



News Release

Contact: Sarah Kane, Executive Administrative Assistant, skane@fcgov.com

Date: January 3, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Editor's note: A copy of the full letter is attached.

Mayor Troxell Sends Clean Energy Economy Letter to President-elect Trump

Fort Collins Mayor Wade Troxell on Tuesday sent a letter to President-elect Donald Trump that outlines the City's leadership on energy efficiency innovation and a transition to a clean energy economy.

The City aims to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, and to reduce community emissions 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 80 percent by 2030.

"It makes financial, social and environmental sense for us to increase our energy efficiency, diversify our energy portfolio for resilience, reduce waste, capitalize on valuable discarded resources for a circular economy and expand multi-modal transportation options for our workforce and community," Troxell said in the letter. "Increased efficiency requires public-private investments that will require leveraging our role as a municipal utility and large consumer of energy. Cities can be the best practitioners of 'leading by example' and scaling up practical solutions.

"We are excited to work with your Administration and identify opportunities to advance our mutual interests to make America's communities vibrant and globally competitive."

The City has reduced emissions per capita 25 percent while experiencing 18 percent growth in population and 40 percent growth in GDP, Troxell said.

In the letter, he outlined some community successes:

- The City's efficiency programs have saved the energy equivalent of almost 3,000 homes (26,600 megawatt-hours) generating in excess of \$25 million in local economic benefits through reduced utility bills, direct rebates and leveraged investment;
- Fort Collins businesses are saving more than \$9.5 million annually from improved efficiencies;
- In 2015, ClimateWise partners realized more than \$1 million in annual cost savings by implementing cost-saving strategies to be more efficient and reduce operating costs;
- Locally installed solar capacity increased by more than 500% from 2014 to 2015;
- The community diverted about 60 percent of waste from the landfill while exploring ways to turn waste streams into profit streams; and
- Transit ridership has doubled in less than 10 years (2016 will see more than 4 million trips for the first time ever) after significantly increasing investment in transit services, including Bus Rapid Transit and public-private partnerships to support system efficiency and maximize use of taxpayer dollars.



News Release

For more information about the City's climate action goals and the implementation of those goals on the Road to 2020, go to www.fcgov.com/climateaction.

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January 3, 2017

President-Elect Donald J. Trump
Trump-Pence Transition Team
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President-Elect Trump:

On behalf of the City Council of Fort Collins, Colorado, congratulations on your election as the 45th President of the United States. We look forward to working with your Administration.

Fort Collins is a mid-sized city at the eastern slope of the scenic Rocky Mountains with a strong, diverse economy, including Colorado State University, and a deep commitment to innovation that puts us among the top regions globally for patents per capita. The community's health, vibrancy, and quality of life consistently land us on "Top 10" lists including Time magazine's Most Satisfied City in America based on a Gallup Poll.

Fort Collins provides electric, water, wastewater and stormwater utilities to residents with rates among the lowest in the state and nation. Our municipal-owned utility was also first in Colorado and among the first in the country to offer green energy to its customers as part of our business model. Fort Collins continually meets or surpasses all state and federal water quality standards and has the No. 1 drinking water in the country.

Moving forward, we have some of the nation's most aspirational goals of becoming one of the most energy efficient cities by reaching carbon neutrality by 2050, and to reduce community emissions 20% below 2005 by 2020 and 80% by 2030. It makes financial, social and environmental sense for us to increase our energy efficiency, diversify our energy portfolio for resilience, reduce waste, capitalize on valuable discarded resources for a circular economy and expand multi-modal transportation options for our workforce and community. Increased efficiency requires public-private investments that will require leveraging our role as a municipal utility and large consumer of energy. Cities can be the best practitioners of "leading by example" and scaling up practical solutions. Specifically, our community is working to transition to a clean, sustainable and resilient electrical infrastructure that maintains both reliability and affordability and improves health and safety.

Since 1999, the City of Fort Collins has had a Climate Action Plan, which we updated in 2008 and again in 2015. We're also sharing our experience and best practices with other communities:



- In 2013, former Mayor Karen Weitkunat joined the President's Climate Preparedness and Resilience Task Force to advise the President how to best prepare communities for the impacts of climate change.
- In 2015, after I was elected Mayor, I joined the Mayor's National Climate Action Agenda – one of 48 mayors representing almost 38 million people for climate action at the national and international level.
- Last June, I traveled to China with other U.S. Compact of Mayors participants to forge climate commitments with our Chinese counterparts and to present Fort Collins' success with creating innovative solutions in a market-based economy.

In addition to these experiences, we have also had several key successes in our community:

- Our efficiency programs have saved the energy equivalent of almost 3,000 homes in our community (26,600 megawatt-hours) generating in excess of \$25 million in local economic benefits through reduced utility bills, direct rebates and leveraged investment,
- Fort Collins businesses are saving more than \$9.5M annually from improved efficiencies,
- ClimateWise is Fort Collins' free, voluntary program that offers simple solutions to help businesses reduce their impact, save money and gain recognition for their achievements in energy and water conservation, waste reduction, alternative transportation and social responsibility. In 2015, ClimateWise Partners realized \$1,037,000 in annual cost savings by implementing cost-saving strategies to be more efficient and reduce operating costs,
- Increased locally installed solar capacity by more than 500% from 2014 to 2015,
- Partnered with three communities to install a 30-megawatt Community Solar Project,
- Reduced emissions per capita 25% while experiencing 18% growth in population and 40% growth in GDP,
- Diverted about 60% of waste from the landfill while exploring ways to turn waste streams into profit streams,
- Doubled transit ridership in less than 10 years (2016 will see more than 4 million trips for the first time ever) after significantly increasing investment in transit services, including Bus Rapid Transit and public-private partnerships to support system efficiency and maximize use of taxpayer dollars,
- Incorporated technologies designed to monitor and adjust traffic management in real-time to reduce congestion and emissions, and increase ease of travel by all modes, and
- Recognized as one of six Platinum level Bicycle Friendly Communities.

Fort Collins has a desire to lead through action since cities produce roughly 70% of the world's emissions. By improving critical infrastructure, protecting air quality and capturing efficiencies, we are preserving community prosperity and security to advance the triple bottom line of our economic, social, and environmental assets. A key strategy is to encourage innovative market-based solutions as part of our climate economy approach to prosperity.



To that end, we are excited to work with your Administration and identify opportunities to advance our mutual interests to make America's communities vibrant and globally competitive. We would urge continued support of federal tax credits for renewable energy and international leadership on these issues. We also welcome continued intergovernmental collaboration to develop pragmatic solutions through innovative approaches that result in economic opportunities

Our work in Fort Collins is about making our city an even better place for our residents and a learning lab destination in our great nation. If you don't have an opportunity to visit here in the near-term, you can learn more about Fort Collins at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C., where Fort Collins was recognized as one of six *Places of Invention* for our work in this space of innovation, creative partnerships and the clean energy economy.

We wish you a successful transition, Mr. President-Elect, and hope that you will continue to work with cities like ours on shared goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wade Troxell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Wade Troxell
City of Fort Collins, CO