

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
MEMORANDUM
#40-2018**

DATE: November 19, 2018

TO: Honorable Mayor Carol Dodge and City Council Members

FROM: Heather Geyer, City Manager

SUBJECT: Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) Presentation

PURPOSE

Jacob Smith, the Executive Director of Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) will make a presentation to City Council at the November 19, 2018 Study Session. A copy of the presentation is included in Attachment 1. The purpose of this presentation is to provide more information on the benefits of the City membership. Additionally, the Legislative Committee has reviewed the CC4CA 2018-2019 Policy Agenda and recommends City Council support. The policy agenda is included in Attachment 2.

BACKGROUND

CC4CA is a coalition of local governments across the state of Colorado that advocates for state and federal policies to protect Colorado's climate for current and future generations.

Current member communities include the following: Aspen, Basalt, Boulder, Boulder County, Carbondale, Crested Butte, Eagle County, Fort Collins, Frisco, Golden, Lafayette, Louisville, Nederland, Mountain Village, Pitkin County, San Miguel County, Summit County, Telluride, Westminster and Vail.

Steering Committee

CC4CA is governed by a Steering Committee of representatives from member communities. Unanimous consent among members is required to set the coalition's policy agenda. CC4CA activity highlights are included in Attachment 3. In 2019, City Council will need to designate a member of the Steering Committee. The Committee meets once every other month and has a one day annual retreat typically held in June. The Legislative Committee has recommended that a sub-committee of the Legislative Committee represent the City on the Steering Committee. The City will have one vote.

Other Committees

In addition to the Steering Committee, CC4CA offers other opportunities for involvement through two other committees: the Policy Committee and the Planning/Budget Committee. There is a sub-committee of the Policy Committee known as the Legislative Group.

Trainings

As part of the City's membership, trainings will be available to elected officials and staff throughout the year.

2018-2019 Policy Agenda

In reviewing the CC4CA Policy Agenda, staff has provided general analysis of the document in order to help facilitate review and alignment of the agenda with City policy. Additional discussion and response to specific legislative initiatives would need to occur in order to determine the City's position on certain topics. Outlined below is staff's review of the 2018-2019 CC4CA Policy Agenda:

Local Climate Programs

1. Supports state-level actions to remove barriers and promote opportunities that allow counties and municipalities to maximize the deployment of local clean energy options.

Staff review – the City has two franchise agreements 1) Xcel Energy and 2) United Power. We will work to encourage these entities to do more within this realm.

2. Supports requiring local governments with adopted building codes to include the most current or appropriate International Energy Conservation Code, or provisions substantially similar to it, in their building codes and to develop a process for updating the energy code on a regular basis.

Staff review – this requires additional review by staff. The City adopts building codes by reference and is currently utilizing the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code.

3. Supports state government actions to enable local governments to obtain the energy use and other data they need to effectively address climate change.

Staff review – the City has not historically used this data. As specific initiatives are identified through the City sustainability efforts, this type of data would be useful.

State Climate-Specific Programs

4. Supports statutory codification of aggressive and enforceable goals to reduce net statewide heat-trapping emissions, including the goal of reducing emissions by more than 26 percent by 2025, compared to 2005 levels, as established by Governor John Hickenlooper through executive order, and including a further goal of reducing emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050 compared to 2005 levels.

Staff review – future policy discussion. No immediate issue with codification. Local goals identified in the City's Sustainability Plan.

5. Supports legislative, regulatory, and administrative actions by the Colorado state government to achieve the state's emission reduction goals and to implement the Colorado Climate Plan, and requests an opportunity for meaningful, sustained engagement by CC4CA in developing those specific steps.

Staff review – require additional policy discussion based on proposed legislation.

6. Supports the development of a new forecast of heat-trapping emissions reflecting Colorado laws and Colorado-specific information by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, with input from local government and other stakeholders.

Staff review – require additional policy discussion based on proposed legislation.

