



**Climate Action Plan
Citizen Advisory Committee Minutes
January 21, 2015
215 N. Mason Street, Community Room
5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

CAC Members: (X = present)

Bill DeMarco	X	Harry Edwards	X	John Shenot	X
Bryan Watkins	X	Holly Wright	X	Sara Frazier	
Chadrick Martinez		John Holcombe		Scott Denning	X
Dana Villeneuve	X	Kellie Falbo		Stacey Clark	X
Dianne Ewing	X	Marge Moore	X	Suraj Renganathan	X
Hunter Buffington	X	Mark Easter	X	Tom Ghidossi	X
Glen Colton	On the phone part time	Mike Freeman		Yvonne Myers	X
Greg Rittner	X	Olivia Stowell	X		

In attendance:

Staff: Lucinda Smith, Emily Wilmsen, Travis Paige, Bruce Hendee, John Phelan, Cassi Nichols, Mary Pat Aardrup, Josh Birks

Consultants: Judy Dorsey and Becky Fedak - Brendle Group, Coreina Chan, Martha Campbell, Aman Chitkara RMI, Brad Decker – Platte River

Guests: Stacey Baumgarn, Mark Hoadashelt

Welcome

Public Comment and Announcements

No public comment

Minutes Review

Dec. 15 minutes: Scott moves, Marge seconds; Vote: All in favor, motion passes.

Jan. 7 minutes: Stacey moves and Dianne approves; Vote: All in favor, motion passes.

Status and CAP Summary

Lucinda: We had a work session with Council on Jan. 13. Council and members of the public that we have spoken with recognize the importance of working with PRPA and member cities. They also are interested in financing options. This plan represents a framework of feasibility, but this will change over time. The council would like to see a timeline for implementation, but we will not be able to develop anything comprehensive. We may be able to identify strategies and tactics that could be recommended to implement first.

Becky outlines the analysis adjustments since Jan. 7 meeting and an overall analysis summary in the evening's presentation.

Discussion:

- I don't really understand total cost vs. incremental cost. It seems that there could be an enormous difference between these two things.
 - Becky: We would only count "what is the cost of energy efficiency." For example, with electric vehicles, we are including the cost of that efficiency, not necessarily the total cost of purchasing the new vehicle.
- Under new construction, what is your start date?
 - Becky: We're looking at improvements in new construction each year starting in 2015 and we're assuming a certain percent increase above current code. By 2030 all new construction is assumed to be 36% more efficient than it already is.
- Are you saying all of the new construction starting in 2050 will include solar?
 - Becky: Right. This is all by 2030
- Is this based on what the population will be at those times?
 - Becky: At those points, right.

Public Input to Date

Lucinda outlines the public outreach efforts and potential partnerships with CSU and PSD.

- Can you recap some of the feedback you've gotten as you've gone out to different groups?
 - Lucinda: In general, the kinds of comments we have gotten have ranged from strong cost concerns and how it's going to impact those who have low or fixed income.
 - Travis: How much of this is voluntary and how much of this is mandatory came up a majority of the time. A lot of what is the actual cost, and from a property owner standpoint, the owners stated they would pass the costs down to tenants.
 - Lucinda: From the results of the surveys from the first open house, there was clearly support for action.
- I think a very common concern that I have heard is that people want more details. It can be hard when you first hear about the plan for people not to get stuck on one little detail. I'm not sure how to communicate that a lot has been considered.

