

SIX KEY AREAS FOR MOVING FROM INITIATIVES TO ACTION PLANS

- Policy
 - LOCAL/STATE/FEDERAL
 - Farm Bill Pilot Project rewarding diversity
 - Carbon capture/carbon tax
 - Ecosystem services
 - Landscape-level/holistic planning
- Knowledge sharing
 - Agency/university/community collaboration
 - Farm Club demonstrations
 - Recognition for innovation
 - Community building/networking
 - Bottom-up collaboration
 - NCAT
 - Collaboration with extension and NRCS
 - Social media
 - Individual gardening/action
- Local investment
 - Risk investment
 - Accessing private money
 - Bank loan flexibility
 - State security law reform
 - PACE for ag
- Technology
 - Scaling for affordability
 - Water delivery systems
 - Soil tests
 - Carbon tests
 - Precision ag and mapping
- Farming practices
 - Research—land race, food sovereignty
 - Interns
 - On-the-ground learning
 - Crop diversification and management
 - Promoting individual growing/action
- Food waste
 - Closing the loop
 - Efficiency and connectivity
 - Recycling
 - Prevention

Feedback on list:

- Promoting individual action—farm practice and knowledge sharing categories—recognize the value of individual producers
- Make sure we're not over-separating "consumers" from "producers"—we need a more connective idea of these in restructuring our food system
- Could extension agents be helpful in getting food to people once it's grown? Helping with distribution?

- Soil carbon testing—take caution in this because the technology isn't super developed yet
- Are our groups too silo-ed? Should we combine some ideas since they're all so intertwined?
 - These were developed as actionable steps so that we can have tangible outcomes
- Put technology with farm practices
- Put local investment with policy
- Barbara intervention: we need to represent tribal nations and knowledge—how can these also contribute knowledge to the issues here?

Small groups developing action plans:

- Starting out brainstorming and coming to common ground
- People sharing their biggest concerns and their unique knowledge to help people collaborate about potential action steps
- High levels of respect for other viewpoints, either agreement or respectful questioning
- Posing questions to the group when uncertain, or even certain, rather than statements
- Discussing how specific they want to get and what the scope of outcomes and strategies will be
- Trying to find more specific language
- Coming back to the purpose and the true best strategy
- More vocal individuals leading conversation, but some asking the more quiet folks for their opinions
- Conversation about how to reconcile different opinions
- Raising concerns, coming back to goals and how we need to reframe the current state to fit needs
- Trying to be realistic about goals and outcomes
- Generally very collaborative feeling of room, lots of very hopeful conversation
- People voicing confusion, feels very comfortable, open, and respectful
- Clearing up language in particular
- Finding things that we can all agree on
- Working towards tangible steps based on conversation
- Outcomes are statements about the present that reflect a hope for future truth
- Going around to find thumbs up/thumbs down so there is consensus about language for outcome
- People suggesting many different ideas and really questioning, based on individual experiences
- Coming to consensus and then immediately jumping into strategies
- Grappling with how to define resilience
- Also people outlining how they want to move into next part of conversation via group “leader”
- The “outsider” perspective constantly questioning and bringing in issues of diversity
- Finding ways to use existing knowledge more effectively and efficiently
- Respecting all different voices
- As they encounter barriers, brainstorming and tossing around ideas for different wording
- Now going from barriers to *what would be most helpful*
- Beginning to move outside of existing structures to creation for new ones or how to restructure and find new strategies, getting really creative and doing new kinds of brainstorming now
- Some people lead (tend to be the “top level” folks and men) while others act as supports who reflect back and synthesize (often women)
- Going around circle and sharing one top strategy to achieve outcome
- Everyone is helping each other to clarify and bring everyone to a similar level of understanding of language
- Larger groups taking longer to come to consensus but are also compromising more and coming to a richer understanding of their topic
- How to come to actionable steps seems to be more difficult for larger groups

- People now talking about it in concrete terms (“are going to”) instead of hypotheticals (“could” or “might”)
- Thinking of strategies in terms of what is already happening and then how we can change that and give local food more voice
- Groups celebrating what they’ve done by recapping what they’ve done and saying “I really like this...”
- Sharing knowledge as way of developing new ideas collaboratively
- Zooming out to look at broader context and then resetting before zooming back in
- Getting really specific and then considering many different angles of particular strategies
- Realizing that others are non-present experts and finding ways to include them in the conversation before coming to certain decisions
- Putting specific people/groups on achievable tasks
- **HOW IS THERE GOING TO BE FOLLOW-THROUGH ON THESE THINGS?**
 - Very specific list of *who* might be able to carry things out and *how*

PRESENTATION OF OUTCOMES:

- **Knowledge Sharing Group:**
 - Outcome: All producers and ag stakeholders are connected in a knowledge-exchange community focused on building ag resilience.
 - Strategies:
 - Defining resiliency
 - Building relationships and trust
 - Research and convene innovative gatherings with various local thought leaders, depolarizing climate change
 - Framing conversation in personal and economic terms
 - Creating knowledge and ensuring people have that knowledge—univ system and other research groups?
 - Finding out community language and forums—place-specific
 - Multi-directional flow, not one-way (bottom-up)
 - What we have:
 - extension, MontGuide, social media, extension roundtable, ag industry groups, community gatekeepers
 - What we need:
 - Collaboration b/w agencies—foster dialogue b/w them
 - Formal and informal collaboration—e.g., off-the-record dialogue between producers
 - Clearinghouse on locally relevant info
 - Relationships w/ community leaders—trusted source of information for dispersion and connection
 - Lead person/group:
 - Formal: extension, NRCS, tribal governments, Dept of Ag
 - Informal: existing forums and conversations—industry group meetings—rancher roundtable, watershed organization meetings, fair, schools
 - Ideal deadline:
 - 2026!
 - MontGuide on resiliency by 2017
 - Extension/NRCS collaborate on soil health by 2018/2019
 - Next steps:
 - Opening NRCS soil health calls to partners and maybe public within year