7. Supports a comprehensive market-based policy to reduce Colorado's heat-trapping emissions.

Staff review – require additional policy discussion based on proposed legislation.

Electricity Generation

8. Supports concrete state government actions to reduce emissions from the electricity sector in Colorado by at least 25 percent by 2025 and at least 35 percent by 2030, compared to 2012 levels, consistent with the goals established by Governor John Hickenlooper through executive order.

Staff review – require additional policy discussion based on proposed legislation.

9. Supports the accelerated retirement of existing fossil fuel based generation facilities and their replacement with cost-effective and reliable clean energy supplies, through means that protect both utilities and customers.

Staff review – require additional policy discussion based on proposed legislation.

10. Supports expanded ability of electric cooperatives to independently purchase local renewable electricity.

Staff review – support the concept. Require additional policy discussion based on proposed legislation.

11. Supports state legislation to incrementally increase the Renewable Energy Standard.

Staff review – require additional policy discussion based on proposed legislation.

12. Supports state legislation to require the Public Utilities Commission to consider all environmental health costs of the fuels used by investor-owned utilities to generate electricity.

Staff review – future policy discussion.

13. Supports grid modernization policies and funding that support distributed generation, energy storage, high levels of renewable energy generation (distributed and utility-scale), and appropriate technologies.

Staff review – potential benefit. Would require additional analysis to the applicability of Water and Wastewater Treatment plants.

Energy Efficiency

14. Supports legislative, regulatory, and administrative actions for electric utilities to achieve energy efficiency savings of 2 percent per year beyond 2020, building on the 2020 goal established by Governor Hickenlooper through executive order. Municipal and cooperative utilities should also adopt and achieve similar efficiency targets.

Staff review – require additional policy discussion based on proposed legislation.

15. Supports ongoing and sustainable funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Staff review – require additional policy discussion based on proposed legislation.

16. Supports state enabling legislation to provide counties and statutory cities and towns with the same authority held by home-rule cities to implement local energy conservation policies and programs.

Staff review – require additional policy discussion based on proposed legislation.

Transportation

17. Supports Colorado's adoption of motor vehicle emissions standards, including requirements for low-emission and zero-emission vehicles, and collaborative efforts for effective implementation, that are equal to or exceed those already adopted by California.

Staff review – future policy discussion.

18. Supports implementation of the Colorado Electric Vehicle Plan, including new state government actions to accelerate the purchase and use of emission vehicles.

Staff review – future policy discussion during annual budget cycles based on available funding and business case.

Fossil Fuel Extraction Activities

19. Supports legislative, administrative, and regulatory actions to expand the monitoring of and reduce the full life cycle emissions from fossil fuel extractive industry activities.

Staff review – future policy discussion.

Solid Waste Reduction

20. Supports adoption and implementation of a plan by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to achieve statewide waste diversion goals established by the Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission.

Staff review – future policy discussion that needs to happen on a regional and statewide level. Northglenn is unique in that we provide sanitation services which provides the opportunity to set goals for the City. The Northglenn Sustainability Plan identifies targets that include increasing citywide landfill diversion rate to 20% by 2023 and decreasing the number of neighborhoods/sites affected by hazardous spills or dumping, particularly those in low income and communities of color by 30% by 2030.

General

21. Supports the protections and authorities currently provided under environmental laws like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.

Staff review – the City would likely support or oppose future changes to either of these pieces of legislation depending on the impacts which would require discussion.

UPDATE

The purpose of this study session presentation is for informational purposes related to the City Council approval of a CC4CA membership in 2019. The City has taken several steps in moving forward sustainability efforts. On September 24, 2018, the City Council adopted the City's first Sustainability Plan (a priority identified in the 2019 Council Work Plan). Two different Sustainability Advisory Committees were convened during the development of the Sustainability Plan; one is an internal staff committee focused on city operations and services and the other is a resident and stakeholder committee focused on establishing community priorities. Both are committed to meeting on a quarterly basis.

