

2023 Expo Helena - "Moving the Needle" Group Brainstorm Session - Compilation Notes



Topic	Opportunities/Solutions	Challenges	Who is not yet at the table?	What resources could support finding solutions?
<b>RENEWABLE ENERGY &amp; CONSERVATION</b>	<p>1. Combining food &amp; fuel (ex. biodiesel &amp; Fry oil, hubs for reuse). Ag implementation. Fuel Security</p> <p>2. Distributed energy generation increase</p> <p>3. Tribal workforce development for solar and tribal valve aligned living spaces.</p> <p>4. Passive solar and efficient building principles.</p> <p>5. expand non-technical geothermal, heat exchangers, animals +residential</p> <p>6. agrisolar, more small-scale wind, greywater re-use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- microgrids expansion/neighborhood resilience</li> <li>-methane capture, methane leaks</li> <li>- EDUCATION</li> <li>- encourage philanthropy</li> <li>- education re: "regenerative"/ how to tap interest, expand?</li> <li>- Being neighborly &amp; getting to know each other; Gatherings e.g., "Ocotoberfest" to build community, share resources</li> <li>- Create shared spaces to congregate(e.g., walking mall,pocket parks, free library</li> <li>- Capitalize on existing structures and orgs (book clubs)</li> <li>- New friends - more!</li> <li>- Better optimization of what we already have</li> <li>- Passive solar and other low-cost changes</li> </ul>	<p>1. fry oil conversion. Conventional fry oil tax. (\$5-6K conversion cost/engine); combustion impacts; establishing the market; justifying the cost.</p> <p>2. smart design building costs. Interest of companies part of current utility scale energy generation is lacking.</p> <p>3. Small operations pushed out of decision-making. Corporate control.</p> <p>4. Corporate control.</p> <p>5. catching up with battery technology/charging technology for farm + ranch implementation.</p> <p>6. large electric utilities want to build, build, build.</p>	<p>1. fry-house buy-in; legislature; large scale conventional users; Billings buyers?</p> <p>2.builders, developers</p> <p>3. next generation of the RE workforce</p> <p>4. renters; restaurant owners.</p> <p>5. Low income housing entities and HUD contractors</p> <p>6. early adopters? indigenous wisdom + architecture from history</p>	<p>1. Ranchers/farmers already using biodiesel. Used oil buyers currently. Red Cloud Renewables. DOL. Micro-credentialing</p> <p>2. communication with farmers ranchers on cost, rollout, and feasibility. Hands on tools for solar, wind, microgrid, and electrification more broadly.</p> <p>3. AMPLIFY good examples! Russian fireplaces, Norway composting, methane capture, thermal radiation heat. Cob building (clay, straw, waters... strawbale.) Rocket stove. Compost toilets &amp; heat capture.</p> <p>4. sage mountain center</p> <p>5. Spirit wood natural building</p> <p>6. policy support (local, state &amp; fed)</p>
<b>FOOD ACCESS</b>	<p>1. Food Hubs</p> <p>2. Changes like non-congregate feeding waivers for summer meals</p> <p>3. More collaboration. Expand statewide connections beyond western MT</p> <p>4. DSD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can we inform other entities doing community needs assessment?</li> <li>- Abundant Food Coordinators</li> <li>- ALSO: non-policy state level regulation solutions. Make a list of these options, understanding the opportunities</li> <li>- TRUST among collaborators</li> <li>- supporting Montana constitution BEFORE 2029</li> <li>- Advocacy for REGIONAL solutions</li> <li>- Healthy food finance Initiative. DPHHS to create eligibility map</li> <li>- RFSI resilient food system initiative</li> <li>- small scale meat processing coops</li> </ul>	<p>1. Availability of producers &amp; growers</p> <p>2.Policy</p> <p>2. Transportation. - Delivery of Goods; client access/food deserts</p> <p>4. Cost &amp; inflation of food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- STIGMA/inviability of food insecurity</li> <li>- Benefits cliff</li> <li>- SNAP eligibility</li> <li>- capacity &amp; money: funding/staffing</li> <li>- storage &amp; infrastructure: refrigeration, storage space,commercial kitchens</li> <li>- Including people who aren't at the table</li> <li>- lack of mental health care</li> <li>- local political representatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- local political representatives</li> <li>- dietetic interns/registered dieticians</li> <li>- mental healthcare professionals/ACE's experts</li> <li>- food policy experts (someone with shared language w/ legislation)</li> <li>- the MT Association of Counties</li> <li>- Tribal &amp; Reservation Initiatives</li> <li>- Healthcare Institutions/Foundations</li> <li>- Financial Institutions</li> <li>- Food service directors</li> <li>- Advisory Boards of folks w/ lived experience</li> <li>- artists to share/motivate/engage</li> <li>- Funders/foundations: MT healthcare foundations; Headwaters;HOPA</li> <li>- Stock growers/grain growers</li> <li>- suerintendents/school boards/principals/school nurses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shared capacity or advocacy: AMT LFCs/CFAC/MFBN/MT-PECH</li> <li>- Building nonprofit/organizational structure to support staff members to engage in statewide advocacy. EX: staff receiving flexibility/leave if running for legislative office</li> <li>- re: artists to share/engage/motivate: Revival of the New Western Energy Show!</li> <li>- Value-added processing centers</li> <li>- Multi-year training programs for food access organizations</li> <li>- Creating a group effort/list of opportunities that are non-legislative, statewide policy advocact</li> <li>- Shared, stable funding that is shared across food access organizations</li> <li>- MT PECH</li> <li>- Mental healthcare professionals in food access spaces</li> </ul>