- I know that when we gave the flyers out at the DBA member meeting. It seems that this can save you money pretty quickly. As a business owner, we always need upgrades in our building. I think the savings is a big thing to emphasize.
- Did you get a feel for the elasticity of demand? How motivated were people to sacrifice certain things to achieve these goals?
 - Lucinda: We didn't pose the question of willingness to pay.
 - I'm also talking about willingness to sacrifice.
 - Lucinda: You're talking about money and a willingness to change as well. The 2011 air quality survey showed that a majority of the respondents said they knew something that they could do to reduce their carbon footprint and that they would be willing to take action at the local level.
- The last few comments have focused on cost, but remember this is going to save money. There is up front cost, but it shows that there are actually long term savings.
- Focusing on the fact that there are savings is great. What are some of the programs to help people finance right away? We need to highlight the upfront costs and long term savings more as well as available programs to help.
 - Lucinda: There is a subcommittee on financing. One of the strategies is the integrated utility services model. This is a cost effective approach to bring efficiency savings to businesses and residences. I think that that should be one of the things that's looked into first, exploring additional financing options.
- We also need to put this analysis into perspective. The details are not the value of this. The analysis and the framework give a rough and valuable approximation on how to get there. It is most important to focus on "why" and "how." The long term benefits are a huge part of the why.

Lucinda goes over the 2011 Fort Collins Air Quality survey to review respondents' views on climate change, found online. (<http://www.fcgov.com/common/pdfs/spotlight-pdf.php?id=65>)

- I am concerned about those that do not have the ability to finance or have money up front.
 - John: We had a good discussion at Council very recently about on-bill financing. Council suggested two changes, one is a longer term, going out to 20 years, as well as looking at a lower interest rate that what was proposed. It was a very positive discussion.
- What about committees to keep this (CAP work) going and start implementing. Have any of us expressed an interest in becoming a part of that?
 - Lucinda: I have personally talked to several people who have offered their expertise and time. We don't at this time have a structure to do this, but that is a next step that we need to look at.
- Glen Colton raises a concern: By looking at the production method of GHG accounting, I do get concerned with whether we adequately discussing or accounting for those GHG emissions outside of Fort Collins city limits? This includes producing food, producing cars, etc. Are we accounting for what we consume in city limits that is produced outside of city limits? Also, are we misleading people by saying our population can continually grow and we can still be greenhouse gas neutral?

Committee discussion:

- I think this enters into the education piece. We can't control what people buy or how they get it, but there does need to be some level of education or awareness.

- I don't see anything in the plan that drives increased consumption.
- We're talking about additional infrastructure and updating our energy equipment. We are talking about eliminating one of our greatest consumptions and that is fossil fuels.
- I think this is such a complex subject we have to draw boundaries and make some assumptions. We all have some personal responsibility.
- There's value to what we're proposing to do here in terms of leadership. If it looks like this is feasible, and if Fort Collins does this, it would go a long way toward addressing this issue of consumption outside of our borders through leading by example.
- If we give some empirical evidence that we can do this and if we're successful, it could start a chain of events that could have a very positive impact.
- We may be sending the message that population isn't an issue.
 - Lucinda: I think we do need to make it clear in the inventory about what we do and do not address.
- We are not claiming that population doesn't count. We're trying to work with a specific set of opportunities and set a climate action direction.
- The effort is that we had decisions about what to do with the things that can be done at this point. This is starting in the right place, but this is not the end of the story.
- It is important to note that this plan is just one tool in climate action.
- Lucinda: There can also be a minority opinion.

Discussion/Questions/Motions

The Committee considered motion regarding GHG goals and strategies.

- (When discussing "costs" and "savings", would it be completely inappropriate to say this is an investment? There are some costs, but there is an eventual pay off.
- I really like the word "investment" because we're also looking at return on investment.
- If these numbers are right, that is a huge return on investment.
 - Lucinda: It is difficult to estimate these costs and savings, but even with various iterations of the modeling, the general results have remained the same.
- How much of this is going to have to go to the voters?
 - Lucinda: I don't think there are any tactics identified in the plan that would go to the voters. There are many things that would go to the council, and that is not to say that things couldn't go to the voters. There is such a wide range of options.
- I think the chart showed cost up front between now and 2020 and then a savings.
 - Judy: That unit is the net cumulative cost and the net cumulative savings.
- I would recommend a line that shows the investment level.
- It's critical that this information is presented in a clearer way to everyone. The savings over the longer period are more than the upfront costs.
 - Judy: That's true
 - Lucinda: The way to represent the information, because there is so much, is very important. I am getting feedback that the wedge diagram is not very helpful.
- I would love some examples. I still want to see who pays and who saves. Have we talked about the health benefits of this plan?