Included in the 2019 budget:

- \$25k – to implement and/or augment program efforts identified in the 2018 Sustainability Audit and Work Program
- \$35k – Greenhouse Gas Inventory

In reviewing the Policy Agenda, it is important to keep in mind that many of the policy statements are aspirational. Members within CC4CA have different priorities and resources available to work towards and accomplish the outlined agenda based on local priorities.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

City Council approved becoming a member of CC4CA for one year with the adoption of the 2019 City Budget on October 22, 2018. The approved amount is \$5,000 and this membership level is based on City population.

TIME IMPLICATIONS

There are no time implications.

RECOMMENDATION

No staff recommendation. This session is intended to be informational.

STAFF REFERENCE

Heather Geyer, City Manager, hgeyer@northglenn.org, 303.450.8706.

ATTACHMENTS

1. CC4CA Powerpoint Presentation for November 19th Study Session
2. CC4CA 2018-2019 Policy Agenda
3. CC4CA Highlights July 2018



Presentation to the Northglenn City Council

Jacob Smith, Executive Director
November 19, 2018

A coalition of local governments advocating for effective climate action primarily at the state level.

- State Legislature
- Governor's office
- State Agencies/State Rulemaking
- Colorado Congressional Offices

What CC4CA Does Not Do:

- Electoral Politics
- Ballot Initiatives

CC4CA Members

- Aspen
- Basalt
- Boulder
- Boulder County
- Carbondale
- Crested Butte
- Eagle County
- Fort Collins
- Frisco
- Golden
- Lafayette
- Louisville
- Mountain Village
- Nederland
- Pitkin County
- San Miguel County
- Summit County
- Telluride
- Westminster
- Vail

Population Size	Base	Base Plus	Core	Core Plus
Over 100,000	\$15,000	\$22,500	\$30,000	\$40,000
50,000 - 100,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$27,500
5,000 - 49,999	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$13,500
1,000 – 4,999	\$1,000	\$1,750	\$2,500	\$3,500
Under 1,000	\$500	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,250



Jacob Smith, Executive Director
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CC4CA Policy Agenda 2018-2019

Colorado Communities for Climate Action is a coalition of local governments advocating for policies that protect Colorado's climate for current and future generations. CC4CA's policy priorities for 2018-2019 reflect unanimous agreement among the coalition members on steps that should be taken at the state and federal level, often in partnership with local governments, to enable Colorado and its communities to lead in protecting the climate. These steps would complement the strong local climate actions CC4CA members already have underway.

General Policy Principles

These general principles guide the specific policies for which Colorado Communities for Climate Action advocates:

CC4CA supports collaboration between state and federal government agencies and Colorado's local governments to advance local climate protection.

CC4CA supports state and federal programs to reduce carbon pollution, including adequate and ongoing funding of those programs.

CC4CA supports analyses, financial incentives, and enabling policies for the development and deployment of clean energy technologies.

CC4CA supports locally driven, locally designed programs to support communities impacted by the clean energy transformation.

Policy Positions

Colorado Communities for Climate Action supports the following policy positions:

Local Climate Programs

1. Supports state-level actions to remove barriers and promote opportunities that allow counties and municipalities to maximize the deployment of local clean energy options.

The deployment of local energy generation and technology will continue to be a critical component of Colorado communities' climate efforts. In many cases, regulatory or legislative limitations exist that will need to be removed for communities to fully explore new local program options and technologies that can effectively reduce fossil fuel use, increase energy resilience, and support community values related to climate protection. For example, the integration of local renewable energy, storage technologies, and microgrids all support a local jurisdiction's ability to address the supply side of energy-related emissions.

2. Supports requiring local governments with adopted building codes to include the most current or appropriate International Energy Conservation Code, or provisions substantially similar to it, in their building codes and to develop a process for updating the energy code on a regular basis.

