented to promote economic growth, energy independence, and tax savings through increased energy efficiency and use of alternative energy.

-Include history/background and activities of the Re-Powering group.

-Include public outreach and involvement included in the project.

-Include brief overview of economic benefits of energy planning

2. Energy Use Inventory in Flathead County

-Energy inventory for municipal and county operations

-Energy inventory for residential, commercial, and industrial sectors, i.e., “community” inventory.

-Overview of key opportunities and challenges.

3. *POSSIBLE SECTION* Overarching Goal for Plan Implementation

The Re-Power group needs to decide if the Flathead County Energy Plan will include an overarching goal or goals for the outcome of the Energy Plan.

Consistent with the group’s focus on energy efficiency and alternative energy to achieve economic development, energy independence, and tax savings, the following sets of metrics could be used to set an overarching goal:

a. Goal of a specific quantity of economic development (e.g. jobs created), energy independence (e.g., kW of energy produced locally), and tax savings achieved through energy-related policy implementation.

b. Goal of a quantity of energy usage reduced through energy efficiency improvements (measured by decrease in energy usage per building, fleet, etc.), and quantity of alternative energy produced (measured in kW) through energy-related policy implementation.

4. Energy-Related Policy Options: Costs/Benefits/Measures of Success/Ranking

-This section would include a menu of recommended energy-related policies that local units of government may implement to achieve the objectives of economic development, energy independence, and tax savings.

-This section could be organized according to the following main categories of policy options:

a. Energy efficiency policies

b. Local energy production policies

c. Land use and transportation policies

d. Public places policies

-Under each category, specific policies would be listed along with their associated costs, benefits, measures of success, recommended mechanism for implementation, and a ranking based on a criteria developed for this purpose of the importance of the policy for consideration by local units of government.

-What follows is an example of what a policy option description might look like. (The information used in this example was taken from the State of Montana Climate Change Action Plan, Appendix F. Note that most of the detail was taken out for simplicity here in the draft outline, but that it would be appropriate to include such detail in the actual Energy Plan):

Under the main category of Energy Efficiency Policies:

Example Policy Option 1: Building Energy Code Improvements

Policy Description: Building energy codes specify minimum energy efficiency requirements for new buildings. Amend local building codes to include minimum energy efficiency requirements.

Costs: (Not provided in the State plan; estimates might be available through building associations or other entities).

Benefits: Increases energy efficiency and reduces the amount of fossil fuel energy input needed to operate buildings in the area. Specific amount depends on specific code improvements; if specific numbers are proposed, it may be possible to develop estimates.

Measures of Success: Number and quality of code improvements adopted, number of buildings built under new codes and associated energy savings.

Implementation Mechanisms: Education and training, regional building permit program, code enforcement.

Ranking: This would be a ranking made by using criteria including the policy's potential cost effectiveness, feasibility, and other metrics. The purpose of the ranking would be to identify for local government officials which of the policies included in the Energy Plan are the preferred options based on their likely outcome for success.

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