



Grassroots Institute

Progressive Solutions for the Common Good

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Growing the Commons Spring 2021

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*Study Guide for Grassroots Solutions &
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*Study Guide for Building the Economy
for Our Common Good*

*Map of the Mendocino County
Economy for Our Common Good*

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American Rescue Act Project Funding Recommendations

- Enactment of the American Rescue Act provides a unique opportunity to improve the health, well-being and economic security of Fort Bragg residents. To maximize the benefit of the funding provided by the Act, the Grassroots Institute recommends the City Council place a priority on funding projects in the following areas:

- Installation of Photo-voltaic (PV) Panels on Municipal Buildings - Photo-voltaic systems have a proven track record providing reliable clean electricity. Once installed, PV systems substantially lower the need to purchase electricity from commercial suppliers, and often provide new revenues through the sale of excess electricity. Installing PV systems is consistent with the City's previously adopted energy conservation and climate change goals. Indeed, the City has already done much of the prerequisite research into which municipal buildings would be best suited to PV panel applications. Installation is a one time capital improvement, which enhances the City's long term fiscal security and sustainability.

- Install Additional Electric Car Charging Stations - The health of Fort Bragg's economy is strongly linked to tourism. Electric car owners are a growing segment of consumers traveling to coastal destinations. The City's ability to attract a strong market share of tourists using electric vehicles will be significantly increased by ensuring easy convenient access to electric vehicle charging stations. Further, electric vehicles are favored by a growing number of City residents as a clean alternative to fossil fuel. Adding charging stations will directly serve the needs of these City residents. The Grassroots Institute also recommends combining installation of municipal PV systems with installation of electric vehicle charging stations and Public Safety Power Shutoff battery charging stations wherever possible as a way to further capture multiple public benefits.

- Transition Public Transportation to Electric Vehicles - The Grassroots Institute urges the City to collaborate with the Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) to convert as much as possible to electric vehicles. Converting the public transit system fleet provides an excellent one time capital investment consistent with grant nature of American Rescue Act funding. The Grassroots Institute further urges the City and MTA explore how smaller more efficient electric vehicles might be used to expand services routes at the same or reduced cost.