



GREEN MATTERS IN JACKSON HOLE

Welcome to Green Matters in Jackson Hole!

In this inaugural issue you will find timely and relevant news, notices, and information from many of our community's key sustainability organizations. The issues addressed herein concern the current and future sustainability of our environment, community, and economy, and the interdependence of these.

Are you concerned about protecting wildlife?

Then the number 362 should concern you. Read about Wildlife in Winter and the importance of responsible driving to lower this wildlife death toll on our roads.

Are you up for a personal challenge?

Then get familiar with the innovative #BeTheChangeJH initiative introduced by the Sustainability Series partners.

Does your place of work want to be one of the BEST?

Then check out the news on the launch of our community's next level of sustainability certification and recognition for businesses and organizations.

I hope you will find the contents inside this first issue including introductions by the Green Matters partners to be informative and useful.

- Tim O'Donoghue, Riverwind Foundation

ZACH MONTES
COURTESY PHOTO

BECOME ONE OF THE BEST!

By Mari Allan Hanna and Tim O'Donoghue

Reduce Reuse Recycle (RRR) Business Leaders will soon be able to pursue "Emerald" status. An advanced certification for environmentally sustainable business practices, referred to as the Business Emerald Sustainability Tier, or BEST, is being developed through a partnership between Teton County Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling (ISWR) and the Riverwind Foundation.

With recent approval of the Teton County resolution recognizing Jackson Hole as a World-Leading Sustainable Community and Destination and the Teton County resolution adopting Zero Waste as a Guiding Principle of the community, the desire to foster local leaders in the realm of sustainability is evident. The RRR Business Leaders program, with support from the Riverwind Foundation's Hot Shots team, has worked in recent years to recognize over 150 businesses, organizations, restaurants, and events that incorporate a balance of economy, equity, and the environment into their operations.

"The existing RRR Business Leaders program," explains Mari Allan Hanna, ISWR Waste Diversion and Outreach Coordinator, "is an educational tool, designed to meet organizations where they are on the spectrum of sustainability and support, and challenge them as they build upon their success."

"Those RRR Business Leaders that want to pursue greater levels of sustainability have the opportunity to participate in the BEST Program" states Tim O'Donoghue, Executive Director of the Riverwind Foundation. "Those businesses that are successful in meeting the BEST standard will be certified and recognized for their commitment to sustainability as our community's Emerald Leaders."

The partnership between ISWR and the Riverwind

Foundation will remain the foundation for both recognition programs. ISWR will continue to recruit, recognize, and support existing and new RRR Business Leaders. Emerald Leaders will emerge from the RRR Business Leader membership as participants elect to pursue advanced certification.

These building blocks of sustainability certification are poised to benefit the community by generating a library of best practices, increasing the data and tools available specific to businesses within this region and expanding access to mentoring and guidance from Emerald Leaders to those following in their footsteps.

Additional information on the RRR Business Leaders program can be found at howdoyourrr.org or by calling 307-733-7678. Contact Tim O'Donoghue with the Riverwind Foundation regarding the BEST program at riverwind@wyoming.com or 307-690-3316.

QUICK MATTERS:

- The first annual Jackson Hole Sustainability Report Card will be published in time for the holidays. This report card tracks the performance and trends of Jackson Hole as a sustainable community and destination according sustainability indicators, community sustainability goals, and international sustainability standards. Look for the insert in the Jackson Hole News & Guide.
- Want to talk trash, commuting, and food? Join us by taking the survey: www.bit.ly/JHSustainability
- Concerned about the impacts from increasing numbers and diversity of visitors to Jackson Hole? Read up and tell us your thoughts for addressing these challenges, solutions for preventing and mitigating visitor impacts, and the future of tourism in Jackson Hole. Download the Jackson Hole Community Conversation Project Report at sustainabledestination.org.



SUSTAINABILITY SERIES

"If actions that contribute to reducing emissions can be taken by me as an individual – or by a single neighborhood, city, company, industrial sector, or country – then the choice each makes serves as a signal to others. No one acts entirely alone and unseen by others, so each of us can hope to be a factor in encouraging others to act in similar ways."

