

Our Climate Future

2021 Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory



Our Climate Future (OCF) is a comprehensive plan to simultaneously address climate, energy and waste goals, while improving our community's equity and resilience. OCF articulates an unwavering commitment to mitigating and adapting to climate disruption with a people-first systems-approach.

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) are a type of air pollution that trap heat in the atmosphere and that contribute to a rapidly changing climate and disruption of historic weather patterns.

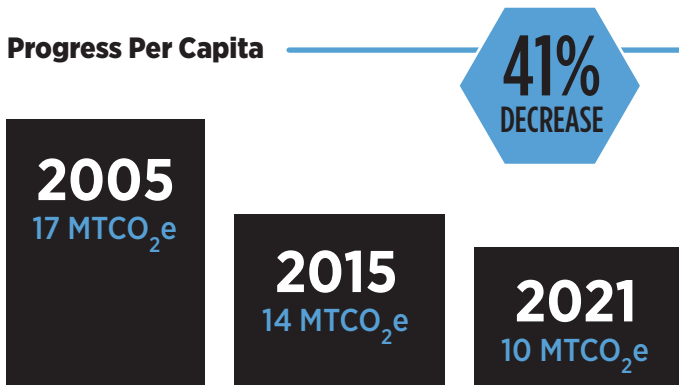
Primary causes of GHG reductions in 2021

- Increased renewable electricity from Platte River Power Authority
- Increased abatement of industrial process emissions

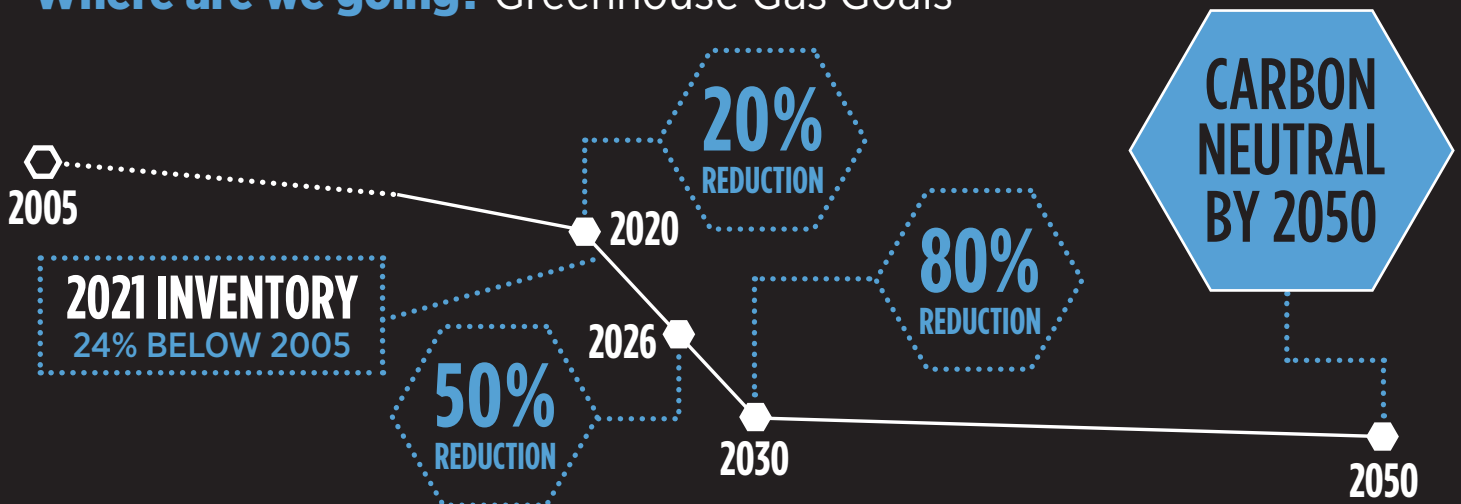
What are some things that will be or feel different in our community when we reach the target of 80% reduction in emissions?