- Lucinda: Some of that was actually done in the triple bottom line impact analysis. Some job impact potential was in there too. We are going to work to try to quantify, where possible, some of these indirect benefits
- Where are we in being able to measure and assess?
 - Lucinda: We would follow an approach similar to what we do with the current climate action plan. We would be reporting progress annually. I think in addition to that, it would be possible to come up with other types of measures based on the tactics. We also need to have periodic updates of the plan.
- I worry about people leaving the community because of this. If the mandates are too much, we may see people moving out. We should add this measure of how many leave.
- At one point you talked about the possibility of a board or a committee; how do things rise to that level?
 - Lucinda: The Council appointed advisory boards are authorized in the city charter. I don't know that an ongoing board is necessarily the best approach.
 - Bruce: I think the energy board can work on these kinds of issues. I think there should be some ad hoc group.
 - Lucinda: That might be a recommendation staff could make.
- I'm thinking specifically about big employers in the community, is there a plan to do outreach with them to align goals?
 - Lucinda: I think that's really important. CSU did provide a letter of support for the direction that this is going. We do need to continue to develop these relationships and communication.
 - Bruce: Most of Fort Collins is not aware of what a climate action plan is. I don't think we can underestimate this challenge. We need to have strong engagement and outreach.
- Should we write some op ed pieces?
 - Lucinda: That is up to individual committee members. Our role is to provide information to you all and to gather input.
- When FortZed was going on how much of community residents actually got involved in the "Community Energy Challenge"?
 - John: a couple thousand
 - Bruce: A lot of the things that you all have been talking about in Fort Zed's future is to use it to test, get metrics and make sure that they are going to work.
 - John: Georgetown, you'll start to see fits very well with the climate action plan.

Motion 1 initial proposal:

- Mark Easter moves to vote Scott Denning seconds:

All in favor of the motion that the Citizen Advisory Committee recommends the City Council reaffirm the current goal to reduce community wide greenhouse gas emissions 20% below 2005 levels by 2020 and set the aspirational goal to reduce community wide greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 2005 levels by 2030 and 100% by 2050: 16 in favor

Discussion:

- Is there a way we can break these bullet points up. 100% is a great aspirational goal, but I don't know that I'm comfortable voting on those as a package.

- Carbon neutrality is not necessarily the same as 100% reductions or is that what we're making the assumption of?
 - Lucinda: I was taking the language from the resolution (Lucinda reads the resolution)

Resolution 2014-028 calls for:

Section 1....to develop an updated Climate Action Plan that will describe steps that the Fort Collins community could take to achieve a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal of 20% (relative to 2005 levels) by the year 2020, and 80% (relative to 2005 levels) by 2030.

Section 2. That said Plan shall also describe steps that the Fort Collins community could take after 2030 to achieve carbon neutrality (a 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (relative to 2005 levels) by the year 2050.

Motion 1 Final:

Citizen Advisory Committee recommends that City Council endorse the objectives in Resolution 2014-028 that:

- reaffirm the current goal to reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions 20% below 2005 levels by 2020,
- set the aspirational goals to reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 2005 levels by 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2050.

Sixteen in favor, 1 opposed

1 opposed

- Yvonne Myers opposed the resolution because of concerns that it will suck the life force of our community. It's not that I'm not for all of this, I just worry about that.

The committee, as a whole, is comfortable with the vote that passed and the recognition of the concern and the comment.

Motion 2 initial proposal

Scott Denning moves to vote on the suite of strategies/the feasibility of these accelerated goals

- Tom suggests: "recommends City Council adopt the Framework Plan as a feasible suite of strategies that can achieve the accelerated goals (20% reduction by 2020, 80% reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050)."
- We haven't seen the plan

Scott Denning moves to vote on the first bullet

- Is there a way that we can state that the Climate Action Plan should be reevaluated along the way?
- I am very comfortable recommending the framework, but I am not comfortable recommending details that are too specific without first seeing the full plan.

