

# Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Agenda



**Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

**Pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy, the meeting will be conducted both in person and via a virtual meeting portal. Members of the public may attend in person at the Community Center, located at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado 81432, or virtually using the meeting information below.**

## **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89240960504?pwd=PFAR1Os2rl6aR30rC3VymfTAwaO4aX.1>

Meeting ID: 892 4096 0504

Passcode: 800345

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 312 626 6799 US

**5:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL** Dana Ivers, Dave Jones, David Kehmeier, Kristina Lemon, Sheridan Ribbing, Terry Schuyler

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Review of SAB Communication Slides
2. Discussion re SAB events in 2026
3. Discussion re Engine Idling Fact Sheet
4. Update on Local Implementation, Mitigation, and Policy Action (Local IMPACT) Accelerator Grant Award
5. Discussion re other work plan items
6. Approval of minutes from the January 6, 2026 meeting

## **ADJOURNMENT**

## AGENDA ITEM #1

## Decker Room Microgrid

- Officially titled the Microgrid for Community Resilience project
  - 4.8 kW solar array with battery storage capable of powering the Decker Room for up to 1.5 days
- Designed and installed by Alternate Power Enterprise
- Made possible through a Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Microgrid for Community Resilience grant

## New Energy Codes for Colorado (LECC)

- Colorado adopted an update to the IECC energy codes, which is common for each state to do every few years. However, Colorado took the 2024 IECC a step further and adopted a Model Low Energy and Carbon Code (MLECC)
  - Energy codes are a minimum building code and energy standard for new construction and major renovations, including both residential and commercial properties
- EcoAction Partners is helping to socialize this new code throughout the region, which go into effect July 2026
  - Ridgway is adopting this stretch code
    - (stretch codes are optional, more stringent energy efficiency building codes that exceed minimum requirements of a state's base energy code)

## Idle Ordinance

- Drafted for a first reading at the December 2025 Town Meeting
- Promotes clean air free of harmful chemicals, gases, and particle pollution
- Restricts idling to 2 minutes within a 1-hour time period
- January 2026: Currently being revised by SAB after citizens expressed concerns over idling in their driveways and older diesel trucks needing to idle
  - SAB will add these exceptions to the ordinance to be reread at the next Town Council Meeting January 2025
    - The ordinance was read again and addressed, but the Town Council found that it was unenforceable so SAB will now rewrite the ordinance for “idle-free zones” instead as recommended by Bo

## Work we are doing this year, 2026

- SAB will finish it's fossil fuel inventory of town's municipal buildings and activities, which will inform SAB's roadmap for the Net Zero 2030 objective passed last year
- Working with the town and community to adopt the all-electric code amendments to the LECC
- Work with town to implement a zero waste policy for vendors
- Continuing to host and join events, furthering SAB's outreach so that we can get feedback and ideas from all citizens
- Continue looking into a subsidized / free composting option for Ridgway residents who do not compost at their homes
- Continue looking into incentives and ways that the town can encourage landscape water conservation and building community soil health
- Look into artistic and innovative solar options for the town to utilize

## Work SAB did in 2025

- February, SAB revamped its website
- April, SAB passed a resolution committing the town to achieve net-zero carbon emissions for all municipal operations by 2030.
  - This is different from the new energy codes that Colorado passed in 2025 and which take effect in 2026
- August, SAB hosted its 3rd annual EV ride and drive with partners like SMPA, CLEER, DOLA
- September, SAB and partners hosted Microgrid Ribbon Cutting at Decker Room
- October, Terry Schuyler of SAB and Town Council and Town Mayor, John Clark, attended the Mountain Towns 2030 and received two awards
  - Small Towns Doing Big Things (town received)
  - Individual Catalyst (mayor received)
- December, worked to get a first draft of Ridgway's Idle Ordinance a first reading at the town meeting (Currently revising for January '26 re-read)

## Impact grant and where money is going

- In 2025 EcoAction Partners applied for the Colorado Energy Office's Local IMPACT Accelerator Grant on behalf of Ridgway.
  - There were three tiers of grant money that could be awarded and EAP worked with the SAB to figure out how money would be spent for each tier
- In early 2026 the Ridgway was awarded the middle tier! What does this mean for Ridgway and SAB's work?
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## How much money the town spends on SAB / Sustainability

- 2025
  - \$200 on printed assets?
- 2026
  - Matching for the IMPACT grant award

## Festival and Event Waste Reduction

- SAB members wish to continue making Ridgway festivals more sustainable / waste free this year (2026). The town currently asks vendors to not use plastic plates and cutlery, but SAB has outlined more action items to combat plastic waste
  - Develop a “Zero Waste Policy” for the Town to Adopt
  - Provide the policy to vendor and require them to sign a contract
  - Eliminate the use of plastics at Ridgway festivals and events
  - Require vendors to use compostable materials
  - Encourage the use of reusable cups at Ridgway festivals and events
  - Provide reusable/commemorative cups
  - Streamline the recycling/monitoring process; pilot at the Ridgway Summer music festival

## AGENDA ITEM #3

## Engine Idling

The Town of Ridgway requires drivers to turn off their vehicles when parked in posted No-Idling Zones, and urges drivers to turn them off when parked on public property or rights-of-way within town limits.

