

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Missoula's Climate & Clean Energy Expo to showcase local solutions and actions, September 17 at Caras Park

MISSOULA – Climate Smart Missoula and partners are excited to host Missoula's fourth annual **Climate and Clean Energy Expo** on Saturday, September 17th from 10am to 2pm at Caras park in downtown Missoula.

The Expo is free, open to the public, and family-friendly. This year's event will include local solar installers, climate and sustainability businesses and organizations sharing resources and actions, kids activities, with electric vehicles, e-bikes and Mountain Line's electric bus on display. There will be panels and discussion throughout the event, including information on what the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act means for Missoula residents and businesses.

"Everyone is talking about clean energy and climate right now," says Abby Huseth, Outreach Director with Climate Smart Missoula. "Montana's households, schools, and businesses are looking at solar and electrification as ways to save money, protect against rising energy costs, and engage in climate solutions. Meanwhile, Congress recently passed the Inflation Reduction Act, the most expansive climate legislation ever, and from which Montanans can benefit significantly. We're so excited to host the 4th annual Expo to help inform Montanans about what's going on, and how they can be inspired and involved."

There will be over 25 exhibitors ready to visit with attendees, inspire action and answer questions. The day's activities will also feature several short presentations. The main stage schedule includes:

- 11:00 | Sustainable transportation: Electric & beyond. *From EVs to e-bikes to e-buses, going electric is one strategy for a low-carbon transportation system. Let's talk about how to build a more bike-, walk- and bus-able community!*
- 11:30 | Climate Policy & Advocacy Lightning Round! *How do we make the most of and build on the Inflation Reduction Act? What climate issues will be on deck at the state legislature in 2023? Hear from policy experts and advocates about what you need to know and how to get involved.*
- 12:30 | *Electrify Missoula* Stories & Inspiration. *Hear from Missoulians on the journey towards electrification, from heat pumps to water heaters to solar to energy efficiency and more!*
- 1:00 | Solar, EVs, and Batteries, Oh My! *Learn all about integrating EVs and batteries with home solar, with industry veteran Dan Brandborg of SBS Solar.*

Along with this Caras Park event, Families for a Livable Climate and friends are inviting residents to the second annual Climate Protectors ride which starts at 10 am at Silver Park and ends at the Expo just in time for our discussion on greening local transportation (for details and registration see <https://livableclimate.org/events>).

And it's simply a great Saturday to enjoy Missoula. We encourage everyone to stop by the Expo and then head over to Home ReSource and enjoy their festival of creative reinvention (for details see <https://www.homeresource.org/about/sponcon-auction/sponcon/>).

"The climate crisis can feel overwhelming, especially after a summer where the impacts are all around us. As urgent as the challenge is, there have never been more opportunities for all of us to be part of climate solutions, right here in Missoula," says Amy Cilimburg, Executive Director of Climate Smart Missoula. "Getting involved locally helps build a safer climate and a stronger community. Whether you're interested in going solar, learning about sustainable transportation, or advocating for needed state and federal action, there's something for everyone at the Expo."

Title sponsors for the Expo include Clearwater Credit Union, the City of Missoula, and Missoula County. Additional sponsors include the Montana Renewable Energy Association, Missoula Electric Cooperative, SBS Solar, Mountain Line, WGM Group, Montana Conservation Voters, Missoula Downtown Association, and the Sierra Club.

For more information visit: www.missoulaclimate.org/clean-energy-expo.html

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