More than 40 percent of the energy consumed in the United States is tied to the use of buildings. Building codes, consequently, are among the most powerful tools available for reducing carbon pollution (and, not incidentally, saving money in both residential and commercial buildings). For instance, the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project estimates the incremental cost for constructing a new home to meet the 2015 IECC versus the 2006 IECC is about \$2,400; with annual energy savings of \$390, this efficiency upgrade results in a six-year simple payback.

While some jurisdictions across Colorado are keeping up with changes to the International Energy Conservation Code, many communities have not done so. CC4CA supports the adoption of the most current IECC or amendments to older codes that have comparable energy efficiency and consumption impacts.

3. Supports state government actions to enable local governments to obtain the energy use and other data they need to effectively address climate change.

Local governments need convenient and consistent access to data that is essential for developing and administering local programs that address clean and efficient energy and reductions in heat-trapping emissions. For example, access to uniform data from electric and gas utilities is critical for implementing building energy use disclosure and benchmarking programs designed to make sure building owners, tenants, and others can be fully informed about energy performance. Local governments also struggle to get consistent data regarding waste collection and disposal, oil and gas operations, and other sources of heat-trapping emissions. CC4CA supports state government actions and policies that lead to uniform systems for collection and distribution of data from investor-owned and public utilities that is easily accessible to local governments, while still protective of data privacy for residents and businesses.

State Climate-Specific Programs

4. Supports statutory codification of aggressive and enforceable goals to reduce net statewide heat-trapping emissions, including the goal of reducing emissions by more than 26 percent by 2025, compared to 2005 levels, as established by Governor John Hickenlooper through executive order, and including a further goal of reducing emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050, compared to 2005 levels.

In July 2017, Governor Hickenlooper issued Executive Order D 2017-015. Among other provisions, it set an official state goal of reducing statewide carbon pollution

by more than 26 percent by 2025, compared to 2005 levels. CC4CA applauded the governor for his action, which provides an essential framework for shaping climate protection actions in Colorado. Meeting this goal would mean that Colorado achieved its share of the national commitment the United States made under the Paris Agreement.

CC4CA also supports an additional goal of reducing emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050, building on the goal established in 2008 by then-governor Bill Ritter, Jr. in Executive Order D 004 08. Meeting this goal would mean that Colorado achieved its share of the global emission reductions scientists say must be achieved or exceeded to protect the climate from dangerous human interference.

CC4CA supports the codification of the state's emission reduction goals in statute, as other states have done, so that they remain the cornerstone of state climate protection actions over time, including following transitions from one governor to another.

5. Supports legislative, regulatory, and administrative actions by the Colorado state government to achieve the state's emission reduction goals and to implement the Colorado Climate Plan, and requests an opportunity for meaningful, sustained engagement by CC4CA in developing those specific steps.

In order to meet the emission reduction goals established by Governor Hickenlooper and to implement the governor's 2015 Colorado Climate Plan, the state will need to take additional action. The Colorado Climate Plan is a high-level overview document of state actions for adapting to future climate change impacts and reducing carbon pollution. CC4CA believes it essential that the state government provide an opportunity for meaningful, sustained collaboration with local governments in developing specific climate actions tied to this climate plan, and proposes that representatives of CC4CA be included in that process. Following the July 2017 release of Governor Hickenlooper's executive order, CC4CA initiated a letter to the governor through which 75 local elected officials expressed support for the executive order and its goals and stated their readiness and willingness to help his administration shape and implement concrete, measurable actions that will be needed to meet these goals.

6. Supports the development of a new forecast of future heat-trapping emissions reflecting Colorado laws and Colorado-specific information by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, with input from local government and other stakeholders.