-Melissa Lane, Professor of Politics, Princeton University

The Sustainability Series began six years ago, combining the efforts of three environmental organizations working in Teton County: Energy Conservation Works, Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities, and Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling, which cover energy, transportation, and waste, respectively. By working together to create an educational series on a spectrum of sustainability topics, we ensure that every topic is looked at through a cohesive lens.

There are a number of ways in which sustainability requires an integrated approach. Imagine, for example, purchasing an electric vehicle. This progressive transportation choice will provide an even greater benefit if you charge your electric vehicle with 100% green power. Looking at your actions as they relate to energy, waste, and transportation collectively is what Sustainability Series is all about.

Learning about Climate Change can feel overwhelming and hopeless, so the goal of the Series is to leave you feeling hopeful and inspired into action.

The 2017 kickoff took this concept further by launching the #BeTheChangeJH social media challenge asking the community to complete the actions presented at the kickoff event, posting photo to be entered to win prizes donated by local businesses. (See these actions on Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities' Facebook page)

Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling's actions revolved around the slogan 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' with ideas like: "Reuse: With gift giving season coming up, consider getting your loved ones reusable items like coffee mugs, water bottles, or a gift card to boot repair!" Energy Conservation Works promoted Lower Valley Energy's Green Power Program, encouraging members to choose 100% green power.

Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities focused their actions on what you can do to reduce your transportation footprint. If you drive a diesel vehicle, you can fill the tank with 20% biodiesel from the Shell station on Broadway. This will have no impact on your vehicle's performance, but will reduce your tailpipe emissions. If you don't drive a diesel you can try something even simpler like quitting idling. Idling wastes fuel and creates excess harmful emissions unnecessarily. Sustainability Series will continue this winter with events focused on the nitty gritty of how green power works, how to recycle right, and a holiday party hosted with Green Drinks! The series is made possible by the contributions of each partner leveraging support from the Teton County Energy Mitigation Fund.

WILDLIFE IN WINTER

By Sandy Shuptrine

Along with gathering wood and putting gardens to bed, many locals are involved in outreach regarding winter survival for the valley's wildlife. Heed the messages of our dedicated wildlife advocates in order to

support the "sustainability," or conservation, of the wild population that is the core of the place we call home.

Recently, the Western Transportation Institute of Bozeman reminded us that winter driving is the most hazardous time for both drivers and the animals attempting to cross highways to reach food and water.

Follow lower nighttime speed limits since speeds over 40 mph will overtake your headlight beams before braking can be successful if an animal is standing in the road. Highway 390 is a good example of a combination of actions including lower speed limits, flashing radar signs, silhouette reminders, and brush clearing that have helped mitigate animal-vehicle collisions.

Winter is a period of stress for all wildlife. Proper trash storage, staying out of closed winter habitats, being in command of your dog, allowing for passage through landscapes, and giving them space to “be” can mean the difference of life and death.



TETON CONSERVATION DISTRICT



GREEN MATTERS KEY SPONSOR

The Teton Conservation District is dedicated to working with community members to ensure the stewardship and conservation of the natural resources in the Jackson Hole valley. As a tax-payer funded state entity, the role of TCD is non-regulatory, instead focused on forming partnerships within the community to develop effective programs. TCD is committed to the idea of conservation and sustainability through community collaboration.

That premise is at the heart of the Fish Creek Stakeholder Group program. Fish Creek is a Class 1 water feature and popular recreation site. Recent data collected by TCD and the US Geological Survey shows that nutrient pollution is impacting the overall quality of the Creek. In response, TCD partnered with Friends of Fish Creek to focus attention on this pollution issue. Together, Friends of Fish Creek and TCD developed a stakeholder group to build consensus and move forward in addressing the issue, beginning with determining the research and information that was needed.

As a result, stakeholders are already taking voluntary measures to reduce their impact on the Creek, and new programs are being readied for launch in Spring 2018 to engage the community. This will include the Trout Friendly Lawns program sponsored by Friends of Fish Creek, TCD, and Trout Unlimited.



