

News Release

Energy ‘Town Hall’ Scheduled for July 22 *Can Local Sources Meet Ketchum’s Needs?*

KETCHUM, Idaho – The first in a series of energy “Town Halls,” focusing on the adequacy and reliability of electrical power sources, will be Tuesday, July 22 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. at Ketchum City Hall in City Council chambers.

Speakers will explore the question of whether the Wood River Valley needs a second, back-up power line and the degree to which local energy sources such as solar power can meet the area’s needs.

Speakers will be Aimee Christensen, CEO of Christensen Global Strategies in Ketchum and formerly with the U.S. Department of Energy; Rick LeFavre, clean energy investor, former senior executive at Apple, and advisory board member of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; Billy Mann, CEO of Sagebrush Solar in Ketchum; Kerrin McCall, writer and environmental advocate, and Alan Richardson, former president of the American Public Power Association. A representative of Idaho Power also is expected to speak.

The city of Ketchum and the Ketchum Energy Advisory Committee are sponsoring the meeting. The committee plans to hold four “Town Halls” over the next six months under the title “KetchEmpower: Taking Charge of Our Energy Future.” The topic for the July 22 meeting is “Our Energy Security: The Redundant Line and Local Energy Sources.”

“Energy underpins our economy and quality of life,” Aimee Christensen, chair of the committee, said. She pointed to a recent report by Bloomberg Businessweek, which noted that power outages in the U.S. are up “an astonishing 258 percent since 1984.” The same article gave an “F” to three states with the worst records, Idaho, Montana and North Dakota.

Although Idaho Power has proposed a second, back-up line to serve the valley, Christensen noted that a second line would not have prevented the prolonged Christmas Day outage in 2009. A problem with a feeder line south of the Wood River Valley caused this outage, she said.

The energy committee’s role is to evaluate cost-effective ways of bringing reliable, secure, price-stable and cleaner energy to the Wood River Valley. Local solar energy production and storage are among the possible solutions, Christensen said.

For additional information, email aimee@christensenglobal.com.



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About the City of Ketchum

The City of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The City of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the City of Ketchum, visit www.ketchumidaho.org.

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