

Golden Sustainability Initiative
Comments from February 28, 2007 Open House

1. Need more specific goals in transportation such as buses, mini shuttle buses like Boulder's HOP, etc., better sidewalk designing, etc.
2. This is a great idea. My thoughts are: instead of developing a four-lane highway between Boulder and Golden, why not construct an alternative method like light rail. Just a thought.
3. Work to make it easier for Golden residents to connect to existing public transportation routes connecting to outside areas – for maximum environmental impact. Especially to future light rail.
4. More Bike Routes. Bike route up Clear Creek to Blackhawk and Idaho Springs.
5. Continue to expand bike routes. Circulating bus for Golden through town and to Fast Tracks. New resident construction downtown should have parking. Solve Mines parking problems. Have “daily needs” shops in downtown Golden.
6. More pedestrian friendly, especially in the area between central Golden and Colorado Mills. Also, a more convenient set of bus routes. Perhaps a free or cheap shuttle running to Colorado Mills, central Golden and a few other high traffic areas.
7. Recycling – add recycle bins to downtown Golden. Green buildings – add list of green building ratings or Golden to create their own for new vs. existing buildings. Water – rebates to replace water fixtures – ban Kentucky Bluegrass! Transportation – shared cars and shared bikes, lower vehicle license fees for higher efficiency vehicles and increased fees for Hummers. Energy – adopt the 2030 Challenge, 50% reduction now; 60% by 2010; 100% carbon neutral by 2030. Buildings are responsible for 50% of global greenhouse gases.
8. Look at sliding scale of voluntary to mandatory measures; start on any particular issue with voluntary measures (with incentives) with a timeline that kicks in mandatory measures if timeline is exceeded.
9. Provide information to residents regarding feasible types of alternative energy, average costs, payback period, relative environmental benefits (e.g., better to do solar PV or solar hotwater?). Lean on/educate homeowners associations that ban solar panels.

10. Regarding energy derived from R.E. sources, my suggestion is to encourage Golden residents that are interested in R.E. to purchase from Golden companies (such as Solar Energy). Also, somehow offer rebates or subsidize purchasing of R.E. installations for residents. Advertise R.E.
11. Localize. Energy production (sustainable local sources to minimize transfer infrastructure) and energy transfer. More local products and food; urban agriculture and green roofs.
12. Community Energy efficiency goals:
 - a. Need to understand what percentage of current energy use is commercial vs. residential when considering overall community goal.
 - b. If bus use is >50% of total use, then %15 overall reduction puts more burden on business than residents.
 - c. Be sure to strike a reasonable balance of impact on business and residential use.
 - d. Solid waste: need to analyze what % of Golden waste is residential or commercial – many of the comments focused on residential stream, but in most communities a large percentage is commercial. Construction is often a large percent of solid waste stream –what about a construction materials exchange or mandatory waste reduction and recycling on construction enforced by building inspectors.
13. Do not forget that most Goldenites expect our city government to provide services – not to regulate our lives “for the common good” to include the rest of the world. Your responsibility is to advance personal liberty, not control what light bulbs I use.
14. We have to increase density to promote sustainable culture. It is hard to be sustainable with sprawl. Increase R1A/R3 zoning, not decrease it.
15. Buildings – require 15% of sales price of all property be used toward energy efficiency prior to the sale. Transportation – get Golden residents free/subsidized access for #17 and #16 buses within city borders. Water – eliminate use, availability of repair parts for old flow toilets.
16. The last thing a business needs is more government mandates that require time and money. Please let us concentrate on staying alive. Also, renewable energy should be a free market industry. Please do not compete with price industry in these renewable energy endeavors.
17. We work during the winter in 58 degree temperatures because it costs too much to heat. We cool with an efficient swamper. We use our lights efficiently. If you make me cut usage by 15%, you may kill me with cold or I cut off my hand with no lights.

18. One hundred dollars says the ones who suggest mandating businesses don't own a business. We do not need a general fund hardship with more subsidies.
19. Do not let the state outlaw waste oil heaters. Waste oil heaters cost \$5,000 and do help on BTU's and burn clean.
20. The web site www.natcapsolutions.org has climate info for cities. Try to be more sustainable and reduce energy.
21. Please add an energy recovery component utilizing solid waste as a fuel source.
22. Establish baselines for goals and challenge city/businesses/residents to meet sustainable goals. Keep results posted and provide information on what can be done to reach goals. Celebrate and acknowledge successes – an awards program for outstanding accomplishments.
23. Green building within two years. Reduce solid waste stream by 50% in 10 years. Reduce our energy community-wide by 25% in five years. Renewable energy community-wide 50% in five years. Total private vehicle miles 25% in five years. Water quality – I still don't enjoy drinking our water. Takes a charcoal filter system to get the chlorine taste out. Please, improve our quality. What about using the "sister city" concept, linking with Boulder? They have already done the research and have a history of implementation that could provide a baseline for others (us) to copy. Thanks, Jacob!
24. Reduce environmental impact of new and existing buildings. Check into renewable energy on a city-wide scale; as in invest in solar pv system or wind energy that the city buys for its use and also for resale to residents.
25. Green Awards for businesses and neighborhoods. Recycling centers for compact fluorescent bulbs that contain mercury. Partnerships with CSM – students working on class projects, master's theses, etc. Green commuter bus on Washington Ave. from Iowa to Colfax. Thanks for a great community forum.
26. More trees. Fix missing links in sidewalks.
27. Use this project as a way to strengthen the active bond between Golden and the underutilized resource pool available at the School of Mines – knowledgeable about just these topics.
28. For solid waste reduction goal:
 - We've lost some commercial sites that offered free drop-off recycling for particular materials (Safeway stopped taking plastic bags, for example). We need to get those back.

- Promote/educate about businesses that will recycle packing materials (Mailboxes, Etc. & the UPS store)

For Green Building goal:

- Could the city building permit process be altered to require applicants to demonstrate that they have at least considered recycled/low energy/sustainable materials for their project?

29. Golden co-op / farmer's market year round.
30. "Resource 2000" in Boulder provides a location for individuals to donate recycled materials (doors, window, cabinets, lights) from their construction projects, and requires contractors to donate such materials. Having a similar resource and program in Golden!
31. Encourage bicycling and walking in town. Better sidewalks, better paths, 1% - 3% rebate when walking/riding to local businesses.
32. Comment cards on recycled/recyclable paper! Hilary was wonderful. Thank you.
33. Thank you for organizing last night's gathering regarding sustainability in Golden. It was very encouraging to have a room full of committed residents, talking about how to make our community a better place. I had a few additional thoughts that didn't get on the lists last night. Under the waste reduction topic, "close the loop." For example, providing incentives or city policies that encourage purchasing of recycled content products. Also, consider waste to energy projects. Either small, local prototypes or larger, regional projects. Under Energy & Renewables, promote open houses (quarterly?) for homes or projects that are exemplary in the use of solar renewables. Allow neighbors to learn from neighbors.