Bullet is created to say: The Citizen Advisory Committee finds that the suite of strategies identified through the CAC process demonstrates the feasibility of substantially achieving accelerated goals (20% reduction by 2020, 80% reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050)

Tom Ghidossi moves to adopt and Scott Denning seconds

The Citizen Advisory Committee finds that the suite of strategies identified through the CAC process demonstrates the feasibility of substantially achieving accelerated goals (20% reduction by 2020, 80% reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050)

And

Recommends City Council adopt a framework incorporating these strategies, realizing that the strategies will evolve over time.

Motion 2 Final:

Citizen Advisory Committee:

- Finds that the suite of strategies identified through the CAC process demonstrates the feasibility of substantially achieving accelerated goals (20% reduction by 2020, 80% reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050), and recommends City Council adopt a framework incorporating these strategies, realizing that the strategies will evolve over time.

Fifteen in favor, 2 opposed

Opposed: 2

- Yvonne Myers opposed the resolution because of concern about the 100% reduction objective (Carbon neutral).
- Greg Rittner opposed the resolution because too much gray area for me right now. There is a lot in the goals that will affect me and the people that I represent.
- We should think about whether or not we recommend that City Council make an implementation plan, a public engagement process or financing.
 - Lucinda: Much of this will be identified in the plan as an important next step.
- How do we feel about putting something in that we strongly recommend that Council establish a metric that says how we measure?
 - There is no plan and by plan what I mean is an implementation process. What we have is a framework of how we could possibly meet the goals.
 - I think we need to be looking at recommending Council look at the short term goals and the long term goals.
 - Lucinda: based on the analysis that exists so far, what are the specific tactics that need to be brought forward in the next five years for the 2020 goal? This leads to meeting the other objectives.
 - We have to start acting tomorrow to achieve those 2030 goals. We have to plan to achieve the 2020 goal in the context of the 2030 goal.

- Lucinda: right
- Were we or are we not supposed to create a plan over this process?
 - Lucinda: There is no plan yet. It is in development and it's going to document what exists now in the modeling. I would view that as a framework or strategic plan; it doesn't get into details.
- How does the city work in terms of the Council process?
 - Lucinda: If council were to adopt the goals, just as with the 2008 plan, it will identify some next steps including reporting requirements. It's the reporting that keeps it in the Council's eyes and the public's eyes.
- Maybe we say recommends these strategies at a minimum?
- I am very comfortable supporting the strategies and that they can suit the needs of the public.
- Remember, we're citizens; Council does not have to do what we recommend. What we would like to have happen is that they read our recommendation and then task staff with implementation. We don't get to micromanage that level of stuff.
- I would suggest that we recommend that there be substantial citizen involvement and this may or may not be through existing boards and commissions. Maybe we should recommend creating a board or other advisory group.
- I could see it becoming too diffused too. I feel like there ought to be some continuing monitoring.
- We need some mechanism to ensure that Council is on track to help meet goals.

Motion 3:

Dianne moves, Scott seconds:

Citizen Advisory Committee recommends that Council develop an implementation plan to identify and prioritize near term tactics that support the strategies to meet the goals, establish a system of metrics to be reported on regularly to City Council and citizens, establish a citizen oversight committee, and infuse climate objectives into City policies and programs.

13 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstain (2 members had left by that time)

Yvonne Myers abstained, in recognition of her previous opposition votes.
 Greg Rittner abstained, and noted that the process has been very rushed.

Next Steps

Lucinda invited Committee members to attend the Jan 22 or Jan 29 open house, and to encourage their friend and constituents to attend. Lucinda said she would send the Committee a copy of the draft framework plan, once drafted.

Bruce and Lucinda thanked the Committee members very much for their time, commitment and work on this project.