POM Small Group: Energy Conservation

* Why does conserving energy matter?
  + High-tech companies are pushing for sustainability
  + Energy is an underlying foundation for this area
  + RMP Integrated Resource Plan- 86% of gains will come from energy efficiency. Where can gains be made?
  + Important for air quality – efficient buildings can improve this
  + Energy as a design problem – cost savings?
  + Easier to build efficiency up front rather than retrofitting
  + Infrastructure as a reflection of technology
  + Branding Utah as a crossroads of innovation—buildings, greenspace, draws people
  + Not just conserving but also include diversifying; Utah acting on innovation
  + Show innovation—example area
  + Foundation emphasis of efficiency
    - “cheapest energy you can buy,” “an energy resource”
* Key things we can do
  + Have legislature create new version of energy code—maybe a special district to adopt this
  + Overarching standard for efficiency, nature of the area
  + Unique location
  + **Meet standards without increasing costs.**
    - **Consistent message**
    - Very little cost differences from efficient/not
    - Branding, starting blocks, standard
    - Educate developers on the feasibility, niche market
    - ROI can be increased by this
    - Utah has unique financing tools
    - Utah specific examples: business case for efficiency
    - Talk/frame in a language that resonates
  + Energy code is too complex and needs to be simple. How can it be done? Easy for stakeholders with software
    - Many jurisdictions need to be aligned
    - Compliance options, inconsistencies
  + How to sell efficient concepts to building owners – may need boost or comprehensive plan
  + How to reconcile Utah values – make a market for this
  + New businesses want to attract young professionals – more multifamily?
  + What is the value of energy efficiency? Bottom line, residents + businesses market together on this.
  + We don’t appraise buildings based on efficiency – some lenders might provide better rates for this. Upload data to MLS – imperfect market
  + This group can have the opportunity to set standards and then have everyone follow – this is how we want to go forward
    - How do we identify and establish this dialogue/message?
    - Establish % goal for efficiency
* Scenarios and Modeling: What model?
  + Solar best when built with building, interesting technologies with distributed generation
  + What does this mean for the community – goal to reduce cost – benefits for everybody
  + Worried about specific scenarios and only one option. We need a goal for total buy-in
  + Are there projects that are good models?
    - Daybreak – Ivory
  + Nail down what is concrete to give Utahns an idea of why
    - Goals: Net Zero, 100% efficiency, etc. – might not make sense to lay person
    - How do goals relate to values?
    - Goal: cost effectiveness
  + Educate people about energy conservation opportunities -- create market
  + Look at mandatory vs voluntary options
  + Scenarios – baseline 🡪 more efficiency
  + Propose standards to developers and contrast this with higher standards. Use whatever is landed on in-between as litmus test
  + Sandy has 10 year goal that allows for innovation in their plans.
  + Tie these things back to air quality
  + Efficiency tends to get thrown out for renewables – optimal combo of both?
  + How do we define this as a tangible thing? What does ‘10%’ mean?
  + Energy benchmarking – identify bottom x amounts of buildings
  + Retrofitting can be efficient in materials
  + What is the sweet spot for developers vs. user – affordability a big factor
  + If consumers understand then they will be able to compare benefits
  + Talk with federal department ERE in energy to provide experts?
    - Case Studies guide this
  + Models? Energy Strategy
  + Scenarios into different users and groups, including residential
  + Pull out how scenario choices impact big ideas and goals
  + Include projected increase in energy rates
  + Some high-tech want certain energy mix
  + At least 75% of solar load sourced by another resource
  + Battery storage, universal power supply
  + Consider energy resiliency to adapt
  + Apply benchmarks
  + Transportation has big impacts on energy/water
  + How do we break out of our silos
  + Assignment on the scenarios
  + Incentives can be cost-effective