The "Colorado Greenhouse Gas Inventory: 2014 Update Including Projections to 2020 & 2030," prepared by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, includes a forecast of statewide emissions that utilizes federal Environmental Protection Agency nationwide assumptions about future emissions

policies. As a result, the inventory does not reflect currently adopted Colorado laws and policies, such as our Renewable Energy Standard. Without this information, it is impossible to ascertain what progress Colorado is making (or not) in its effort to reduce carbon pollution. CC4CA in July 2017 sent a letter to CDPHE recommending the development of a new Colorado inventory of greenhouse gas emissions that incorporates existing Colorado law and policy in order to more accurately track the state's progress in achieving its emissions reduction goals, and will continue working for that action.

7. Supports a comprehensive market-based policy to reduce Colorado's heat-trapping emissions.

Climate change is considered a market failure by economists because it imposes huge costs on society—so-called external costs—that are not normally reflected in the prices of the goods and services causing the cost. To overcome this market failure, CC4CA supports an effort to internalize the costs by putting a price on heat-trapping emissions and allowing that price to help drive emission reductions. Such a market-based approach could be undertaken at national, regional, or state levels, and could take different forms. One approach would be a tax on greenhouse gas emissions. Another would be a cap-and-trade program that allows trading of limited emission rights that are sold and then could be traded to achieve economically efficient emission reductions. Examples include the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative covering ten northeastern U.S. states and California's statewide cap-and-trade program.

Electricity Generation

8. Supports concrete state government actions to reduce emissions from the electricity sector in Colorado by at least 25 percent by 2025 and at least 35 percent by 2030, compared to 2012 levels, consistent with the goals established by Governor John Hickenlooper through executive order.

Executive Order D 2017-015 established new state goals for reducing emissions from the electricity sector that are consistent with what Colorado was considering to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan under the Obama administration. CC4CA believes that greater emission reductions are possible than called for in the executive order and that further reductions are needed into mid-century, especially given the more ambitious targets that Xcel Energy has identified as achievable in its Colorado Energy Plan currently under consideration by the Public Utilities Commission. CC4CA supports concrete actions by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to ensure that we achieve and exceed these goals.

9. Supports the accelerated retirement of existing fossil fuel based generation facilities and their replacement with cost-effective and reliable clean energy supplies, through means that protect both utilities and consumers.

CC4CA supports actions in Colorado to enable the early retirement of fossil fuel-based power plants and their replacement with clean energy sources, while protecting the economic interests of both the utilities owning the power plants and electricity customers.

CC4CA has previously supported legislation to allow refinancing of older, less efficient power plants, by way of ratepayer-backed bonding, that could make it possible to retire those plants in favor of newer, cleaner sources while protecting the economic interests of both utilities and consumers. In August 2017, Xcel Energy and more than a dozen other entities (including the City of Boulder, a CC4CA member) announced an agreement to seek approval from the Public Utilities Commission of a proposal to retire two old, coal-fired generators at the Comanche power plant in Pueblo, to be replaced with newer energy sources with lower (or no) heat-trapping emissions. The coalition said the proposal is predicated on the cost of the new energy sources meeting or beating the current cost of power from the power plants to be retired.

Across the nation, the generation of electricity is rapidly shifting from coal-fired power plants to less polluting plants, driven primarily by economic forces but sometimes also by governmental policies and actions, from climate action plans to new authority for refinancing existing plants. The shift to cleaner electricity generation is driving down greenhouse gas emissions from that sector and holding down overall national emissions.

10. Supports expanded ability of electric cooperatives to independently purchase local renewable electricity.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association has tried to prevent its customer electric cooperatives from purchasing electricity generated from local renewable sources by other suppliers, both directly through attempts to impose contractual limitations and indirectly through attempts to impose fees. In decisions involving Tri-State and Delta Montrose Electric Association, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has found these attempts to be in violation of the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act, which actually requires a coop to purchase such electricity, and has blocked Tri-State from preventing those purchases. CC4CA supports the ability of electric cooperatives to purchase non-polluting electricity free from these or any similar limitations.

11. Supports state legislation to incrementally increase the Renewable Energy Standard.

Colorado's current Renewable Energy Standard requires electricity providers to obtain these minimum percentages of their power from renewable energy sources:

- Investor-owned utilities: 30 percent by 2020, of which 3 percent must come from distributed energy resources.

