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**Fort Collins Climate Task Force**  
July 16, 2007  
281 North College, Conf. Rooms A & B  
**MEETING MINUTES**

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**Present:**

Board Members and Alternates

John Bleem	P	Bruce Hendee	P	Garry Steen	P
William Farland	A	Blue Hovatter	P	Norm Weaver	P
Dick Johnson	P				
Bill Franzen	P	Jeff Lebesch	P	Steve Wolley	P
Phil Friedman	P	Eric Levine	P		
Stephen Gillette	P	Liz Pruessner	P		

Others present: Art Bavoso, Facilitator

Judy Dorsey, The Brendle Group  
Darin Atteberry, City Manager  
Lucinda Smith, Natural Resources Department  
Kip Carrico, Alternate for Air Quality Advisory Board  
Rick Price

**Public Input**

Rick Price (former member of Transportation Board and current member of Economic Advisory Commission)

Rick Price provided an update on the upcoming Bike Library program. The City of Fort Collins and 'Bike Fort Collins' received funding to start a new free loan bike library in town. Eighty percent of the \$165,000 funding comes from a federal grant, while the Downtown Development Authority kicked in \$15,000. New Belgium Brewing has donated 20 bikes for starters. The library hopes to have 100 bikes available next spring. They are working closely with BRAG (Bike Retailers Advocacy Group) to address their concerns. Helmets will be available. Several bike stores are joining in the effort by donating money or bicycles. (See <http://www.coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070716/OPINION01/707160331>)

**Task Force Member Input**

John Bleem reported that he had been contacted by the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) asking about this region's interest in a carbon footprint calculator tool. GEO may be working with Aspen and Boulder to develop a tool.

Norm Weaver suggested that the Task Force have a place on the Web to post links and documents related to the measures under consideration. Lucinda will ask IT about this and send an e-mail to the Task Force about the Web site and process.

Later in the meeting, John Bleem invited members of the task force to attend a July 31 tour of the Medicine Bow wind site.

### **Minutes Approval**

Lucinda Smith notes two corrections needed to the minutes. Liz Pruessner moved to approve the July 11 minutes as amended. Garry Steen seconded.

The task force unanimously voted to approve the July 11 minutes, as amended.
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### **Agenda Review**

Lucinda reviewed the agenda and all concurred with the agenda as written.

### **“Group Think” on Top 25 Measures**

Previously by e-mail, all 13 Task Force members selected the top 25 measures that they wanted to advance to “Tier II” for further quantification. Judy Dorsey summarized the results of that exercise. The top 20 measures (that received 7 or more votes) qualitatively summed up to 650,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e based solely on the definitions of high, med, and low GHG benefit previously identified. The top 27 measures (that received 5 or more votes) qualitatively summed up to 730,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e, again based solely on the definitions of high, med, and low benefit previously identified. Judy also stated that The Brendle Group had initially calculated that the list of “existing” measures would result in ~ 350,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2010. This places the Task Force goal of avoiding 1.1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2010 within reach, based on the qualitative assessments.

### **Discuss and Select Top 25 Measures for Quantitative Analysis**

Jeff Lebesch noted that there is some overlap between measures and some synergies as well. Judy replied that Tier II analysis will consider double-counting and synergies.

Eric Levine noted that some measures will have benefits well beyond 2010, as well. He pointed out that “trash districting” was in the 1999 GHG plan and was never implemented. He encouraged the Task Force to pay close attention to details and assumptions behind the measures with high CO<sub>2</sub> reduction potential, since not achieving them would greatly hinder the City’s ability to achieve the goal.

Steve Wolley questioned what is behind # 43, 50% Waste Diversion Goal measure. Judy stated that a previous task force considered actions necessary to achieve that goal and a more recent study by The Brendle Group looked at the GHG potential of key waste reduction measures. (This study will be provided to the task force.) Judy suggested not adding additional measures such as composting to the “50% Diversion Goal” because that measure already has many elements incorporated.

Stephen Gillette stated that Larimer County found 25% contamination of C&D wood in a past Fort Collins pilot study. He said there are significant obstacles to starting a composting program at the existing Larimer County landfill – the landfill would have to be lined to meet regulations.

But the County is considering collecting organics and transporting them off site. Food waste composting can lead to problems with rats, but in-vessel composting can offer a solution.

Art asked the group to look at measures that received few votes to see if there were any major concerns about excluding these from quantitative analysis. Lucinda noted that items could also be added to the list under consideration, now and later.

Liz Pruessner asked about measure # 51, seeking funding from Colorado HB 1288. Lucinda replied that Fort Collins will automatically get some funding for being able to demonstrate waste reduction, and is currently working on preparing to seek grant funding.

Jeff Lebesch pointed out that California has a phantom load control program in place and they have seen 10-20% reductions in electric energy use. Ultimately the group agreed that #21 (Phantom Load control) will be incorporated into #11 (Enhanced Energy Efficiency).

John Bleem noted that there are very few measures that discuss bringing in funding, and he asked how and when the funding will be addressed. Norm Weaver noted that the existing EESP is funded through ratepayers and suggested that might be a possible future funding source. Judy said the tiered rates would not need additional funding if set up to be revenue neutral. John Bleem asked what City Council is expecting of the task force. Do they expect a detailed funding description?

