



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - November 30, 2015

CONTACT: Amy Cilimburg, Climate Smart Missoula, 406-465-1141
Chase Jones, City of Missoula, 406-552-6389 or 406-207-4868

Climate Smart Missoula to launch “Summer Smart”: Grant enables citizens to endure longer, hotter, smokier summers

MISSOULA, MT – Missoula is experiencing longer, hotter, smokier summers because of climate change, impacting the quality of life for all Missoulians, especially children, the elderly and low income populations. Climate Smart Missoula, an initiative of the Missoula Community Foundation, along with the City of Missoula are now poised to help people cope with the hardships of these changing summer conditions with the launch of “Summer Smart”, made possible by a new, nationally-competitive \$45,000 matching grant.

“Summer Smart” will provide Missoulians tangible resources to maintain health and happiness during longer, hotter, smokier summers. For example it will help identify safe, healthy refuges from unprecedented heat and smoke. Also, Summer Smart will provide tools to help people keep their power bills under control by providing shade, energy efficiency and passive cooling education and resources.

“We’re excited to do this work in our community,” said Amy Cilimburg, Director of Climate Smart Missoula. “Everyone remembers the debilitating smoke of last August. We all know that we need to do more than simply ‘hope for rain’. Wildfire smoke and heat are especially challenging to our most vulnerable residents—children, elderly, and those with compromised health need better options when conditions are severe. Our efforts will jumpstart resiliency, creating a community better able to ‘weather the weather’.”

“Summer Smart is the kickoff to the City and our community’s next phase of energy conservation and climate action work, galvanizing a broad cross section of public and private leadership around investment in a healthy, sustainable and resilient Missoula,” said Chase Jones, City of Missoula Energy Conservation Coordinator.

Climate Smart Missoula must raise the \$45,000 match by the end of 2015 to receive the Partners for Places award. To date, partners have raised almost half of the dollars. Donations can be made online at climatesmartmissoula.org or by mail addressed to Climate Smart Missoula, Missoula Community Foundation, PO Box 8806, Missoula, 59807.

Partners for Places – a project of the Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities is a successful matching grant program that improves U.S. and Canadian communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability leaders, and place-based foundations. National

fundors invest in local projects developed through these partnerships to promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being for all residents. Through these investments, Partners for Places fosters long-term relationships that make our urban areas more prosperous, livable, and vibrant.

###

Learn more about Climate Smart Missoula and Missoula's *Community Climate Smart Action Plan V1.0* here: climatesmartmissoula.org.