- Visit four county fairs or tribal fairs by next summer with rainfall simulators
 - Build relationship b/w nonprofit sector and ag research centers, extension, NRCS
- **Farming practices and technology Group**
 - Outcome:
 - All MT farms have implemented resilient practices by 2026
 - Strategies:
 - Utilize education networks (NRCS, extension, etc.)
 - Policies that incentivize more resilient farming practices
 - Diversification, water/soil conservation, local farm networks, etc
 - Apply appropriate techs more widely to inform mgmt.
 - What we have:
 - Technology
 - Policies
 - Case studies
 - Adaptive mgmt. through monitoring
 - Understanding
 - Education networks
 - Government agencies
 - Local food interest
 - Groups like Grow MT
 - What we need:
 - To apply existent framework, share, and reform the assets we already have
 - Lead person/groups:
 - Univ/extension service/govt
 - PARA—precision ag research association
 - Other farm groups
 - Farmers
 - Ideal deadline:
 - Ongoing—5 and 10 year benchmarks
 - Next steps:
 - Example: Resiliency “MontGuide”
 - Farm Bill reform and passage
 - Outline some appropriate technologies for different types of farms
 - NASS/MASS for establishing baseline for how to change
 - Governor and MACD awards program for innovation in resilience/adaptive practices
- **Food waste Group**
 - Outcome:
 - A percentage of food waste in MT continually decreases over time
 - Strategies:
 - Awareness of problem and cost
 - Food waste prevention tips at point of purchase
 - Waste reduction challenge across organizations
 - Local compost options
 - Food bank
 - Local food/Farm to school programs
 - Yard compost programs
 - Nutrition programs/universities/colleges/schools/restaurants
 - EPA/USDA programs currently existing
 - “Community supported compost”

- What we need:
 - A way to compost food (local compost/collections)
 - Measurement system for assessing reduction—to show that it is/isn't working
 - Awards program to recognize individual efforts
- Lead person/groups:
 - Any food/nutrition groups and businesses
 - Need local community group to lead
- Ideal deadline:
 - Ongoing
- Next steps:
 - Need a community lead organization (mayor/university/chamber of commerce/community gardens/NCAT/school nutrition programs/schools generally/federal program information and resources/landfills)
 - Need communication strategy
 - Incentive program/challenge to get people to engage
 - Community goals and measurement with broad participation
- **WE NEED TO FIND WAYS TO MOVE THIS FORWARD—SPECIFIC POINT PEOPLE/GROUPS?**
- **Policy and local investment Group**
 - Outcome:
 - Support Farm Bill with strong Nutrition title, Conservation title, and safety net for diversity
 - Strategies:
 - Develop a Food Policy Council to plan around Farm Bill that represents diverse MTs
 - Connect with national groups: NSAC
 - Connect with a MT delegation—senators, reps, Tester (get on Ag Committee?), governor
 - Develop a white paper on Farm Bill needs—one on policy considerations for farm bill, one on resilience
 - What we have:
 - Networks, specific knowledge of farm bill
 - NPRC, One MT, Extension, MFU, Northern Climate Hub
 - What we need:
 - Definitive information on cost/budget scenarios—how will changes to farm bill impact budget of various programs?
 - Money for council, white papers
 - Money—Koch funds at MSU for inefficiencies in policies
 - Lead person/group:
 - MT Policy Council (informal now)
 - Ideal deadline:
 - Immediate
 - Next steps:
 - Grow MT convene policy council
 - Grow MT reach out to Dept of Ag and others for assistance and farm bill specifics
 - Develop white papers and send to governor's office and delegation on farm bill
 - Vince Smith and Wendy Stock at MSU for funding for Food Policy Council
- **Part two policy and local investment group**
 - Outcome:
 - Stable funding for FADCs and GTA
 - Strategies:
 - Get funding from coal trust fund interest entirely, avoid general fund

- Lobby for this in legislature
 - What we have:
 - Great programs
 - What we need:
 - Leadership on funding questions
 - Food Policy Council
 - Funding
 - Study on benefits of these programs on state level
 - Track local ag activity
 - Lead person/group:
 - WMGC, MFU, GFDA
 - Private citizens that use these services
 - Ideal deadline:
 - January 1, for this legislative session
 - Next steps:
 - Talk to FADCs and GFDA about bill
 - Maggie Zaback talk to Zach Grown about ag bills
 - Kristal Jones talk to Mary Stein about NIFA funding, SARE, and tracking local food
- **Closing remarks:**
 - Connecting through our different efforts—Ron’s bucket of rocks: what is the food system comprised of? Can we add to the rocks as having specific elements to them? Elemental makeup of rocks could make them heavier! Can we build nutrition in our big rocks? We need to know this! How do environment and management affect this makeup? Water—the human element—how does that interact with the big rocks on a chemical level? The holes in the bottom of the bucket could be holes in the system. Choice of seeds, for example, is one of the elements.
 - Also the rocks could be defined bioregions
 - Investment piece might need its own conference—food and ag grants to private equity—context could be resilience around climate change
 - Celebrate our accomplishments