



Fort Collins Climate Task Force

May 24, 2007
MEETING MINUTES



Present:

Board Members and Alternates

| | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| John Bleem | P | Bruce Hendee | A | Gary Steen | P |
| William Farland | A | Blue Hovatter | P | Norm Weaver | P |
| Bill Franzen | P | Jeff Lebesch | P | Steve Wolley | P |
| Phil Friedman | P | Eric Levine | P | Kathi Delehoy | P |
| Stephen Gillette | P | Liz Pruessner | P | (for William Farland) | |

Others present: Darin Atteberry, City Manager

John Stokes, NRD Director

Lucinda Smith, Natural Resources Department

Judy Dorsey, The Brendle Group

Art Bavoso, Facilitator

Reiner Lomb, Alternate for Fort Collins Sustainability Group

Dale Adamy

Welcome and Introductions

City Manager Darin Atteberry welcomed and thanked members of the task force for participating in this effort. Task Force members introduced themselves.

ICLEI video – “The Climate of Change”

A short video was shown entitled, “The Climate of Change”. The video was prepared by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and highlighted actions that mayors and cities across the country are taking to address climate change in their communities.

Project Background

Lucinda Smith reviewed background information about the project. In 1999, Fort Collins City Council committed to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 30% below worst-case 2010 levels, by 2010, and they adopted a plan to meet the goal. Since then, the City has been making good progress in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and solid waste reduction. The Climate Wise Voluntary business outreach program has been a particularly successful model for helping local businesses reduce GHG and save money too. However, Fort Collins is not on track to meet the goal. Even with a revised 2010 emissions projection (from 2005), there is still a reduction of ~750,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) needed to meet the goal. The gap is ~ 1,000,000 tons CO₂e between the worst-case 2010 forecast and the 2010 goal.

Eric Levine asked if 2010 reduction target should be revised to show “30% below current projected 2020 levels”. Lucinda responded that if we stick to the ICLEI approach, the ‘worst-case 2010 forecast’ doesn’t change, and the target of emitting 2.4 million tons CO₂e in 2010 wouldn’t change. This item was moved to the “parking lot”. The parking lot will be used to track issues that are either not resolved at the time or not immediately relevant to the task force objectives.

Task Force Process

The Task Force moved on to discuss issues related to how they will function.

Authorizing Resolution – members reviewed and accepted the language in the authorizing resolution.

Deliverables - Members concurred with the following deliverables for the task force:

- An updated plan that describes the steps Fort Collins could take to meet the 2010 target
- Recommendations on how the City should develop a future direction for climate protection after 2010.

Roles and Responsibilities – Members reviewed and concurred with role and responsibilities proposed, and also concurred with an additional role for the task force to “Seek feedback from the organization you represent and consider your organization’s contribution to emissions and reductions.”

Ground Rules – members reviewed and discussed the following proposed task force ground rules:

- **Participants must support the process and its concept fully and collaborate toward goals of the Climate Task Force in good faith.**
- **Participants must attend meetings and be responsible for keeping up with information and decision of the group.**
- **No backsliding is allowed regarding formal decisions in the stepwise process. Once the Task Force reaches adequate consensus on a milestone by vote, it moves to the next step.**
- **Participants speak only for themselves in communication about the Task Force with the media or other political bodies.**
- **Participants must refrain from personal criticisms and provide objective, fact-based comments.**

Lucinda explained that the ground rules were taken from the Colorado Climate Action Panel process. Members concurred with all ground rules except the third one about no backsliding once adequate consensus was reached. Members questioned what “adequate consensus” means. Later in the meeting, the task force agreed that adequate consensus meant “super majority” for

the final package of recommendations and “simple majority” on decisions about measures to include for further analysis.

Art Bavoso of Third Sector Enterprises facilitated aspects of the discussion.

Decision-Making Members reviewed and discussed the proposed decision-making framework:

- **Strive for consensus**
- **Vote at key milestones**
- **Identify levels of support (unanimous, super majority, simple majority)**
- **If less than a (super majority/consensus), identify barriers to consensus**
- **Identify alternative solutions and seek to resolve barriers**
- **Minority opinion will be documented**
- **Task Force members, as citizens, always retain their right to address Council**

A discussion ensued about the preferred level of support. Staff recommended a super majority because it shows a higher level of support for a package of recommendations, but doesn’t allow the process to fall down if consensus can’t be reached. Some members were concerned about using a super majority because it could hinder the process, and felt adequate filters are already in place. Others members preferred a super majority. Pros and cons of each approach were listed.

The question arose about whether the task force would operate with sub-committees or as a whole group of 13. Staff suggested that the group work as large group but reserve the option to form sub-committees if needed.

The task force supported the approach that they would plan to work as large group but reserve the option to form small groups if needed. A quorum, as defined by Roberts Rules, would be required for any formal voting.

The question arose about what these levels of support pertain to, anything we put forward? Later in the meeting, it was pointed out that there are three decision-making stages and the following approach was proposed:

- For the list of measures to evaluate; use a simple majority
- For the list of measures to include the an updated plan; use a super majority
- For the final deliverables, strive for consensus, with a fall back to super majority

Reiner Lomb asked how long the group should strive for consensus before accepting a super majority? Art Bavoso responded that in his experience, “you will know it when you see it.” The Task Force was okay with leaving it at that.

A straw poll was taken on the level of task force support for a “super majority, at minimum” for the final package of measures. This passed by a super majority. (11-1-0)

Eric Levine was the dissenting vote against a “super majority, at minimum” for the final package of measures. He prefers a simple majority, yet does support striving for consensus.

Public Outreach – Lucinda reviewed the proposed public outreach process. The City’s Web site will gather public input that will be summarized periodically for the Task Force. She asked if the Task Force wants to allow public input at meetings. Following discussion about options for written input versus in-person input, the Task Force reached the following decision.

The Task Force agreed to allow 10 minutes for verbal public input at beginning of the meetings, during dinner, but to encourage people to write down and submit their comments first.

Blue Hovatter also suggested adding information about this process in Cable 14.

Schedule

Task Force members discussed possible future meeting times. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 28, from 5:30 – 8:30. Future meetings will be discussed via e-mail.

Establish Task Force Approach to Reduction Measures

Judy Dorsey, President of The Brendle Group, technical consultants for the process, outlined two different approaches the Task Force could take to identify measures to reduce GHG: 1) Bottom – up (leave no stone unturned), or 2) Top Down – aim for the measures that are likely to bring about the most significant or feasible reductions. She noted that the exhaustive “bottom-up” approach was used in 1999, but now Fort Collins has a GHG goal and a deadline. Judy also reviewed some of the actions currently underway or being considered at the state level or by other Colorado communities.

Judy said she would come to the next meeting with a more fully developed list of measures and information about the overall time The Brendle Group has available for measure analysis. She would also continue a review of best practices of other cities. She also asked the task force members to provide their ideas, to begin to assess how big the hopper of measures will be. Task Force members were asked to send their ideas to Lucinda, who will forward them to The Brendle Group. The group asked when the Web would be live to receive comments. Lucinda responded it should be live within a few weeks.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45.

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 28

5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

281 North College, Conf Rooms A&B

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