City of Hailey Mayor's 2020 Resiliency Initiative

In response to the overwhelming public demand for greater attention to our climate change and resiliency issues, the City of Hailey's new mayor, Martha Burke, will embark on an ambitious and impactful new approach to the City's commitment to tackling these problems.

In order to facilitate decision-making and streamline implementation, the Mayor will appoint an internal working committee made up of City department heads (Administration, Community Development, Library, Public Works, Fire and Police), in addition to the City's resiliency coordinator. This team will be tasked with setting ambitious, but achievable, climate action/resiliency goals and actions for implementation.

Creation of an in-house team of "resiliency champions", each armed with full knowledge of their City department's inner workings, will help to inject the climate change/resiliency discussion into every decision and action that the City considers and undertakes. This will help ensure that climate change/resiliency is considered in every cost/benefit analysis undertaken, be it budgeting, purchasing, policy and/or personnel issues.

A representative of the City team will interface on a to-be-determined schedule and an as-needed basis with applicable outside agencies and organizations to ensure cross-pollination of ideas and coordinated actions and results. For example, the team representative will plan to interface with the grassroots Hailey Climate Action Committee on a bi-monthly basis to share ideas and action plans.

Possible near-term City actions include:

- Setting City resiliency goals to achieve carbon neutrality, along with energy, water and waste efficiencies, in the municipal government and the community at large. These will build on earlier successful projects, such as the 15% by 2015 plan to reduce greenhouse gas emission in City facilities;
- Incorporating as much resiliency as possible (energy, resource and water efficiency, minimal
 greenhouse gas emissions, durability, etc.) into new capital projects, including the upcoming relocation
 of the Forest Service warehouse building to McKercher Park and development of the new Town
 Square;
- Implementing substantial water efficiency in Parks Department irrigation and park maintenance procedures;
- Completing free Idaho Office of Energy Management and Mineral Resources facility energy audits and implementing energy efficiency upgrades with grant assistance from that office;
- Implement City policies to require resiliency consideration in all City decision-making processes;
- Install an electric vehicle charger to serve the community;
- Research funding possibilities for installation of solar PV at City facilities;
- Enact progressive new codes that move the entire community towards the to be adopted resiliency goals;
- Enforce and provide educational outreach to ensure that existing City code is being implemented;
- Participate in the ICLEI Sustainable Cities grant to benchmark existing greenhouse gas production in Blaine County (because if you can't measure it, you can't manage it); and
- Communicate, through the City's website, the Our Town newsletter and other medium, about upcoming City and community actions, successes and challenges.

With this approach, the Mayor hopes to create a culture of climate change/resiliency awareness that pervades the entire City government structure, resulting in a comprehensive, coordinated and effective approach to these important issues of our time.