

Appendix J: Ideas for Future Consideration

The following suggestions and recommendations were received during the public comment period. These are ideas that have not been fully vetted by data and the stakeholder outreach process, but could be considered in the next annual update.

Note: The ideas are sequenced in random order within each section (no prioritization).

General

- Expand the use of diversity measures in across all focus areas to better address racial and ethnic differences (disparities, wealth, resources, ownership, etc.)

Agriculture

- Actions
 - Offer tax reductions for fuel use in agriculture, such as eliminating fuel tax for agricultural uses
 - Under Recruit Workers, add a new action, to add agriculture-related micro-courses to the UAF course offerings under the AlaskaX program. Micro courses may be taken for credit or as professional development without credit.
 - Expand access to traditional land owners in developing farming lands across the Interior.
 - Support and promote effective hobby farm and homesteading education.
 - Agriculture support with borough assistance to make it easier for both farmers and consumers to get local produce year round.
 - Increase availability of community food storage facilities and processing locations including more available and affordable DEC approved kitchens.
- Metrics
 - Hobby farms
 - Farmsteads
 - Gardens data
 - Farmer's market public assistance coupon redemption at regional farmers markers

Energy

- Actions
 - Explore the development and export of green hydrogen. Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced using entirely renewable sources of energy. It is produced by using electrolysis to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen can then be stored and burned for energy. This has several major potential benefits: 1. It provides energy

mediation and storage so renewables (which tend to produce power sporadically) can power us through the winter. 2. Countries are already looking to import hydrogen as a source of energy, meaning we could take whatever excess hydrogen we produce and sell it for a profit. Japan is one such country looking to import, and we already have shipping ties with them. To prevent confusion, Japan currently intends to import hydrogen in the form of ammonia as that form makes transportation simpler. 3. As hydrogen can burn at a very wide variety of temperatures and mixture percentages, it has a high probability of being able to replace heating fuel in homes, not only drastically reducing CO2 emissions, but also drastically improving air quality as the only emission from burning hydrogen is water!

- Implement Building Information Modeling, AKA B1M on borough facilities. Create an online-only process to apply for 6-star home tax credits and abatements. Use existing energy efficiency authorizations in state statute to supply credits to building owners who share B1M data with other building owners so buildings can compare energy performance.
- Convert Healy 1 and Healy 2 to Carnot Battery operation
- Focus on energy efficient, electric transportation conversion. Perhaps start with the Borough's bus fleet and encourage school bus contractors to adopt electric buses.
- Ask the federal government and State of Alaska to utilize electric vehicles for their fleets in the borough to help contribute to cleaner air.
- Implement borough incentives, such as property tax offsets, for adoption of rooftop solar or electric vehicles by homeowners, or other measures that promote clean energy and improve air quality.
- Add large-scale solar arrays to borough buildings along with battery backup for increased resiliency during our more frequent and longer electric grid outages. Support large-scale community solar projects that are accessible to low and middle income residents.
- Explore the use of water radiators in homes and businesses.
- Create renewable portfolio standards and support GVEA's on bill financing task force.
- Cover the solid waste piles at the water treatment facility and harvest the biogas for energy production.
- Cap the landfill and utilize the biogas from the landfill.
- Increase public education on ways to save money through renewables both as homeowners, business owners, and renters.
- Launch a public relations campaign around how important renewable energy is for a livable climate
- Increase tours to renewable energy production sites in our community.
- What's most important?
- I also believe that the borough should give more tax breaks to homeowners who have solar or alternative energy sources to cut down on the pollution in our community during the winter.
- Prioritize infrastructure upgrades that increase benefits to vulnerable populations (measured by hazardous air quality, high individual energy burden ie % of household income spent on energy, etc)

- Metrics
 - Increase solar by x% and x number of homes
 - Number # of families & x Kwh of Community Solar (supporting GVEA's SNAP program, Solarize+, financing for affordable residential installations and community solar gardens so renters can also access renewable energy)

Forestry

- Actions
 - Explore possibility of Northland and Ward Wood sensitivity under Local Products strategy (recommendation from FEDC)
 - Local Products Strategy: home construction framing kits or dimensional lumber
 - Purchase a community biomass-to-liquid fuel distiller and make it available for rent.
 - Purchase a biochar reactor and make it available to rent via the Transportation department.
 - Rewrite timber sale contracts to avoid clear-cutting any area larger than 0.2 acres.
 - Promote roadless timber methods such as rolling, craning or ballooning.
 - Encourage commercial biochar production instead of open burning of slash and other waste biomass.

