

Minutes for Greater Middlebury Climate Initiative Ag Task Force meeting, Monday, Feb. 26, 2018–  
Attendees: Ashar, Barrie, Ross, Steve M., Jon, Barnaby

1) Review of Process discussion from previous meeting and the Why Do We Exist statements drafted by Ashar based on input from, Letitia and Jon. Ashar said that it was the judgment of the previous meeting that we shouldn't work on specific ideas like the LEED analog standards until these guiding principles are clarified.

a) Task Force Vision discussion – recommended to scratch “desired outcome” language; discussion of how to qualify/define the concept of resilience; recommendation to substitute “entire” for “local” community. Ashar expressed confidence that he now had enough feedback to fine tune.

b) Task Force Mission statement will be revised to use language like “encourage those innovative agriculture and forestry practices that promote progress toward carbon sequestration, ecological diversity and food security.” A second point, possibly to be broken out as a second sentence, will focus on encouraging Addison County residents to buy food grown locally using the practices spotlighted in the first section. An important conclusion was that while there conceivably could be a positive climate effect for favoring some locally grown food using “conventional” methods over more climate-sensitive products that have to be shipped long distances, we really wanted to emphasize building demand for farmers on board with our goals in the first section.

c) Strategic Drivers – The consensus was to move away from some of the “Educate” language to terms that sounded less know-it-all. Some suggestions included: “hone” our research: share information with consumers and producers; design and popularize measurement and verification tools showing progress (or lack thereof) toward fulfilling our vision and mission; “spotlight” disincentives and “develop” incentives; be prepared to address legislation and regulation where relevant; pay attention to communicating clearly, which may frequently start with listening deeply to what various stakeholders are saying and understanding what the terms mean to them.

d) Core Values – substantial discussion about how best to express the need to act with some urgency as encompassed in Ashar's use of “speedy” – concern that it's too close to hasty which can lead to damaging mistakes. Ashar asked for other values not named in his draft. He will incorporate some of these into the next iteration of this document.

- 2) The second major element of the meeting was to identify who else is “in this space” and what they are doing. Ashar provided a draft list of some names and what we want to know about them. The draft list of names was enlarged and what we want to know wordsmithed. The result is attached (I have added some clarification as I understand it in parenthesis from what Ashar sent me and the Hunger Council, along with my name to fill that one in). It is our hope/expectation that participants in our group who did not attend the meeting will sign up for some the unclaimed groups.
- 3) Minute taking will rotate. Ross is doing it at the next meeting, March 12.
- 4) Adjourned at 8 pm, right on schedule.

Please let me know if anything needs to be corrected.... Rev. Barnaby