<b>POLICY/MT FOOD SYSTEM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSA Partnerships</li> <li>- Identity Preservation Processing</li> <li>- Regional/Local food supply chain</li> <li>- Embracing State Regionality</li> <li>- FADC Network / conferences</li> <li>- Celebrating the success that we've made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Power</li> <li>- Distribution</li> <li>- Creating Sustainable Supply Chain</li> <li>- Funding-&gt;Producer-&gt;Consumer</li> <li>- Advocacy - Resource Network: research metrics/need a baseline to work from</li> <li>- Capacity: does everyone know thre is a table?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Producers</li> <li>- MSU Extension / master gardeners</li> <li>- Community Health Professionals</li> <li>- Policy makers</li> <li>- food service directors - all industries</li> <li>- military veterans</li> <li>- Indigenous food sovereignty directors</li> <li>- Broadliners (Sysco, etc)</li> <li>- Montana health professionals for a healthy climate/Lori Byron.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Canada Farmers Union doc - imagine if we had a fossil-fuel free food system</li> <li>- farm to school listening sessions across the state</li> <li>- other states' examples</li> <li>- market/advertising campaign</li> <li>- explain the WHY</li> <li>- take advantage of funding</li> <li>- mentoring networks</li> </ul>
<b>LAND USE &amp; COMMUNITY DESIGN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statewide conference to address incentives for developers -&gt; Fall 2024</li> <li>- professional licensure for developers (code of ethics)</li> <li>- make it possible for young, local, small-scale builders to do infill housing</li> <li>- HOAs to incentive edible or drought tolerant plantings in new developments.-&gt; other sustainable strategies: backyard chickens; clotheslines</li> <li>- making communities more lightly integrated - more complex, more people to tale, more interconnectedness</li> <li>- creating more avenues for pre-emptive community engagement in policy decisions</li> <li>- university creating a template for sustainable growth/affordable housing</li> <li>- food mapping assessment</li> <li>- community land trust involvement in sustainable development</li> <li>- evaluate any doors that are opened by county pushback against the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BAD POLICY: no way to incentive sustainable development</li> <li>- make development/zoing/conversations more accessible. Make it possible for diverse voices to show up.</li> <li>- lack of upstream public comment and community engagement</li> <li>- funding, staffing capacity</li> <li>- AFFORDABILITY</li> <li>- public education that is accessible to the layperson</li> <li>- university systems lack of participation in solving or providign affordable housing solutions. -&gt; POWER not being wielded in an effective way.</li> <li>- Tension between housing needs and sustainable resource management (dissounance between climate plan initiatives)</li> <li>- Policy preenting additional taxation on 2nd, 3rd homeowners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- young builders</li> <li>- opponents to infill zoning</li> <li>- HOAs</li> <li>- all developers</li> <li>- representatives/people with the lived experience from low income communities (without further time demands)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identifying cities with sustainable strategies to address affordable housing, ie. "Model cities"</li> <li>- gather what's good that is happening around the state</li> <li>- database of sustainable cities; also cities with development models to avoid</li> <li>- supporting under-resourced/non-growing communities (at the state level) organization to identify small, welcoming communities</li> <li>- processing facilities for local producers</li> <li>- make MT-made products not a luxury, but a norm</li> <li>- deeper study of unsold, locally produced food ; alternative/informal ood economy</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- backyard gardening to optimize land/food production</li> <li>- agrihoods + micro-agrihoods</li> <li>- sharing abundance - resources, time, space, skills, \$, ...</li> <li>- rethink HOAs</li> <li>- neighborhood - collaboration, sharing &amp; building community, relationships</li> <li>- infill opportunities, esp. downtown</li> <li>- increases community engagement (ie. neighborhoods, towns, communities)</li> <li>- POLITICS: encourage people to run bi-partisan opps</li> <li>- Good governance is good for business, community, etc</li> <li>- Changing demographic (age, energy, ideas), xeroscape, energy, pollinators,...</li> <li>- Large home lots + ADU = partners w/old, young +income</li> <li>- Redesign suburbia, towns - lawns, ees, chickens, rabbits,...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Single family building lots</li> <li>- Elected officials limited &amp; not representatives of community e.g., 3 co, comm</li> <li>- Reactive vs proactive</li> <li>- How to organize - and engage communities early</li> <li>- Resistance to change</li> <li>- Back of time</li> <li>- Affordable housing</li> <li>- HOA restrictions</li> <li>- POLITICS</li> <li>- Inequalities</li> <li>- Social isolation</li> <li>- existing ordinances re: veg. housing, etc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hunters (today is opening day - rifle)</li> <li>- MT Assoc of Realtors</li> <li>- Local Gov'ts, esp City Planners</li> <li>- L-income, young families</li> <li>- Workers (daytime mtgs., etc)</li> <li>- "Rich Californians"</li> <li>- Urban forestry opps &amp; bee lawns</li> <li>- Incentives to redo lawns w/low water, ...