

RESOLUTION 2014-028
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO NOMINATE FOR COUNCIL
APPROVAL AN AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A CLIMATE ACTION
PLAN FOR ACHIEVING A COMMUNITY-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
REDUCTION GOAL OF 80% WITH RESPECT TO 2005 LEVELS BY 2030

WHEREAS, climate models show that unless all humanity is able to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 2005 levels by the middle of this century, we are likely to cause “dangerous interference with the climate system,” which is defined as a two degrees Celsius temperature rise over the global average that existed in the year 1850; and

WHEREAS, Fort Collins is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and down-scaled climate models predict that it is highly likely that summers will be up to 6 degrees F warmer in this region by 2040; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, City Council expressed its intent to reduce Fort Collins’ community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to 3.3% below 2005 levels by 2012; and additionally established the goals of reducing emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020 and 80% below 2005 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, City Council adopted a Climate Action Plan that established a pathway toward achieving the 2012 greenhouse gas emissions reduction intent and a partial pathway toward achieving the 2020 goal; and

WHEREAS, by 2012, Fort Collins’ community-wide greenhouse gas emissions were 8.7% below 2005 levels; and

WHEREAS, the City’s current Climate Action Plan now needs to be updated because it does not identify a complete pathway to the current 2020 goal, and does not address how to achieve the 2050 goal; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, new opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have emerged, including advancements in energy technologies such as smart grid, vehicle electrification opportunities, changes in the price of energy solutions, and new waste reduction strategies; and

WHEREAS, Fort Collins values sustainability and works to systematically, creatively, and thoughtfully utilize environmental, human, and economic resources to meet our present needs and those of future generations without compromising the ecosystems on which we depend; and

WHEREAS, Fort Collins is nationally recognized as a leader both in finding ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and in adapting to climate change; and

WHEREAS, in November 2013, President Obama named Mayor Karen Weitkunat to his Administration's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience to advise the Administration on how the Federal Government can respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, in February 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture named Fort Collins as one of seven national Climate Hubs that will provide farmers and ranchers with information about changing climate and its impact on the landscape; and

WHEREAS, Fort Collins is well-positioned to demonstrate to other communities both in the United States and abroad how deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions can be made within the span of several decades while remaining economically vibrant.

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

Section 1. That the City Manager is hereby directed to nominate for Council approval an ad hoc advisory committee consisting of members selected from City boards and commissions, the environmental community, the social services community, the business community, major institutions, subject matter experts, and City staff, to develop for City Council's consideration a proposed updated Climate Action Plan that describes the steps the Fort Collins community will need to take to achieve a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal of 20% (relative to 2005 levels) by the year 2020, and by 80% (relative to 2005 levels) by 2030.

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

Section 3. That said Plan shall be presented to the City Council for consideration and proposed adoption before the end of calendar year 2014.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fort Collins this 1st day of April, A.D. 2014.

ATTEST:


City Clerk




Mayor