- Large rural electric cooperatives: 20 percent by 2020.
- Municipal utilities and small rural electric cooperatives: 10 percent by 2020.

This standard has been one of the most effective state policies in facilitating the transition from carbon-intensive fossil fuel electricity sources to renewable sources, and CC4CA supports giving consideration to incrementally increasing the standard for all three types of utilities.

12. Supports state legislation to require the Public Utilities Commission to consider all environmental and health costs of the fuels used by investor-owned utilities to generate electricity.

Electric utilities should be required to include the costs of carbon pollution when developing their long-term integrated resource plans, as would have been required under a bill considered in the 2016 session of the Colorado General Assembly. The “social cost of carbon” is the economic cost of the impacts of carbon pollution, which can be used to compare the overall costs and benefits of alternative energy sources. Legislation requiring utilities to generate at least one scenario identifying the impacts of carbon pollution would enable utilities, regulators, ratepayers, and others to better understand the true costs of different choices for electricity generation.

13. Supports grid modernization policies and funding that support distributed generation, energy storage, high levels of renewable energy generation (distributed and utility-scale), and appropriate technologies.

A wide array of grid modernization policies and actions are available to utilities that can reduce energy consumption, better align availability of electricity to demand, expand renewable energy generation, and collectively reduce carbon pollution from the power generation sector (while also improving reliability and reducing cost). CC4CA supports policies and funding that result in these types of grid modernization efforts in Colorado.

Net metering is one example of a policy structure that can result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions, greater reliability for individual energy users and across the grid, improved grid resilience, and reduced cost for both utilities and electricity consumers. Colorado’s current net metering policies allow electric customers who invest in distributed energy technologies to net their solar energy production against their consumption. Available in at least 40 states, this simple billing arrangement is one of the most important policies for encouraging rooftop solar and other on-site clean energy options. Net metering also helps foster the voluntary reduction of heat-trapping emissions, contributes to the reliability of the electricity supply and distribution systems, supports the residential and small-commercial renewable energy industry, and helps to more quickly replace coal-fired power plants with cleaner sources of energy. In recent years utilities have sought approval

from regulatory bodies in many states to either abandon or reduce net metering rates.

CC4CA supports grid modernization policies like these and opposes efforts to weaken or eliminate them where they already exist.

Energy Efficiency

14. Supports legislative, regulatory, and administrative actions for electric utilities to achieve energy efficiency savings of 2 percent per year beyond 2020, building on the 2020 goal established by Governor Hickenlooper through executive order. Municipal and cooperative utilities should also adopt and achieve similar efficiency targets.

In the 2017 session of the Colorado General Assembly, CC4CA supported HB 17-1227, which was enacted to extend an existing law requiring regulated utilities to achieve electricity savings of five percent of retail sales from 2018–2028. Colorado utilities have already demonstrated that they can readily exceed this modest goal. The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project reports that from 2008–16 Xcel Energy and Black Hills Energy achieved ten percent savings, well over one percent per year, with an overall benefit-to-cost ratio of more than two-to-one. Colorado households and businesses saved nearly \$1.4 billion net over that time period. Governor Hickenlooper’s Executive Order D 2017-015 set a new goal to achieve two percent per year energy efficiency by 2020, which is readily achievable and should be extended beyond that date.

15. Supports ongoing and sustainable funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Low-income and vulnerable households spend a disproportionately large percentage of their income on energy utility bills. The federal Weatherization Assistance Program was created in 1976 to address this problem. Administered here by the Colorado Energy Office, WAP provides funding to locally administered home weatherization programs to provide free weatherization services to Colorado’s low-income residents in order to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Colorado supplements its annual federal WAP allocation with state severance tax dollars, both of which can be volatile sources of revenue. A stable revenue stream for Colorado’s eight WAP programs would support the dual goals of assisting families in reducing their energy bills while promoting safe, comfortable, and energy-efficient housing.