Health Care

- Actions
 - Environmental health: Ensure that facilities are adequate to address health problems resulting from wildfire smoke and other sources of air pollution.
 - Connect with Stone Soup Cafe regarding health and housing.
 - Improve environmental health by ensuring that facilities are adequate to address health problems resulting from wildfire smoke and other sources of air pollution.
 - Institute a greenhouse gas monitoring program for emitters in private and public sector industries.
 - The mental health section, talks about increase the number of MH/BH providers in the community. That is a worthwhile and important goal. It would be great if future plans could address prevention, rather than intervention.
- Metrics
 - Overall cost savings from avoiding unnecessary healthcare expenses and catastrophic infrastructure impacts of climate change should be added as metrics of success.
 - The economic impacts of inaction from medical bills to infrastructure damage. For example, investing in clean air not only saves lives it prevents medical bills but public input tends to focus on perceived loss rather than gain from addressing poor air quality.

Mining

- Objective:
 - Fairbanks on path to being Alaska center for critical & rare earth ore development and processing.
- Action
 - Return State mining offices & personnel to FBX (lead: AMA, support: FNSB, FEDC)
 - Ask state representatives that the new mine tax holiday and new mine tax credits be repealed in state statute
 - A threat that needs to be added to the Mining section is the climate crises as well. Because of our melting permafrost, that is going to contribute to sinkholds and tailing pound failures. That is going to put miners at much greater risk of rockbed collapse, and overall tailing pound spills and failures because of the thinning soil, and shifting bedrock. Projects that once were booming will have to close. It should also list what those negative environmental impacts are. We need to remain consistent like we are in other sections.

Research & Innovation

- Action
 - Work with UAF Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station Researchers to develop locally adapted cultivars and sustainable food-production techniques/ models (UAF IANRE/ AFES)

Recreation, Retail, & Entertainment

- Action
 - Replace Mary Siah and Hamme with reasonable (not hugely expensive) alternative, on a timeline that does not leave the community with no public swimming facilities for a decade.

Small Business Development & Entrepreneurship

- Actions
 - Look at the demographics of small business owners. Our leaders, to include the Assembly, seem to ignore business owners of color, and businesses for communities of color, Queer communities, or communities with disabilities.
 - Evaluate the need for increased CDFI presence in Interior Alaska, including how to better leverage existing CDFIs.
- Metrics

- Add FNSB Business Retention and Attrition Rates

Other

- Actions
 - We need more emergency/temp housing for those experiencing flooding/fires/etc due to climate change.
 - A detailed permafrost map and report with projected thaw rates must be made available to the planning commission, municipalities, realtors and homebuilders. Users can use the information to save significant avoided costs and avoid future conflicts over wetland drain and fill.
 - A climate vulnerability assessment is needed for the borough government that examines fiscal losses that can be avoided, minimized or mitigated. The most aggressive climate model (RCP 8.5) should be used but assessment authors should be explicit that climate models are proving to underestimate impacts. Los Angeles CA completed a VA last year that is a good start, but doesn't quantify fiscal impacts.
 - FNSB grant writer as an idea for future consideration
- Metrics
 - Fiscal impacts of inaction from rising number of billion-dollar disasters in the US to increasing US crop insurance claims to borough road maintenance.
 - •Prioritize infrastructure upgrades that increase benefits to vulnerable populations (measured by hazardous air quality, high individual energy burden ie % of household income spent on energy, etc)
 - Economic development opportunity to apply for: Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (Division J, Title V, pg. 958) \$1B over five years (\$200M per year for FY22-26) for FEMA's BRIC pre-disaster mitigation program, supporting states, local communities, tribes and territories with hazard mitigation projects to reduce risks from disasters.