**Teton
Conservation
District
Est. 1946**

Learn more at tetonconservation.org

RIVERWIND FOUNDATION

The Jackson Hole & Yellowstone Sustainable Program was created in response to the findings of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council that, despite the numerous and diverse sustainability activities in Jackson Hole, there was no organization working to unite these efforts toward a common vision of sustainability and community goals. Since 2014, the Jackson Hole & Yellowstone Sustainable Destination Program has:

- Created a strategic Council of 57 public and private sector stakeholders and a tactical Steering Committee of 12 key local sustainability leaders
- Trained and assisted 260+ businesses in sustainability planning and practices
- Inventoried the sustainability activities of 120+ local stakeholders
- Created or enhanced 49 local “green collar” jobs
- In one year, helped double the number of businesses and organizations participating in the RRR Business Leaders Program to 200
- Created the Business Emerald Sustainability Tier (BEST) certification program
- Created and distributed the Jackson Hole Sustainability Code of Conduct to over 60,000 travelers
- Facilitated Jackson Hole to be chosen as a Top 100 Sustainable Destination in 2016 and 2017 by Green Destinations
- Helped Jackson Hole become selected by National Geographic as a finalist for Destination Leadership in the 2017 World Legacy Awards



Riverwind Foundation

Visit www.sustainabledestination.org or contact Tim O'Donoghue at riverwind@wyoming.com or (307) 690-3316.

Energy Conservation Works partners with the Town of Jackson, Teton County, and Lower Valley Energy (LVE) to advocate for energy conservation and emissions reduction in Jackson Hole. Through programs that support and incentivize energy conservation, energy efficiency, and use of renewable energy, Energy Conservation Works has helped hundreds of homes, businesses, and public buildings reduce energy use and emissions.

One simple action that any member of the community can take is choosing Green Power through Lower Valley Energy. This simple and affordable option lets you choose 100% renewable power from certified, renewable energy sources on our local grid. Sourced from the Horse Butte Wind Farm, just east of Idaho Falls, this electricity receives a Renewable Energy Certificate verifying its authenticity as renewable and documenting its end use.

Energy Conservation Works recently partnered with LVE to double participation in this program. Since then, we've seen over a 30% increase in Green Power customers. Will you be the next? It just takes a minute, and each member of LVE that chooses 'Green Power' means that much more renewable electricity in our local grid.

Visit energyconservationworks.org for more information or call LVE at 307)733-2446 to sign up today.

TETON COUNTY INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING



The mission of ISWR is to reduce, reuse, recycle, and manage solid waste throughout Teton County in an efficient and environmentally-sound manner. Responsibilities include the operation of the Recycling Center, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, and the Trash Transfer Station (including compost operations).

Through these facilities and programs, 38% (or 34,000,000 million pounds) of discarded material per year is diverted from the landfill. The goal of the Road to Zero Waste initiative is 60% diversion by the year 2030. Zero Waste strategies include ongoing community outreach, the capture of food waste for composting, increased diversion of construction and demolition materials and advancements to current recycling systems.

Why do we ask the community to separate recyclables? This source separated system results in a contamination rate of less than 1%. By comparison, single stream recycling, where materials are combined in a single bin, can have contamination rates in excess of 30%. Clean material from Teton County facilities is fully recyclable and continually receives maximum market value. This is increasingly important as global markets fluctuate. Recycling right and reducing reliance on landfills will minimize uncertainty, create jobs, recover resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect water quality, preserve wildlife habitat and help maintain a more sustainable destination.

Text recycling questions to 307-200- 9308 or visit www.tetonwyo.org/recycle

HOLE FOOD RESCUE



Hole Food Rescue's mission is to reduce food waste and food insecurity in Teton County, WY. We do this by rescuing excess food from food retailers that would otherwise be wasted. We donate this rescued food to 26 local organizations that are working to help those in need in our community. From farm to fork, 40% of food in the US is wasted. Consumers waste 20% of the food they buy (300 pounds of wasted food per person per year). A family of four loses \$1,500 a year on food they waste.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

- Create an "eat-first zone" in your fridge. Make food that will go bad first, most visible.
- Shop smart and shop often. Plan your meals and avoid purchasing food for more than 2-3 days at a time.
- Make "use-it- up meals" such as stir-fry, quiche or soup.
- Freeze your leftovers for another time.
- Understand expiration dates. "Food expiration dates have nothing to do with safety and are only loosely related to quality. They're the manufacturer's best estimate of when the product is at its freshest or peak quality. Many foods will still be good to eat days, weeks, or months after those dates, depending on the food" (savethefood.com).

