

News Release

Use Solar in Below-Zero Temperatures? Find Out How Sept. 10 *Ketchum Energy Advisory Committee Sponsors Town Hall*

Tim Cron, owner of the Stanley Baking Co. and 1931-vintage Sawtooth Hotel, will speak Sept. 10 about his use of solar energy in a community where temperatures dip below zero 60 days a year and frost has occurred in every single month.

Cron will be one of several speakers at Ketchum's second energy Town Hall, sponsored by the city of Ketchum's Energy Advisory Committee. The meeting, which starts at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall, will focus on ways to make businesses and homes more energy-efficient.

Other speakers will include Aimee Christensen, energy committee chair, and Rebecca Bundy, sustainable residential designer and senior planner for the city of Ketchum. Information on federal and state grants for energy conservation also will be available.

Cron installed rooftop solar panels on the Stanley Hotel to heat water to temperatures of 130 degrees in the summer and 100 degrees in the winter. The water then circulates through a radiant heating system, reducing his propane bill significantly. Although there were some upfront costs, Cron said a federal grant plus a 25 percent tax credit made the project financially feasible.

The city 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, said Chair Aimee Christensen.

The committee plans two additional Town Halls on energy. The first, held in July, focused on local energy sources and whether a second, backup power line is needed in the Wood River Valley.

For additional information, email energy@ketchumidaho.org.



August 29, 2014

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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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