



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance  
(307) 733-9417 • [www.jhalliance.org](http://www.jhalliance.org)

May 28, 2010

Town of Jackson and Teton County Planning Commissions  
Cc: Town of Jackson and Teton County Planning Staffs  
Re: Theme Eight: “Energy Conservation”  
Submitted via email

Dear planning commissioners and planning staff,

On behalf of the Conservation Alliance, thank you for your attention to this memo regarding the May 7 draft of Theme Eight of the draft Comprehensive Plan. We understand that this theme, because it is new, will be reviewed differently than the other themes, and so have included the following broad, overarching comments.

*What it did well:*

1. It generally introduces many important topics into our planning process – from awareness of global climate change to concrete steps we can take on a local level and our responsibility to the larger ecosystem;
2. It focuses on ecosystem adaptation in the face of a changing climate;
3. It mentions possible changes to the ways we treat building materials and encourages “reuse, repurposing and renovation of existing buildings and building materials”;
4. It encourages non-chemical methods for cleaning our drinking water;
5. It has started a list of indicators to measure our success.

*Needs improvement/still to do:*

1. The definitions of sustainability in the Vision chapter and Theme Eight should be reconciled;
2. The field of energy efficiency and sustainable living (from building standards to waste reduction and disposal) is constantly evolving and advancing. A mention of a commitment to keeping up with technological advances would strengthen the theme in the long run;
3. The timeline for implementation of some of the larger strategies can end up being quite protracted. In the interim, it would be appropriate to pursue some “low-hanging fruit” strategies, such as supporting existing groups and energy conservation efforts, adopting an idle-free ordinance and continuing the legacy of the 10X10 initiative;
4. When discussing disposal of waste, it is also important to discuss waste reduction strategies;
5. Looking forward, the plan could benefit from a policy committing to exploring economically feasible ways to expand the diversity of items that can be recycled locally;
6. As with most of the other indicators throughout the plan, there is no baseline data included in the plan yet. We cannot measure reductions or increases without knowing the starting points. We need to set concrete and measurable goals;
7. Lastly, clarification of the role of this theme in relation to the others would be helpful. One of the original intents of this planning process was to weave the concept of sustainability throughout the plan. But, seemingly in an effort to give “sustainability” a broader and more prevalent role in the plan, planning commissioners voted to give it its own chapter. Even so, sustainability and energy conservation should play a role in this plan that is slightly different than that of the other themes. It should continue to be woven throughout the rest of the themes, even if it is merely

through additional references to other topics. Regardless of the exact form of this theme, it would be beneficial to discuss its role.

We would like to reiterate that we appreciate the inclusion of this theme into the overall plan. It encompasses some very valuable and forward-thinking concepts and is an excellent addition to the plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristy Bruner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Kristy Bruner  
Community Planning Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Tillson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Becky Tillson  
Community Planning Associate