

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY; FURTHER REVIEW PENDING

RESOLUTION 2019-XX
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
ACKNOWLEDGING THE GLOBAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REAFFIRMING THE
CITY'S COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE ACTION

WHEREAS, on November 16, 1999, the City Council adopted Resolution 99-137, "Establishing a Policy to Take Cost-effective Actions that Benefit the Community to Reduce Local Greenhouse Gas Emissions," which established the City's commitment to reduce its contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2015, City Council adopted Resolution 2015-030, establishing updated goals to reduce emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020, reduce emissions to 80% below 2005 levels by 2030, and to be carbon neutral by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 CAP Framework acknowledges that it does not provide "a definitive and inflexible roadmap", since "technologies and markets will continue to evolve, financing structures and opportunities may continue to expand, and scientific findings regarding climate change may continue to evolve over time;" and

WHEREAS, Fort Collins has achieved net reductions in emissions and more significant reductions in per capita emissions, yet is experiencing upward pressure on emissions, largely due to increasing population; and

WHEREAS, these goals have led to investments and benefits in Fort Collins, such as:

- businesses saving more than \$9.8M annually from improved efficiencies;
- diverting about 60% of waste from the landfill while exploring waste streams into profit streams;
- doubling transit ridership in the past four years and ensuring more equitable access with expanded service;
- engaging thousands of residents annually in positive, simple actions they can take to save time and money while impacting these goals; and
- deploying technology investments that monitor and adjust traffic management in real-time to reduce congestion and emissions; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that cities can be the practitioners and innovators of "leading by example" and scaling up practical solutions; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to sharing our experience and best practices with other communities and is a member of Colorado Communities for Climate Action, Climate Mayors, Urban Sustainability Directors Network, and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the Rocky Mountain Institute found that if all the cities, states, and businesses achieve their existing climate action goals, the United States would be almost two-thirds of the way to the national commitments associated with the 2016 Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, even with these commitments and actions, the impacts of climate change globally are already evident, and many communities and nations are preparing their communities for these impacts; and

WHEREAS, an analysis published in 2019 by the Colorado Health Institute indicates warming temperatures, poorer air quality, changing precipitation patterns, and increased wildfire risk are local examples of the climate change impacts Fort Collins and Colorado are facing as a result of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change and the global economy's overshoot of ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species, which could devastate much of life on Earth within the coming century; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate will necessitate a Climate Emergency Mobilization on a scale significantly greater than that achieved by Fort Collins and like-minded cities, states, and countries to date, which will require reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions across all economic sectors at great speed, to rapidly and safely draw down or remove excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate change; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado recently adopted "Just Transition" legislation (House Bill 2019-1314), which has the goal of beginning to shift Colorado's economy, which is currently heavily reliant on coal, to one that is more ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all residents; and

WHEREAS, Just Transition initiatives generally attempt to shift the economy from dirty energy to clean energy, from funding highways to expanding public transit, from incinerators and landfills to zero waste, from industrial food systems to food sovereignty, from car-dependent sprawl and unbridled growth to smart urban development without displacement, and from rampant, destructive over-development to habitat and ecosystem restoration; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2018, the City Council adopted Ordinance 2018-133, the Annual Appropriation Ordinance, which funded the update to the City's Climate Action Plan, Energy Policy, and Road to Zero Waste Plans ("Planning Updates"); and

WHEREAS, these Planning Updates will identify the strategies and sequencing needed to achieve the City's 2030 greenhouse gas reduction, Energy Policy, and Road to Zero Waste goals, and establish the first community-wide resilience strategies; and

WHEREAS, these Planning Updates will be centered in equity and will engage residents, businesses, community, and the Climate Action Plan Community Advisory Committee, which

consists of residents who provide diverse perspectives, social networks, and expertise to advise City staff as the community works to achieve our greenhouse gas reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, centering these Planning Updates in equity means there will be both process- and outcome-based solutions, where all residents and businesses have meaningful opportunities to participate in the planning process in order to co-create outcomes, such as policies, tools, and programs that work for our community; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges the Indigenous people that inhabited Northern Colorado for thousands of years, including but not limited to Ute, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Lakota, Apache, and Comanche, prior to the European settlement of Northern Colorado and the City's incorporation in 1883; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges the City of Fort Collins and its residents occupy 1851 Fort Laramie treaty territory land of the Cheyenne and Arapaho; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges Indigenous peoples have inherent rights to their ancestral homelands, possess significant traditional ecological knowledge, and can offer shared solutions that could improve, supplement, and enrich the City's current climate action plan; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous and frontline communities had not been engaged in previous local planning processes although they are more at-risk from climate change impacts, and they should be included in the co-creation of the plans to ensure a carbon neutral Fort Collins benefits everyone; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the Council desires to acknowledge the global climate emergency and reaffirm its commitment to local climate action, as set forth below.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby makes and adopts the determinations and findings contained in the recitals set forth above.

Section 2. That the City Council recognizes the global climate emergency threatens Fort Collins, the State of Colorado, the United States of America, all other nations, and indeed, the entire world.

Section 3. That the City Council re-affirms its commitment to the goals set forth by Resolution 2015-030 to reduce emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020, reduce emissions to 80% below 2005 levels by 2030, and to be carbon neutral by 2050, and affirms its commitment to meaningfully engage all community members, both residents and businesses, to partner and develop solutions that reduce emissions.

Section 4. That the City Council hereby directs the City Manager to review and consider strengthening the goals established for 2030 and 2050 at five year intervals beginning in

2020 to ensure that those goals remain in alignment with current scientific findings regarding climate change.

Section 5. That the City Council hereby directs the City Manager to (1) ensure the updates to the Climate Action Plan, Energy Policy, and Road to Zero Waste plans center the processes and outcomes in equity, and (2) solicit additional applications to ensure the Climate Action Plan Community Advisory Committee better represents the Fort Collins community as a whole, including all dimensions of diversity, specifically seeking to include representation from indigenous communities.

Section 6: That the Council directs the City Manager to ensure that our residents are educated about the climate emergency in order to help catalyze a Climate Emergency Mobilization and Just Transition effort at the local, state, national, and global levels to provide maximum protection and equity for our residents as well as all the people and species of the world.

Section 7: That the Council calls on the State of Colorado, the United States of America, and all governments and peoples worldwide to initiate a Climate Emergency Mobilization and Just Transition effort to reverse global warming by restoring near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations, that halts the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure, rapidly phases out all fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them, transitions to regenerative agriculture, works to end the sixth mass extinction, and creates and guarantees high-quality, good-paying jobs with comprehensive benefits for those who will be impacted by this transition.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fort Collins this 20th day of August, A.D. 2019.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk