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**Air Quality Advisory Board**

**TO:** Councilman Ross Cuniff, Mayor Weitkunat and Council Members

**FROM:** Rich Fisher, Chair Air Quality Advisory Board

**CC:** Darin Atteberry, City Manager  
Bruce Hendee, Chief Sustainability Officer  
Lucinda Smith, Environmental Services Director  
John Phelan, Energy Services Manager

**DATE:** January 31, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Goals

On 27 January 2014, the Air Quality Advisory Board unanimously adopted the following recommendation to Council.

“The latest global climate assessments confirm a rapidly changing climate. Prompt actions to reduce greenhouse gases are more urgently needed than was previously thought. Averting catastrophic climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions must be a global effort, but those reductions can begin most effectively at the local level. Fortunately, citizens and businesses of Fort Collins will benefit from the many environmental, economic, and social dividends of moving away from fossil fuel energy sources.

Therefore, the Air Quality Advisory Board recommends the City adopt more aggressive greenhouse gas goals, including a reduction to 80% of 2005 emissions by 2030 and aspiring to carbon-neutral status by 2050.

To become carbon neutral by 2050, the City should adopt specific, achievable, and measurable actions for 2020, 2030, and 2040. Recent analyses prepared for the City by the Rocky Mountain Institute and the Brendle Group suggest that the City can achieve carbon-neutrality with a concerted effort. The City is well-positioned both technically and policy-wise to act on these interim and long-term goals. Action on these goals should begin immediately. Doing so makes achieving the goals most likely.”

The AQAB also believes it’s critical to tier the Energy Policy, and other policies related to the built environment, transportation and sustainability from the GHG Goals followed closely with aggressive, meaningful and measureable actions that implement these policies and plans.