***Here's what you should know about engine idling:***

**Engine Idling is bad for the environment**

Researchers estimate that idling from heavy-duty and light-duty vehicles combined wastes about 6 billion gallons of fuel annually, generating around 60 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> every year just by idling. Eliminating the unnecessary idling of personal vehicles would be the same as taking 5 million vehicles off the roads. – *U.S. Department of Energy*

**Engine idling is harmful to public health**

Idling engines, especially diesel ones, release a toxic brew of pollutants, particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and volatile organic compound (VOCs) that contribute to chronic lung disease, increase the risk of strokes and heart attacks, and lead to cancer. Children are particularly vulnerable. Engines release more pollutants when idling than driving, due to incomplete combustion. Exposure to pollutants during idling is much higher inside a vehicle than outside because the ventilation system draws in its own stationary exhaust.

**You do not need to idle your vehicle to warm up its engine**

Unlike older vehicles with carburetors, modern fuel-injected engines automatically compensate for ambient temperature. Drive gently for the first few minutes. The engine warms up faster and more efficiently under load than while idling. The interior warms up (or cools down with the air conditioner) much faster also.

**Idling is hard on the engine and other vehicle systems**

Combustion is incomplete at low RPMs, leaving carbon deposits on cylinders and sparkplugs. Unburned fuel can leak into and dilute the engine oil, contributing to engine wear and tear and requiring more frequent oil changes. Water vapor from combustions condenses in cool exhaust systems, causing corrosion.

**It won't harm your vehicle's engine to turn it on and off to avoid idling**

Studies show that starting and stopping your vehicle's engine once it has warmed up has little impact on the engine components, including the battery and starter motor. Many newer vehicles come with stop-start technology that automatically stops the engine when the vehicle is stationary and starts it when the brake is released.

**Restarting your vehicle's engine does not burn excessive fuel**

Starting the engine uses very little gasoline in modern engines – generally less than what is consumed in 10 seconds of idling. If you're stopped for more than 10 seconds, you'll save fuel and money by turning off your engine and restarting it when you are ready to resume driving.



### **References**

- [https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/idling\\_personal\\_vehicles.pdf](https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/idling_personal_vehicles.pdf)
- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-fact-sheet-engine-idling-impacts-on-your-health-the-environment/download>
- <https://driveautocare.com/blog/does-turning-off-the-engine-save-more-fuel-than-idling>
- <https://deq.utah.gov/air-quality/health-effects-be-idle-free>
- <https://deq.utah.gov/air-quality/some-common-myths-be-idle-free>



## AGENDA ITEM #5

## SAB 2026 WORK PLAN

Work Item	Description	Lead	Goals
Net-Zero 2030	Assist the Town with evaluating, planning and implementing projects intended to advance the Town's commitment and goal to achieve net-zero carbon emissions for all municipal operations by 2030.	Dave K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finish fossil fuel inventory</li> <li>• Update roadmap</li> <li>• Complete the following pilot projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Replace 2 string trimmers with electric</li> <li>○ Replace 1 riding mower with electric</li> <li>○ Replace 1 Pub Works pickup with EV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town Council agreed on PHEV and this is included in town budget already</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Replace 1 heating system with Cold Climate Heat Pump</li> <li>○ Replace 1 water heater with Heat Pump Water Heater</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Local IMPACT Accelerator Grant	Assist the Town, as needed, with planning and implementing the tasks in the Local IMPACT Accelerator Grant, if awarded.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD; announcing awards mid-December</li> <li>• Goal of IMPACT grant is Net-Zero 2030, so will cover above first</li> </ul>
Town and Community Electrification	Encourage the Town to adopt a requirement for all new construction to be all-electric and assist with public outreach and education associated with that initiative.	Dave J	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research the impacts (positive and negative) of all-electric building codes and develop fact sheet for education and outreach.</li> <li>• Develop fact sheet with economics for all-electric construction to use for education and outreach</li> <li>• Conduct education and outreach for all-electric residential building.</li> <li>• Consider holding a Brats and Kilowatts event with SMPA to encourage town residents sign up for Totally Green</li> </ul>
Event and Festival Waste Reduction	Develop and propose a "zero waste" policy to be adopted by the Town that would apply to all events and festivals, and work with organizers and vendors to ensure that	Dave K/ Dana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create <u>zero waste policy</u> and distribute to event organizers and vendors; <b>require vendors to use compostable materials</b></li> <li>• Simplify and improve trash/compost/recycling monitoring and collection at major events.</li> <li>• <b>Eliminate</b> the use of plastics.</li> <li>• Encourage/ <b>require</b> the use of reusable aluminum cups.</li> </ul>

