

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Sustainability Board

FROM: Ali Chipouras, Sustainability Program Specialist
Natalie Meyer, Sustainability Program Manager

SUBJECT: Building Energy Efficiency Training Opportunities and Workforce Development

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION: Building Energy Efficiency Training Opportunities and Workforce Development.

STRATEGIC PLAN: 6.3 Climate Action: Reduce community and municipal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, increase the supply of clean and renewable energy; foster related businesses.

BACKGROUND: Ali Chipouras, Sustainability Program Specialist, will provide an update on local building energy efficiency training opportunities and ongoing regional collaboration efforts to support workforce development and high-performance building practices. Additionally, Ali will provide an update on the City's heat pump water heater rebate program, including participation and opportunities to increase community engagement and adoption.

Heat Pump Water Heaters for Residents - May 8

The City partnered with the City of Missoula and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA) to host a free virtual Heat Pump Water Heaters for Montana Homeowners training. This session covered what heat pump water heaters are, how to determine if one is right for your home, key questions to ask your contractor, available rebates and incentives, and more. A recording of [Heat Pump Water Heaters for Montana Homeowners](#) will be made available on the City of Bozeman website.

Best Practices in New Home Construction - June 3-5

[Earth Advantage](#) is delivering the 'Best Practices in New Home Construction' series on behalf of [BetterBuiltNW](#), together with local building industry partners. Whether you are a builder, architect, contractor, code official, or any other interested building industry professional, we invite you to join us for this no-cost opportunity to explore energy-efficient building practices while learning about locally available programs and financial incentives that support residential new construction.

Training & Site Visits:

Continuing Education: AIA, BPI, ICC, & NATE

Join these no-cost site visits and training that help Montana building industry professionals evaluate and incorporate good/better/best practices being used today to build energy-efficient new homes:

- **Kalispell**
Energy Efficient Home Site Visit: Tuesday, June 3, 1–3PM
- **Missoula**
Best Practices in New Home Construction: Wednesday, June 4, 8AM–12PM
Energy Efficient Home Site Visit: Wednesday, June 4, 1–3PM
- **Bozeman**
Energy Efficient Home Site Visit: Thursday, June 5, 1–3PM
Building Science Presentation: Thursday, June 5, 6-8PM

Home Performance and Energy Retrofit Bootcamp - May 12-23

This [week-long course](#) is hosted by MSU Extension, Montana Weatherization Training Center, and is free for Montana residents and Gallatin College students.

Montana Energy Auditor Training Certification Pilot Program – June 23-27

The Montana energy auditor training and certification pilot program is being provided by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the MSU Weatherization Training Center (WTC). This is a pilot program for a limited number of attendees to receive Building Performance Institute BPI based training and certification through the Montana State University Weatherization Training Center.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by the Board.

FISCAL EFFECTS: None.

Report compiled on: May 9, 2025