

Executive Summary

This 2019 update to the 2011 Air Quality Plan is meant to be a guiding document for City of Fort Collins policies and programs that support the protection of public health and the environment through improvement in outdoor and indoor air quality. For more than 25 years, the City of Fort Collins has been actively involved in addressing air pollution at a local level, and working regionally to address air pollution on a larger scale. Additionally, City and community efforts to combat climate change are closely related to air quality improvements, as many of the same sources that emit greenhouse gases also emit air pollutants, and a changing climate may adversely affect air quality.

Air pollution is a complex issue with many contributing factors, and pollution does not follow jurisdictional boundaries. While outdoor air quality in Fort Collins is generally perceived as good, the City does not meet Federal health-based air quality standards for ozone, and our continuing growth as a community brings additional challenges related to air quality impacts from transportation and other human caused sources.

To help ensure that efforts to continually improve air quality will succeed, it will be important to continue a local, regional, state and national dialogue which supports innovation and collaboration at all levels. Priorities in this plan look ahead to near-term (1-2 years) and longer-term (3-5 years) strategies and programs, focusing on efforts to:

- Continue ongoing work to reduce emissions, while identifying and implementing ways to quantify, measure and track air quality benefits of greenhouse gas source reductions, and other emission reduction strategies;
- Plan for ozone attainment, by working locally to reduce pollution from sources such as gas and diesel vehicles and engines, and collaborating regionally to decrease transported pollution, such as impacts from oil and gas operations;
- Increase opportunities for community members to identify and manage pollutant sources in their homes and businesses, while leveraging potential air quality benefits of energy efficiency improvements; and
- Prepare for air quality impacts that may come from a changing climate, which can lead to increases in extreme events such as wildfires that can impact air quality locally and regionally.