

MAIN STREET MONTANA PROJECT

A BUSINESS PLAN *For Montana by Montanans*

Action Plan

Energy and Utilities

Key Industry Network (KIN)

September 22, 2014 KIN Meeting

Results

Subject Areas Identified for Work
Group Discussion

Remember, the 5 Pillars of the Main Street Montana Project form the context for KIN discussions

1. Train and Educate Tomorrow's Workforce Today
2. Create a Climate that Attracts, Retains and Grows Businesses
3. Build upon Montana's Economic Foundation
4. Market Montana
5. Nurture Emerging Industries and Encourage Innovation

- **The results of the September 22 Energy and Utilities KIN meeting identified 10 topics for work group discussion**
- **Main Street Montana Project (MSMP) staff have condensed and shaped these topics into subject statements to be considered by 6 work groups: A-F, as set forth on the following slides**
- **This overview correlates the work group discussion subject areas and their corresponding subject statements with the Main Street Pillars**

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Action Plan: Group A Topic Areas

Pillar 1: Train and Educate Tomorrow's Workforce

1. Recruitment and retention of a Skilled Workforce in a Rural State;
2. Early exposure to the Energy industry and its careers;
3. Expand meaningful partnerships of Industry and Education to meet needs now;

Subject Statements:

- Identify actions that can be taken to increase and enhance the availability of an energy workforce for Montana.
 - Near Term (6-9 months)
 - Long Term
- Identify actions that can be taken to coordinate and align the needs of employers with curriculum and programs in our pre-school/K-20 system (including community and tribal colleges).
- Identify actions that can be taken to expose students in our middle and high schools to career opportunities in the energy and utilities industry.
- Support apprenticeship and similar programs.

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Action Plan: Group B Topic Area Overlap of Pillars 2 (Attract, retain and grow) + Pillar 3 (Economic Foundation) + Pillar 5 (Nurture and encourage innovation)

1. Make the regulatory process more timely, predictable and simple;

Subject Statements:

- Identify specific statutory or regulatory provisions and procedures that could and should be modified or eliminated – at all levels of government – federal, state and local.
- In doing so, specify the reasons and justifications for modification or elimination of each statute or regulation and, where possible, identify ways to improve, streamline, or modify the regulatory system.
- Discuss and identify ways to address industry's need for timely regulatory agency responses that will allow industry in Montana to stay competitive.

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Action Plan: Group C Topic Areas

Pillar: 4 Market Montana Beyond our Borders

1. Market Integration;
2. Working together to get the product to market;

Subject Statement:

- Identify actions that can be taken to increase market penetration beyond our borders by all segments of Montana's energy sector.

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Action Plan: Group D Topic Areas

Overlap of Pillars 2 (Attract, Retain and Grow) + Pillar 3 (Economic Foundation) + Pillar 5 (Nurture and Encourage Innovation)

1. Access to capital;
2. Attract, retain and grow businesses;
3. Connecting and encouraging emerging innovations by all industry participants, including start-ups/small companies and larger or more established companies;

Subject Statements:

- Identify actions that can be taken to increase and enhance the availability of capital for energy related businesses.
- Identify actions that can be taken to promote investment in infrastructure and service for Montana.
- Identify actions that can be taken to support innovation in the energy and utility industries to increase capacity, reliability, safety, and sustainability.
- Identify variations in the types of capital available along with any barriers associated with traditional capital markets that may limit Montana companies' access to needed funding.

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Action Plan: Group E Topic Area Pillar 2: Attract, Retain, & Grow Business

1. Property taxes;

Subject Statements:

- Identify specific issues or problems relating to Montana's property tax system.
- In doing so, describe the effects on Montana's energy and utility companies, customers, or on Montana's economy.
- Identify actions that could and should be taken to improve Montana's property tax system.

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Action Plan: Group F Topic Area Pillar 2: Attract, Retain, & Grow Business

1. EPA's 2030 Carbon Reduction Targets;

Subject Statements:

- Determine whether there is a constructive role for this Key Industry Network to play in responding to the EPA's Carbon Reduction Targets.
- If there is a constructive role for this KIN, identify strategies for representing and articulating the interests of Montana's energy and utility industries in cross-regional conversations or collaborations.

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Action Plan – Subject Areas