For more information, visit www.holefoodrescue.org

JACKSON HOLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Being a local means more than just having a 307 area code. It means your committed to keeping Jackson Hole as wild as it was in 1921. Help the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce stand by its mission to be a 21 st century business leader on environmental and social stewardship by following some basic guidelines:



The Campsite Rule: Leave Jackson as good or better than it was when you arrived.

- RIDE THE START BUS. The town shuttle is free and a roundtrip ticket to Teton Village is \$6.
- RENT A BICYCLE. There are over 42 miles of pathways in Teton County and an additional 14 scenic miles in Grand Teton National Park. For shorter rides, join the bike share movement.
- If you drive a car, BE ALERT, especially for wildlife, and follow the speed limit.
- DO NOT LITTER and please recycle.
- KEEP WILDLIFE WILD. Do not approach wildlife. Carry bear spray and be bear aware.
- STAY ON TRAILS. Traveling off trail destroys resources. Obey all posted signs & respect park boundaries.
- And always SHOP, EAT, AND DRINK LOCAL

For more information, contact Rick Howe at rick@jacksonholechamber.com or 307.733.3316 X114.

JACKSON HOLE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Nearly 40 years ago, a small group of people bound by a ferocious love for the magic of Jackson Hole founded the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance. Since then we have been working to create a better future for our community.



That has included fighting against projects like oil and gas extraction in Cache Creek and a dam that would have flooded Oxbow Bend. It also means working to amplify the voices and vision of community members to fight for a Jackson Hole where abundant populations of wildlife have the freedom to roam across the landscape, through our neighborhoods, and safely cross our roads; where we live in walkable neighborhoods with transportation choices and affordable homes, surrounded by protected open space, working agricultural lands, and connected wildlife habitat; and where we respect wildlife when we recreate on protected, wild, well- managed lands.

Our multi-faceted, data-driven approach to tackling our community's toughest challenges makes the Alliance an invaluable local non-profit and vital to achieving our community's vision. Join us in our efforts to make Jackson Hole a national model of a community living in balance with nature. Stay tuned for our State of Wildlife report - a science based update on the status and threats to wildlife and habitat.

For more information visit jhalliance.org

LOCAL RESTAURANT AND BAR

At Local Restaurant and Bar we strive to provide an authentic Jackson dining experience while acting as responsible stewards of the natural environment that we call home. We are committed to sourcing the food we provide as locally as possible, reducing and redirecting the waste we produce and increasing the efficiency of our daily operations to use less energy. Furthermore, we will do our best to leverage our position as a premier restaurant in Jackson Hole to create positive change in our community. As a business leader, we are proud to support local sustainability programs, continuously improve upon our own operations, and do our part to ensure a healthy Jackson Hole well into the future.



AT LOCAL WE:

- Source 100% of our electricity from Renewable Resources
- Converted 100% of our lighting to LED
- Installed Solar Thermal Panels
- Host an Annual Harvest Dinner donating all proceeds to nonprofits
- Instituted a Staff Incentive Program to empower employees to come forward with sustainable ideas
- Recycle waste through Jackson Curbside Recycling
- Have Management representation on both the Board of Advisors to ISWR and the Steering Committee of the Sustainable Destination Program
- Were awarded the 2015-16 Green to Green Award from the Chamber of Commerce

Contact Sustainability Coordinator Joshua Hirschmann at Josh@localjh.com for more information.

SLOW FOOD IN THE TETONS



Slow Food in the Tetons mission is to grow our local and regional sustainable food economy by supporting producers, educating consumers and connecting them together in the spirit of good, clean and fair food. We host the People's Market and Slow Food Farm Stand, hold weekly farm-to-table kids and adult cooking classes, and connect people to local food with events like The Lockhart Ranch Party and through our online directory of local food.

