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Contact: rschepper@co.routt.co.us

Routt County Asks Community to Participate in Survey to Help Create Climate Action Plan

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS -- Routt County, the City of Steamboat Springs, and other partners, including the Steamboat Springs Chamber, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, and the Towns of Hayden, Oak Creek, and Yampa, have embarked on a process to develop the first Climate Action Plan for the Routt County community. The partners ask community members to take part in the [community survey](#).

The goal of this work is to identify the top strategies and actions that the community can pursue in order to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously making our community more resilient to climate impacts and ensuring the long-term vibrancy of Routt County. Community input is essential.

“As we look to the future of Routt County, we know that any efforts to plan for the future must involve a Climate Action Plan for Routt County. We are excited about the partnership among the county, the municipalities of Hayden, Steamboat Springs, Oak Creek and Yampa, and the support of the Steamboat Springs Chamber and the Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp. Everyone has a role to play in ensuring that we plan for the future and protect the quality of our land, our air, our water, our wildlife and ourselves. The character, history and economic vitality of Routt County depend on a healthy environment. We encourage the public to participate in the Climate Action plan survey and we look forward to the development of a strategic and realistic plan for our future,” said the Routt County Board of Commissioners in a joint statement.

The Climate Action Plan is being developed with the input of a wide number of community partners, including the business community, the agricultural and conservation community, and many organizations supporting community outreach, education, and advocacy work. Routt County’s priority is



to create a Climate Action Plan that is impactful, meaningful, relevant, and realistic for all of Routt County.

“There has been significant momentum across the county to build upon the current sustainability initiatives,” commented City Manager Gary Suiter. “By working together, we can achieve a plan to enables the community to ensure an environmentally sustainable future.”

“We encourage business representatives to take the community survey today so that the economic impacts and needs are clearly heard in the development of the Climate Action Plan,” said Kara Stoller, CEO, Steamboat Springs Chamber. “By participating in this effort, the business community will be able to guide smart and business-friendly policies around climate change for years to come.”

“Steamboat Ski Resort’s business relies on snow, and climate action is critical if we want to be successful long into the future,” said Sarah Jones, director of sustainability and community engagement for Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation. “We acknowledge that our operations, such as lifts and snowmaking, generate a large amount of emissions and have an impact on our local and global environment. We are fully committed to help identify emissions reduction solutions that work for our community and, when the plan is complete, lead by example to reduce our climate impacts.”

“It is important that everyone have a voice in our local efforts to address the impacts of climate change, and we urge our Oak Creek residents and businesses and South Routt neighbors to be part of the conversation. Taking the community survey is a first step,” said Nikki Knoebel, mayor of Oak Creek.

To ensure that the plan includes the ideas and strategies that the community think are the most important, the County and its partners are gathering community feedback via a questionnaire on the [Routt Climate Action website](#). Please take a moment to [share your thoughts and opinions](#) on what can be done to reduce emissions and make Routt County more adaptive, resilient, and vibrant for years to come.

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