16. Supports state enabling legislation to provide counties and statutory cities and towns with the same authority held by home rule cities to implement local energy conservation policies and programs.

Unlike their home rule municipal peers, Colorado counties and statutory cities and towns in many cases lack authority to adopt and implement energy conservation policies and programs. For example, only Colorado home rule cities have statutory authorization to enact energy conservation ordinances despite how effective they are for improving the energy efficiency and performance of existing residential and commercial buildings. Enabling legislation is needed to provide Colorado's counties and statutory cities and towns with the authority necessary to enact policies and programs that can support and promote energy conservation within their jurisdictions.

Transportation

17. Supports Colorado's adoption of motor vehicle emission standards, including requirements for low-emission and zero-emission vehicles, and collaborative efforts for effective implementation, that are equal to or exceed those already adopted by California.

The federal Clean Air Act provides authority for California to adopt its own stringent emissions standards for new motor vehicles and for other states to adopt the California standards. Twelve states plus Washington, D.C. have adopted California's basic emission standards. These states represent about 35 percent of the nation's population and the same share of new motor vehicle sales. Nine of these states have also adopted the additional California standards requiring manufacturers to achieve specified sales of zero tailpipe-emission vehicles (i.e., battery-only electric vehicles).

California's vehicle standards have enjoyed unusual bipartisan support, including among Colorado's congressional delegation, both as an example of cooperative federalism among federal and state governments and as important for protecting the climate. A June 2017 letter to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency supporting continuation of the EPA waivers under the Clean Air Act for the California standards was signed by Rep. Mike Coffman, Republican of Colorado, and Rep. Jared Polis, Democrat of Colorado, along with other Members of Congress from both parties.

In recent years, the basic California standards have been synchronized with federal emission and fuel efficiency standards. However, the Trump administration is now planning to weaken the federal standards, which would dramatically undermine Colorado's efforts to meet our statewide carbon pollution goals. Reducing emissions from the transportation sector, which has become the sector responsible for the largest share of greenhouse gases, has to be a centerpiece of climate action in the state.

At the urging of a wide range of interests across the state, including CC4CA, Governor Hickenlooper's June 2018 executive order (B 2018 006) directs the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to develop an advanced clean car standards rule and formally propose adoption of this rule by the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission. CC4CA supports Colorado adopting the California vehicle standards, including the so-called ZEV (zero-emissions vehicle) standards, and CC4CA supports the kinds of flexible approaches to implementing the ZEV standard here in Colorado that we have seen adopted in other ZEV states.

18. Supports implementation of the Colorado Electric Vehicle Plan, including new state government actions to accelerate the purchase and use of zero emission vehicles.

Nationally, transportation has become the sector responsible for the most carbon pollution. Colorado's recent population growth has led to a commensurate increase in vehicle miles traveled, which has overtaken the emissions reductions made possible through the increasing fuel efficiency of the statewide vehicle fleet. Electrification of light- and heavy-duty vehicles, as well as other emerging zero-emissions technologies, holds perhaps the greatest promise for emissions reductions in this sector. CC4CA supports legislative, regulatory, and administrative action to increase the adoption of electric vehicles by investing in electric vehicle charging stations, educating customers about EVs, and providing customer incentives. CC4CA also supports the current plan to commit a portion of Colorado's share of the Volkswagen emissions control violations settlement to the construction of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Colorado, and adoption of the California motor vehicle emission standards (see #17 above), including their provisions on sales of zero-emission vehicles.

Fossil Fuel Extraction Activities

19. Supports legislative, administrative, and regulatory actions to expand the monitoring of and reduce the full life cycle emissions from fossil fuel extractive industry activities.