Chronic diet related diseases are a growing issue in Teton County. High quality food is directly linked to good health and disease prevention, and lower income families are

disproportionately at risk in our community.

- 21% of resident have limited access to healthy food
- One in three Jackson teens describes themselves as overweight
- 9% of in-patient admissions at St. John's have diabetes.
- 20% of Teton County Head Start program families are overweight and undernourished.

Slow Food in the Tetons is actively fighting diet related chronic diseases by giving all people, regardless of income level, better to access the highest quality food. The local food movement is growing and improving people's lives. Get involved by attending one of our dinner events, farmer's markets, cooking classes, or by volunteering.

For more information, contact tetonslowfood@gmail.com or visit us at tetonslowfood.org

TETON SCIENCE SCHOOLS



Teton Science Schools (TSS) inspires curiosity, engagement and leadership through transformative place-based education. TSS is committed to establishing, utilizing and refining institutional practices that promote sustainability, while using these practices to educate students about connections between our choices, community and the natural world.

Teton Science Schools' commitment to providing extraordinary place-based education is also a commitment to teaching and implementing sustainability practices. Place-based education connects curriculum to communities to increase student engagement, academic

outcomes and community impact. This educational approach necessitates TSS to model sustainability in all aspects of its operations and practices.

For more specific information about how Teton Science Schools integrates sustainability across the organization, visit www.tetonscience.org

YELLOWSTONE-TETON CLEAN CITIES



There is no denying that the number of vehicles driving through Teton County has increased in past several years. It brings with it a number of problems, some visible and some not. The congestion we face in the summer is a visible example of the issues, but what you cannot see are the tons and tons of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants being spewed into the air.

Replacing conventional fuels with alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas and electricity provides the opportunity to help eliminate some or all of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation. A Department of Energy designated Clean Cities coalition, Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities (YTCC), works to create a Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem where traveling in an alternative fuel vehicle is possible.

Since 2013, we have helped increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations in the region from 0 to over 20 through grants and rebates. With the increase in charging infrastructure, electric vehicle ownership has also risen 4,000%. The new compressed natural gas station in Jackson will open even more doors for alternative fuel conversions, bringing us closer to the vision of easily available clean transportation throughout the region.

Reach out for more information or with questions at ytcleancities.org

EVENTS

DECEMBER 1st

JH Premier of Anthony Bourdain's Wasted: The Story of Food Waste

6:30pm Doors Open, 7:00pm Movie Begins

Center for the Arts

\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door

This documentary exposes food waste, how it's contributing to climate change, and shows us how we can make changes to solve one of the greatest problems of the 21st Century.

DECEMBER 11th

Natural Resource Regulations Decision by County Commissioners

1:30 pm

County Administration building

The Board of County Commissioners will be considering natural resource regulation policy recommendations from the Natural Resources Stakeholders Group and Planning Commission

DECEMBER 13th

Sustainability Series and Green Drinks Holiday Party

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Vertical Harvest

Join the Sustainability Series for a Green Drinks Holiday Party with KHOL providing music and Jackson Hole Still Works making drinks.

DECEMBER 16th - APRIL 21st

Jackson Hole Winter People's Market

Every other Saturday

2:00pm - 6:00pm

Teton County Fairgrounds Building

Find local eggs, meat, dairy, winter produce, greens, fermented foods, broths, and prepared food.

DECEMBER 19th

Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Welcome Reception

4:00pm - 7:00pm

220 S. King Street, Jackson

Join the Alliance for a reception welcoming Skye Schell as our new Executive Director. Mingle with staff, Board, and the recent graduates from the Conservation Leadership Institute.

DECEMBER 26th - JANUARY 31st

Christmas Tree Recycling

All day

Residential drop-off at the Rodeo Grounds

Please remove lights and decorations.

No charge for trees from residential customers at the Trash Transfer Station through January. Trees processed locally rather than landfilled.

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters



THE INN
at Jackson Hole



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JACKSON HOLE
wildlife safaris

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