

McCall In Focus – Climate and the Environment

The McCall in Focus discussion on Climate and the Environment highlighted several key areas of concern and proposed ideas for positive change. The community expressed a desire for the City of McCall to lead by example in climate action, emphasizing a reduction in fossil fuel usage and advocating for the adoption of sustainable practices. Suggestions included providing childcare at meetings, implementing shelter-in-place measures for emergencies such as fires and floods, and establishing backup plans for power grid failures. Participants also called for a comparison of pre and post-pandemic changes and assurance of safe drinking water. Additional ideas centered on reducing the community's carbon footprint, such as transitioning away from gas-powered landscaping tools, embracing the benefits of dandelions, and reconsidering the impact of leaf blowing on health and pollution. Participants urged limits on motorized vehicles in the lake area, discouragement of fossil fuel-powered recreational activities, and a shift in how McCall is perceived. Advocacy for ecotourism and a transparent rebranding effort, especially discouraging slogans like "Come and Play," were suggested. Potential barriers to the climate action plan were identified, including resistance from lobbyists, special interest groups, and industries reliant on fossil fuels. Tourism-related challenges, opposition from long-time visitors unaccustomed to restrictions, and the influence of short-term rental businesses were also acknowledged. Overcoming these obstacles would require addressing concerns from fossil fuel users and recreational enthusiasts, as well as encouraging a shift in mindset towards environmental stewardship. The main takeaways emphasized the protection of drinking water, a comprehensive rebranding of McCall to enhance its environmental image, and the promotion of a culture where individuals are empowered to speak up for the environment. Encouraging bravery in expressing environmental concerns and fostering ongoing dialogue were deemed essential. Ultimately, the community aspired to create a name for McCall synonymous with environmental protection, embodying a commitment to sustainability and responsible stewardship of the natural surroundings.