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- retrosuburbia</li> <li>- Beau of the 5th - You Tube - community building res</li> <li>- Transition Towns (Streets,...)</li> <li>- Reurbia (retool website for future)</li> <li>- "Next door: app. &amp; networking</li> <li>- careful use of apps</li> <li>- "Meet Up" app</li> <li>- Nature's Best Hope (search your zip code for spp.)HOMgrown Nat'l Park</li> <li>- IRA \$ -&gt; clean energy, ...</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farm to school: nutrition ed + local food</li> <li>- more local markets</li> <li>- partnerships w/transportation</li> <li>- community fridges</li> <li>- hospitals + food prescriptions</li> <li>- individualized food boxes, CSA boxes</li> <li>- omunity cooking classes</li> <li>- build community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- food not being accessible to everyone in the community -&gt; TRANSPORTATION</li> <li>- figuring out who needs food security assistance withoug making them feel stigmatized</li> <li>- identifying communities + individualized needs -&gt; how to engage the community + give them the tools</li> <li>- water security</li> <li>- processing facilities + labor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- people of color. GEN 2 + future</li> <li>- producers (principal operators, etc.)</li> <li>- people with lived experiences</li> <li>- new farmers, new producers</li> <li>- insurance companies</li> <li>- politicians, policy makers, city counselors, county commissioners</li> <li>- distributors + processors</li> <li>- more MT Farmers Union involvement? -&gt; how do we get these tables to overlap?</li> <li>[what tables need to collaborate?]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- community needs assessment</li> <li>- interpersonal connections</li> <li>- food affordability programs</li> <li>- money, equipment, labor</li> <li>- shifted focus, vaues shift</li> <li>- capacity of collective consciousness</li> </ul>
<b>FARMLAND PRESERVATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Orchards in cemeteries; farmland creation</li> <li>- defining Regen Ag</li> <li>- Balanced use of lands: ag, recreational, esthetic</li> <li>- covid + food insecurity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- non-ag use of land increasing/ag use of land decreasing</li> <li>- corporate buy outs of ag land</li> <li>- non-use of ag land as conservation</li> <li>- farmers ranchers not being heard by environmentalists, public - devalued?</li> <li>- farmland creation over conservation and/or regeneration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- people who don't care about food sourcing</li> <li>- philanthropists, funders</li> <li>- capitalists, private investors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- find common ground - unifying principles</li> </ul>
<b>BUILDING DEMAND FOR LOCAL FOOD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- indigenous-grown certifications (UN FAO)</li> <li>- EDUCATION: why it's important/explaining challenges: seasonal recipes/Point of Sale</li> <li>- Institutional buyers: individual buyers aren't paying; chaing procurement RFPs (good food purchasing)</li> <li>- tech to extend growing season in MT</li> <li>- local meal kits</li> <li>- can it NOT always be altruistic? Just competitive?</li> <li>- Why DO people buy local?</li> <li>----- community that is self-sustaining (keeping inputs and outputs all local; circular system) &amp; pulls together</li> <li>----- supporting neighbors (community + food economy impact); connection - MT pride</li> <li>----- economics: rural/MT vitality</li> <li>----- supporting stewardship values &amp; practices</li> <li>----- health: of land, human body</li> <li>- increase value added products/CPGs</li> <li>- using AMT platform to promote recipes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- convenience - buying local requires more energy sometimes!</li> <li>- Time to prepare</li> <li>- price</li> <li>- regulatory environment for local procurement @ retail scale</li> <li>- federal subsidies</li> <li>- seasonal / diet changes</li> <li>- how do we reach our MT consumers? (re: education): AMT can help; using volunteers + local libraries</li> <li>- farmers/producers marketing their products - too many hats/skills!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what tables exist and need to be made?</li> <li>- how do we meet people where they are? -&gt; not making people wrong w/ shame; NO ONE is perfect; it's NOT all or nothing</li> <li>- consumers [how do we get more specific?]: most people buy food @ WALMART (USA and MT)</li> <li>- traditional financiers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- monetary incentives to grow/buy/keep products local: (OR: for producers/biz easy &amp; comparable local v. national/global market choice)</li> <li>- aggregation: distributors, grocery, processing</li> <li>- in-state manufacturing processing</li> <li>- faster, better, clearer flow of info among whole food web</li> <li>- making education classes (nutrition, cooking classes, etc) economically viable for private biz (vs. only reaching certain \$ demographic)</li> <li>- traditional financing -&gt; esp. for VAP/CPGs (preserved goods)</li> </ul>