

# Town of Snowmass Village

## Agenda Item Summary

### DATE OF MEETING:

September 20, 2021

### AGENDA ITEM:

Joint Meeting with the Environmental Advisory Board & Carbon Emission Reduction Goal Setting

### PRESENTED BY:

Environmental Advisory Board (EAB)

1. Phi Filerman, Board Chair
2. Andrew Wickes
3. Kirby Jacobs
4. Nicholas Valentino
5. Chris Tullar
6. Joseph Goodman
7. Mike Steiner

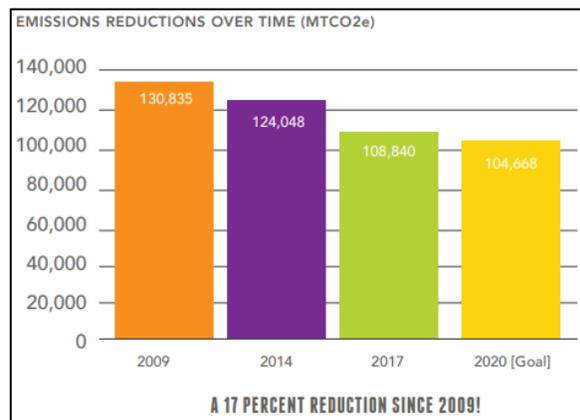
Travis Elliott, Assistant Town Manager  
Sam Guarino, Transit Supervisor

---

### BACKGROUND:

The EAB is excited to return to the Town Council for its annual update and check in on strategic priorities of the Town. In addition to having a general discussion with the Town Council, the EAB is proposing and recommending new Carbon Emission Reduction Goals for the Town Council's consideration.

The Town's previous carbon emission reduction target of 20% expired as of December 31, 2020. CORE and the various jurisdictions in the Roaring Fork Valley are working together to update our respective carbon emission inventories, and the 2020 data is expected to be ready for the Town Council to review in early 2022.



In 2017, Snowmass Village emission inventories showed a 17% reduction since 2009. The updated reports, being facilitated by CORE, will indicate whether the Town of Snowmass Village accomplished its 20% reduction goal by 2020. In the meantime, the EAB has been working diligently to determine what the Town of Snowmass Village’s next goals should aim to accomplish. After many meetings and presentations from CORE and ICLEI, the EAB recommends the Town of Snowmass Village participates in the ICLEI “Race to Zero.”

Race To Zero is a global campaign (established by the UN Climate in June 2020) to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero-carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth. The Cities Race to Zero is the local government engagement opportunity within the UN's initiative and is coordinated by city network partners, C40, Climate Mayors, Global Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI, and others. ICLEI USA is turning Cities Race to Zero into an actionable work plan for U.S. cities, towns, and counties.

The objective is to globally activate a decarbonized economy to keep atmospheric warming below 1.5°C. This global movement puts cities on track for the emissions reductions they must achieve by 2030 on the way to zero emissions by 2050. To do this effectively and equitably, communities are asked to adopt Science Based Targets (SBTs)

SBT’s are the benchmarks necessary in the Race to Zero, and they are in line with the latest climate science. SBTs are unique to each community, and they aim to meet the Paris Agreement commitment of keeping warming below 1.5°C. To achieve this goal, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that we must reduce global emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Each community’s SBT calculates their “fair share” of reduction to meet this goal. A full summary of the SBT is available in the attached ICLEI document (attachment A).

Using the Town’s population, current carbon emissions, growth rates, and other data, **ICLEI has calculated an Absolute SBT for Snowmass Village of 62.5% reduction by 2030.**

<b>2030 Outlook</b>	2030 Absolute SBT	62.5%
	Reduction Achieved (Absolute)	68.2%
	Percent To Go (Absolute)	-5.7%

In order to achieve this goal, ICLEI has also developed a series of actions for the Town to take to cut carbon emissions. These efforts will be presented in greater details at the Town Council meeting, but they are broken down in the attached High Impact Analysis for Snowmass Village (attachment B). If fully implemented, ICLEI predicts that Snowmass Village could accomplish up to a 68.2% reduction by the year 2030.

The scientific community emphasizes that the next 8 years are the most critical to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to levels that will hold global warming to the critical 1.5° Celsius threshold. These are exceptional challenges with significant, generational-scale consequences for the Roaring Fork Valley and beyond. Therefore, the EAB recommends that the Town Council adopts the SBT goal of a 62.5% reduction and pledges in the ICLEA Race to Zero.

This leadership by the Town Council will set the stage for the EAB, Town staff, and community members to work together and make a significant impact in our carbon footprint.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The immediate financial impact of adopting the EAB's recommendation is zero. However, the policies and practices that will follow to achieve this goal are expected to be significant.

The Town Council should anticipate future budget and capital project requests in support of this goal, if adopted.

#### APPLICABILITY TO COUNCIL GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

In addition to setting a new goal for the Town, this topic is directly related to the Town Council's goal of **"a continued commitment to environmental activism and resiliency."**

*The Town Council is devoted to protecting our environment and actively addressing climate change. As such, the Council will adopt an updated Sustainability Plan and actively work to implement it. As a resilient community, the Town shall remain committed to proactively protecting its assets. This requires addressing environmental, fiscal, economic, safety, and transportation topics. Efforts to improve resiliency will require strong leadership from the Town Council and efforts from the community at large. Said efforts will continue to embrace innovative approaches such as public / private partnerships, new business models, and will continue to work with existing iconic organizations. Because educational efforts and more public involvement with disaster preparedness and recovery will be critical, the Council will work to ensure broad community involvement, through HOAs and other organizations, to address specific identified hazards such as wildfires.*

*The Town Council also understands that our local economy is especially susceptible to climate change and has been heavily impacted by COVID. The Town Council will invest in COVID focused economic recovery efforts and simultaneously explore ways to improve resiliency, through strengthening the*

*internet and telecommunication services available to the community and pursue advances in technology to make the Community adaptable, resilient, and nimble to whatever the future may hold....*

#### COUNCIL OPTIONS:

1. Direct staff to prepare a resolution to adopt the EAB's Recommendation and New Carbon Emission Reduction Goals at a future meeting.
2. Decline to adopt New Carbon Emission Reduction Goals at this time, and/or continue the conversation to a later date.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Direct staff to prepare a resolution to adopt the EAB's Recommendation and New Carbon Emission Reduction Goals at a future meeting.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- A. ICLEI 150 & Race to Zero Explainer Document
- B. SBT Analysis for Snowmass Village