Art asked if the group wants to see possible sources of funding for the measures. Judy said that exploring 'fundability' would be an expansion of the consultant scope of work. Eric Levine suggested that "feasibility" which includes political, financial, etc. will provide some measures of the fundability element. John Bleem asked how big was "fundability" in not achieving the goal thus far. Lucinda said that the 1999 GHG plan did not include a discussion of fundability, but it did include estimates of the cost to implement the measures.

The group informally agreed that it was not necessary to provide funding details for every measure, but suggestions for funding could be included, where readily available. The "feasibility" analysis is a good surrogate for fundability, and special focus should be placed on the large GHG reduction measures.

Bill Franzen wanted to see Energy Star benchmarking brought into one of the measures that will be quantified. The group agreed that # 21 (incentives for participation in green labeling programs) will be folded into # 11 (Enhanced Energy Efficiency).

Blue Hovatter asked about expanded net metering, possibly in combination with natural gas tiered rates. Norm Weaver replied that the FC Utilities does support net metering, but without adequate incentives, there may not be enough takers for the program. John Bleem pointed out that Xcel is expanding net metering because solar is a requirement of Amendment 37, but it is more expensive. The group agreed that net metering will not be folded into any of the broader renewable energy measures.

Following a break in the meeting, Bruce Hendee moved to accept the package of the top 27 measures (that received 5 or more votes) and Phil Friedman and John Bleem seconded. Liz Pruessner asked about #44 (Landfill Methane) and noted that it is on the existing list too. Stephen Gillette said that Larimer County is right now working with a contract to see if gas can be collected. He said that the landfill is a very marginal gas emitter and it would cost \$1.5 million to install a system. The Tower Road landfill (10x our size) actually removed their methane capture system, but as oil prices rise, it will become more economical. Companies will be interested in carbon offsets. PRPA's analysis showed little benefit from landfill methane at the landfill. However, Larimer County is interested and will keep working on it. Bill Franzen asked how long it would take to implement it and Blue Hovatter asked about the ability to take credits for the offsets. Stephen Gillette replied that a system could be operational in nine months. Larimer County is working to update the gas potential estimate and will share that information with The Brendle Group. Eric Levine asked what the City's role could be in facilitating landfill methane capture.

Norm Weaver moved to remove #44 – landfill methane capture, and Steve Wolley seconded.

The task force unanimously voted to move landfill methane capture to the existing list.
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Dick Johnson raised some questions about the CU Green Power Project. John Bleem said that there will be a meeting next week with CSU and the developer to discuss who might buy the RECs from the CSU Green Power Project. PRPA has interest in energy and RECs from this project. PRPA would need someone to back up the wind, and there could be issues with transmission. The developers need to generate 65 MW minimum for the project to be viable. The developer wants the full 65 MW to be online by 2009. Jeff Lebesch pointed out there could be significant overlap between #34, 35, 37, and 39. It was finally decided to roll # 39 (CSU Green Power Project) into # 37 (Renewable energy growth).

Bruce Hendee brought up the new idea of a local gas tax. The group discussed pros and cons but ultimately, Darin Atteberry confirmed that it is not possible for a local government levy as gas tax, so this will not be included on the list.

? was interested in considering a local carbon tax, which received 4 of 13 votes. The local carbon tax could motivate behavior change and bring in revenue. Bill Franzen suggested the group should look at at least 'medium' level GHG reduction potential measures (like the carbon tax). Any carbon tax would have to be voter approved. Boulder's carbon tax is levied through Xcel as a fee on utility bill, and the revenue is returned to the City. In Boulder's case, electricity is used as a proxy for carbon. Blue Hovatter raised concerns about the impact of a carbon tax on low income families. Boulder provides a low income allowance for the carbon tax. The Brendle Group will include a low income element in the analysis of a local carbon tax.

Phil Friedman asked about #70 (Incentives for low emission vehicles); could the City consider local incentives for low emission/hybrid vehicles. It might be possible to reduce the sales or use tax to generate incentives. The group agreed to add # 70 to the list.

Blue Hovatter asked about adding parking incentives for LEV to # 70. This will be folded into consideration of low emission vehicle incentives.

The task force voted unanimous to advance the list of measures that had 5 votes of higher, minus # 44, plus # 30 and # 70 for quantitative analysis.

Judy then asked for input on the scope of some measures. Norm Weaver responded that a doubling of current DSM funding levels might be reasonable (as opposed to five times more). Darin Atteberry briefly mentioned the initial results of a utility customer survey shows the community believes the community is doing better with renewable energy than we actually are, and their expectations are even higher, yet there is a great sensitivity to price. Darin said he is willing to bring forward an increase in electricity price to Council, but the Council alone can approve that.

Steve Wolley asked about the existing market for DSM programs, noting that the City has more incentive dollars that it can use now; the market is not demanding them. John Bleem stated that typically, one can expect 5-8% efficiency improvements from DSM programs. The Brendle Group will look at Best Practice information. Darin Atteberry said we have committed to provide data-driven recommendations to City Council that are based on recognized best practices. Judy said The Brendle Group would welcome information from any Task Force members regarding the Tier II analysis.

Art closed the meeting by asking everyone what they learned today that they didn't know before.

**Next Meeting**

Wednesday, August 29

215 North Mason, Community Room

5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

(Dinner served starting a 5:15 p.m.)