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CONTACT: Chase Jones, Energy Conservation and Climate Action Coordinator

PHONE: 552-6389

E-MAIL: cjones@ci.missoula.mt.us

ZERO WASTE PLAN OPEN HOUSE SET FOR OCT 12

Citizens invited to Missoula's Zero Waste plan framework debut

The City of Missoula, in collaboration with its nonprofit partner Home ReSource and its community-based Zero Waste Advisory Committee, will hold an open house on Thursday, Oct. 12, as the next step in its waste-reduction initiative, ZERO by FIFTY: Missoula's Pathway to Zero Waste.

The open house will debut four “paths,” or focus areas, of the forthcoming ZERO by FIFTY plan, along with supporting strategies along each path. The four paths that form the backbone of the plan are Access, Infrastructure, Education, and Policy. The paths and supporting strategies grew from information and ideas gathered at three ZERO by FIFTY community listening sessions, coupled with best practices culled from exemplary community initiatives around the country.

The open house will be held 5-8 p.m. at the Home ReSource Community Room at 1515 Wyoming St. It's designed to give citizens the opportunity to learn about the ZERO by FIFTY plan framework and engage with City staff to further shape the plan before the final draft is written.

“Since this has been such a community-driven initiative and plan, it was important for us to provide another opportunity for the citizens of Missoula to add even more of their great ideas or ways to make the ZERO by FIFTY initiative even better,” said Chase Jones, the energy conservation and climate action coordinator for the City. “We think we have a solid framework for the plan and are excited to engage the public again before we put further detail to the strategies.”

The Missoula City Council adopted the 2016 Missoula Zero Waste Resolution on Feb. 8, 2016:
<http://mt-missoula3.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/33247>

The resolution directs City staff to develop a Zero Waste Plan in collaboration with a local working group. It adopts the concept of Zero Waste as defined by the Zero Waste International Alliance: "Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them." Zero Waste strategies focus on reducing consumption first, reusing resources traditionally viewed as "waste" when we can and recycling when we must, leaving almost nothing, or "zero," to be sent to landfills. Zero Waste emphasizes the true and full value of resources, creates jobs and creative reuse opportunities and contributes to healthy people and a healthy environment.

Citizens can drop in any time between 5-8 p.m. Thursday to participate and comment. The comment period is open through Oct. 27. To view the plan and comment online, visit
<http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2087/Zero-Waste>

ZERO by FIFTY Open House

When: Thursday, October 12

Where: Home ReSource Community Room, 1515 Wyoming St.

Time: 5-8 p.m.

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Ginny Merriam, Public Information/Communications Director, 552-6007 (o), 546-7692 (c)