	they adhere to the requirements and guidelines in said policy to maximize composting and recycling.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Investigate the sale of reusable, commemorative cups.</li> <li>● Use the Ridgway Concert Series to pilot these solutions.</li> </ul>
Sustainability Outreach and Education	Sponsor or co-sponsor events to educate the local community on sustainability issues including electrification, composting, and water conservation.	Sheridan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sponsor or co-sponsor a minimum of 3 outreach/education events.</li> <li>● Invest in permanent marketing assets for outreach and education events.</li> <li>● Have a booth at the EV Ride and Drive Event that focuses on electrification.</li> <li>● Sustainability/Electric Home Open House event</li> </ul>
Residential Composting	Encourage residential composting through outreach, education, and community-wide composting solutions.	Sheridan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Investigate a community-wide free compost pickup solution.</li> <li>● Investigate subsidizing backyard composting equipment.</li> <li>● Include composting equipment/demos in SAB outreach and education events.</li> </ul>
Water Conservation and Soil Health	Encourage landscape water conservation and work to improve community soil health through outreach and incentives.	Kristina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Investigate incentives residential and business xeriscape/waterwise incentive programs.</li> <li>● Create a xeriscape demonstration installation.</li> <li>● Investigate residential soil health initiatives.</li> </ul>
Renewable Energy	Encourage the Town and community to install innovative solar options that add artistic, inspirational and sculptural accents.	Kristina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research in 2026</li> </ul>



## AGENDA ITEM #6



# Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

## January 6, 2026

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### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) members present were David Kehmeier, Sheridan Ribbing, Dave Jones, Dana Ivers, and Terry Schuyler. Kristina Lemon was absent. Preston Neill, Leigh Robertson, and Lia Salvatierra were also present.

### 2. Discussion Regarding Ordinance No. 04-2025 Amending Chapter 15 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Concerning Vehicle Idling Restrictions

It was recommended to have the ordinance only apply to public right of ways (mention after “any stationary motor vehicle”) and leave the idling time at 2 minutes. The SAB could explain the intent of the ordinance on their webpage and encourage people to follow the recommendations on private property. SAB will include a summary of this conversation at the Town Council meeting.

### 3. Update on Application to Local Implementation, Mitigation, and Policy Action (Local IMPACT) Accelerator Grant Program

Preston said the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) intends to award the Town \$1.34 million. Keep that on the down-low until there’s a contract in place and CEO makes an announcement. The CEO wants comments on the draft statement of work and new budget template by Friday. We’ll ask for an extension. Please provide comments to Preston.

We’ll need to see what’s feasible in 2026 and beyond. There are currently no matching funds in the 2026 budget.

Terry said the contract will probably be in place by May. Maybe just fund tasks 1 and 2 in 2026. It’s a 95% reimbursement grant. David said we might want to front-load Net Zero demonstration projects.

### 4. Discussion of Fee Schedule for Charging Station

Preston mentioned that the Town Council wants users to be charged for the electricity they’re consuming. The suggested rates are what’s being charged by SMPA. It was mentioned that the Town is paying \$0.01/kWh for renewable energy, so they suggest that the lower rate should be \$0.12/kWh and the higher rate should be \$0.26/kWh.

Terry suggested we should publicize (have a sign on the charger) that the electricity is powered by 100% renewable energy.

### 5. Proposals for Advancing 2026 Work Plan Items

Since Kristina isn’t present, this was postponed until the next meeting.

### 6. Discussion and Preparation for the Update to the Ridgway Town Council on January 14, 2026

Agenda and packet materials will go out this Friday. Sheridan will do the presentation. David thinks it should be mainly on the 2026 work plan and touch on the idling ordinance. David will send last year’s PowerPoint presentation to Sheridan. Sheridan will create a presentation in Google Slides and share it with Preston.

### 7. Discussion Regarding SAB Membership Vacancy

SAB members reach out to your friends. Let’s make a flyer. Sheridan’s friend might be interested. Note: the Town has extended the submittal deadline for a letter of interest until 4pm on Feb. 3, 2026.

### 8. Other Items

Reusable Cups: The Town has cups in the crawl space that have logos on them. If we need to buy

more, it takes 2 months to get a logo on the cups. FYI: the Town is getting logo stickers / decals. Twelve-ounce cups are probably big enough.

Publicity, Education & Mountain Towns 2030: Let's put a MT2030 item on the Town's website carousel about the award. David will work with Leigh on that. Could also have info in the Town's e-newsletter. Maybe have SAB info in the Town's newsletter monthly or quarterly, e.g., counter misinformation about electrification. Preston said it has to be objective information, and staff would have to proof it. Also, Terry thinks the SAB should have more involvement in MT2030; the Town has 1 seat on their advisory board.

Changes to SAB Web Page: Delete all Federal rebates except the one for a home EV charger. The SMPA heat pump rebate info isn't correct—see SMPA page for details.

EV Chargers: Let's pull utilization info from the current charger. Leigh will check with Julie on getting that. Preston mentioned that the county is working with Daniel at Helios about getting Level 3 chargers at the 4H Center.

#### **9. Minutes from the December 2, 2025 meeting**

Terry made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2025 meeting. Dana seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously by members present.

# Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

## October 7, 2025

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### 10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 6:22 p.m.