

RESOLUTION 2015-030  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
UPDATING COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION GOALS

WHEREAS, there is widespread consensus that human emissions of greenhouse gases are impacting the earth's climate system, causing the potential for unprecedented large-scale adverse health, social, economic and ecological effects; and

WHEREAS, Fort Collins is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with highly likely predicted changes to this region that include summer temperatures becoming up to 6 degrees Fahrenheit warmer by 2040, continued declines in snowpack, greater likelihood of severe storms and extended drought, and increased frequency and severity of heat waves and ozone formation; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, City Council expressed its intent to reduce Fort Collins's 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 to 80% below 2005 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, City Council adopted a Climate Action Plan ("CAP") 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 2013, Fort Collins's community-wide greenhouse gas emissions were 5% below 2005 levels; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 and 2014, City Council considered alternative options for accelerating community greenhouse gas goals; and

WHEREAS, by the adoption of Resolution 2014-028, City Council authorized the formation of an ad hoc advisory committee to develop a proposed updated CAP that describes the steps the Fort Collins community will need to take to achieve a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 20% (relative to 2005 levels) by the year 2020, by 80% (relative to 2005 levels) by 2030, and to achieve carbon neutrality by the year 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City, together with consultants and the Climate Citizen Advisory Committee, worked to develop the *2015 Climate Action Plan Framework* ("2015 CAP Framework"), attached hereto as Exhibit "A," that describes the steps necessary to meet the 2020 greenhouse gas reduction objective and to meet the majority of the 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction objectives; and

WHEREAS, the *2015 CAP Framework* contains a high level analysis of the strategies necessary to achieve the 2030 and 2050 goals and recognizes both the challenges and the uncertainty of achieving the long-term goals; and

WHEREAS, the transformation of energy technologies, systems and markets is expected to evolve rapidly in the United States and in the world over the next several decades; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for local government to take responsibility for emissions which occur in service of its jurisdiction, because local community actions can speed the deployment of technology-based solutions and provide replicable models to other communities to help drive reductions in global emission levels; and

WHEREAS, Fort Collins is well-positioned to collaborate with other national and global leaders in studying, piloting, refining and implementing ways to accelerate greenhouse gas reduction at the community level within the span of several decades while remaining economically vibrant; and

WHEREAS; actions to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions also improve community resilience to climate disruption and provide multiple ancillary benefits such as reduced risk through a diversified energy portfolio, reduced air pollution and associated health benefits, and increased mobility choices.

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

Section 1. That the Council hereby reaffirms its goal to reduce Fort Collins's community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020.

Section 2. That the Council hereby expresses its intent to strive to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, without compromising key community economic, social and economic values.

Section 3. That the Council recognizes the *2015 CAP Framework* as an appropriate framework from which to develop a near-term implementation plan, recognizing that strategies contained in the *2015 CAP Framework* are likely to evolve over time.

Section 4. That, subject to annual appropriations, the City Manager is hereby directed to provide adequate resources to prepare a 2020 Climate Action Implementation Plan, using the *2015 CAP Framework* as a guide, to identify prioritized actions and associated near-term budget requests necessary for progress between 2015 through 2020 to meet the 2020 greenhouse gas reduction goal and put Fort Collins on a trajectory to achieve the goal to reduce emissions to 80% below 2005 by 2030.

Section 5. That such 2020 Climate Action Implementation Plan shall include the list of strategies of the *2015 CAP Framework*; shall include schedules, milestones, resource needs, and metrics; shall reflect public input, consider relevant technical, economic, political, and social factors; and shall promote economic vitality and prioritize investments in the Fort Collins community.

Section 6. That the City government must lead by example in this area by minimizing greenhouse gas emissions in its own operations through the establishment and implementation of policies and directives that will lead the community to a sustainable future.

Section 7. That the City government must play an important role to build partnerships, inspire community action, and promote involvement by all segments of the community (local businesses, governments, utilities, schools, universities, non-profit organizations, homeowners, and other individuals) in efforts to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.


Section 8. That the City Manager is further hereby directed to prepare an annual report tracking progress toward attainment of the goals established herein, including a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory and a list of quantified emission reductions actions for the preceding calendar year.

Section 9. That the City Council hereby recognizes that new data, scientific findings, mitigation technologies, and quantification methodologies may emerge over time and that future Councils may choose to revise the community greenhouse gas goals and plans to take into account evolving science, technology or other opportunities.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fort Collins this 3rd day of March, A.D. 2015.

  
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Mayor



ATTEST:  
  
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City Clerk