- Having more options for homes that are energy efficient, comfortable, healthy and affordable.
- Having safe and convenient choices to walk, bike, or take the bus to get where we need to go.
- Being able to choose to compost and recycle because affordable and accessible services are available.

Progress Per Capita

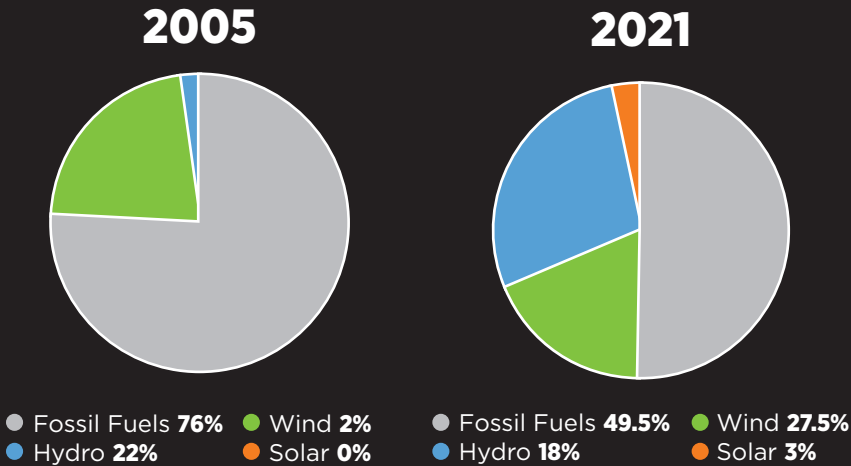


Where are we going? Greenhouse Gas Goals



100% Renewable Electricity Goal

Despite a growing population, efficiency programs have helped limit the increase in electricity use - it would be 21% higher without Utilities' programs. Increasing efficiency makes it easier to supply the community with renewable electricity.



Since 2005

Population increased **29%**
energy use increased only **9%**.

- Thanks to residents and businesses improving efficiency and practicing conservation.

Building square footage increased by **22%**, but buildings are **12%** more efficient.

Zero Waste Goal

Community Diversion Rate*: **51.5% in 2021**



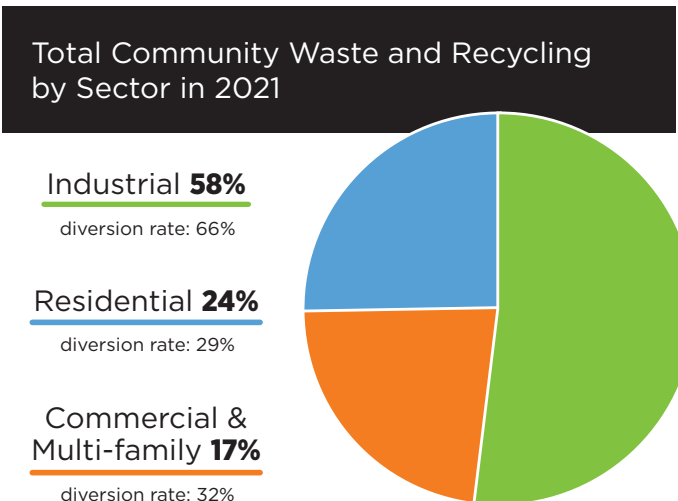
**A diversion rate compares the amount of material that was recycled or composted with total waste generated by the community.*

For 2021, this means that more than half of the total material that was generated throughout the year was recycled or composted.

Progress made in 2021:

- The Community Recycling Ordinance came into effect and expanded recycling service to multi-family and commercial properties, increasing recycling in these sectors by 44%.
- Residential food scraps collected by small local food scraps-only haulers increased by over 150% compared with 2020. They collected a total of 260 tons of food scraps for composting.
- City Council adopted the Disposable Bag Ordinance and referred it to voters who approved it by 59%.

Where our waste comes from:



2022 OCF Activities

“Big Moves” is the OCF way of describing the transformational outcomes which connect our specific goals for climate, energy and waste with the community’s definition of a sustainable Fort Collins. Big Move 1 (Shared Leadership and Community Partnership) and Big Move 3 (Climate Resilient Community) underpin all of OCF.

OCF Big Move #1: Shared Leadership and Community Partnership

Centered in equity and leading with race, all parts of our community lead, implement and benefit from Our Climate Future.

Big Move #1 In Action: City-led

In 2022, 15 community members provided their expertise, lived experience, and perspectives on City-led projects, including:

- EPA Environmental Justice grant for indoor air quality
- Epic Homes
- Natural Areas Equity Strategic Plan
- SHIFT for our Spanish-speaking community
- Sustainability in Manufactured Home Communities

Big Move #1 In Action: Co-led

Planning for a Climate Equity Committee:

In 2022, Queens Legacy Foundation partnered with the City to convene individuals from across the community to imagine what a Climate Equity Committee would look like and how it could guide Our Climate Future efforts.

For more information, please see a summary of the group’s recommendations at fcgov.com/ocf-partnership.



Big Move #1 In Action: Community-led

The City of Fort Collins cannot take all the actions needed to limit and prepare for climate change on its own. Businesses, schools, community organizations, and individuals all have a role to play. Here are just a couple examples of how the community is leading this work:

- The Center for Environmental Justice: Climate Grief and Resiliency Workshop
 - The Center heard from CSU students that they desire space to process their feelings about what is happening to the environment due to climate change and create actionable tools to adapt to the warming world. They partnered with students, faculty and staff from the Center for Environmental Justice, the Student Sustainability Center, and the Black and African American Cultural Center on campus to create a workshop for students. They are also developing a graduate level course on this topic.
- Trees, Water & People: Collaborative Restoration of Cameron Peak Fire burn areas
 - Trees, Water & People (TWP) collaborated with several organizations* to implement small-scale plantings on the burn footprint of private landowners. The goal is to stabilize erosion and restore stands of mixed-conifer forests to improve water infiltration and regenerate biodiversity back into the landscape. This cross-collaboration effort is aimed at increasing co-management opportunities and strengthening community resilience in the wake of climate change.

**Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, Larimer County Conservation Corps, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and Private Landowners*

OCF Big Move #3: Climate Resilient Community

People, buildings, watersheds and ecosystems are prepared for the threats of climate change.

Resilience Project at Northside Aztlan Community Center

Northside Aztlan Center completed the first phase of construction as part of a State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs grant with the addition of battery storage to this site. Combined with the existing solar array, this additional equipment and technology provides limited backup power to run the facility, in the event of a community-level emergency. This type of system also provides an everyday benefit by reducing operating costs during times of peak energy use, when the cost of electricity is higher. This project will be completed and online by May 2023.

Poudre River Water Supply - Recovery and Resilience

After the 2020 Cameron Peak Wildfire, in 2021-2023 Fort Collins Utilities has worked with regional partners including other local water providers, state and federal agencies, consultants, and the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed to minimize negative impacts on critical drinking water supplies, private property, and the health of the Poudre River.

Independently, Fort Collins Utilities also completed sediment removal and stream channel realignment work at the City's Poudre River water supply intake in early 2022 to prevent damage to water lines and avoid potential interference with the drinking water treatment process.



Community Water Conservation

Overall, the community saved a total of 173 million gallons (2% of total treated water) in 2022.



Highlights:

- *Shift Your Water:* The 2nd year of Shift Your Water engaged even more residents than in 2021, with 918 households pledging to stop irrigating their grass by October 1st, saving an estimated 2.5 million gallons of water.
- *Irrigation:* The residential Xeriscape Incentive Program supported 94 completed projects, compared to 70 in 2021.

Learn more and get involved at fcgov.com/ocf