The mining and extraction of fossil fuels can result in significant levels of carbon pollution. One primary culprit is methane. Methane has a shorter-lived but much more potent heat-trapping effect than carbon dioxide; thus, reducing methane emissions is a highly effective way to buy time to implement more comprehensive actions to reduce industry-wide carbon dioxide emissions. As one example, in 2014 Colorado adopted rules to limit methane emissions from oil and gas operations by requiring oil and gas companies to find and fix methane leaks in its extraction and delivery infrastructure. The rules also require industry to capture methane and volatile organic compounds, both of which contribute to ground-level ozone pollution.

CC4CA supports legislative, administrative, and regulatory actions like these to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the entire extraction and transportation processes involving raw fossil fuels. CC4CA also supports expanded monitoring of the full life cycle emissions from these activities.

Solid Waste Reduction

20. Supports adoption and implementation of a plan by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to achieve the statewide waste diversion goals established by the Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission.

Recycling and composting reduce emissions of both methane and carbon dioxide. Colorado has a low solid waste diversion rate of 19 percent, compared with the national average of 34 percent. In August 2017, the Colorado Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission adopted new statewide and regional municipal solid waste diversion goals, including separate goals for 11 Front Range counties and for the remainder of the state for the years 2021, 2026, and 2036. Statewide, the goal is to increase the diversion rate to 45 percent by 2036. CC4CA supports CDPHE's efforts to increase solid waste diversion rates.

General

21. Supports the protections and authorities currently provided under environmental laws like the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

Protecting Colorado's air, water, and land is vital to its environment, economy, and people. The protections and authorities afforded by landmark federal laws such as the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act are foundational to the fight against climate change. For example, the 2007 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that heat trapping emissions are air pollutants and thus subject to regulation under the Clean Air Act, and the subsequent 2009 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency endangerment finding that indeed, heat trapping emissions present a danger to public health, obligate our federal government to utilize the protections provided by the Clean Air Act to take action to limit emissions. Local governments rely on these protections and can be critical allies in this effort, as scores of communities across Colorado already are implementing a broad array of initiatives to advance climate protection at the local level, and often doing so in collaboration with the state and federal governments. But we know more must be done. CC4CA communities support the protections and authorities provided under the body of existing environmental law, including the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, and will strongly oppose legislative, regulatory, and other efforts to roll back or diminish them.



Colorado Communities for Climate Action Highlights

July 2018

Colorado Communities for Climate Action is a coalition of local governments that advocates for state and federal policies to protect Colorado's climate for current and future generations. CC4CA enters its third year well positioned to advance public policies that will make a real difference in reducing carbon pollution and building Colorado's clean energy economy.

Now representing one-eighth of all Coloradans, CC4CA has grown to include 19 local governments from across the state, bringing a strong local government voice for clean air, climate, and public health protection. New members joining during the past year include Carbondale, Frisco, Basalt, and Crested Butte.

Establishing a credible presence at the Colorado General Assembly

The coalition has already built a reputation as a knowledgeable and trusted player, adding to legislative proceedings the voice and experience of city council and county commission members, as well as the policy expertise of staff-level managers. Through committee hearing testimony, personal contacts with legislators, and collaboration with other organizations, CC4CA actively engages with bills that advance the comprehensive [Policy Agenda](#) unanimously adopted by the coalition.

Even though the 2017 and 2018 legislative sessions were largely characterized by the regrettable partisan divide on climate and clean energy matters, CC4CA contributed by supporting constructive legislation that passed and helping to defeat bills that would have thwarted progress. Those efforts strongly position the coalition to be a key player in advocating for more far-reaching laws during coming sessions.

During the 2018 session, CC4CA:

- Was particularly visible in meetings of the House Select Committee on Climate Responsibility, invited by the committee chair to testify at two of its hearings. The information about local clean energy programs and recommendations for state action provided by Eagle County Commissioner Jill Ryan, Westminster City Councilor Shannon Bird, and Telluride Public Works director Karen Guglielmone helped shape the committee's agenda.
- Helped win support for two bills that were enacted, one establishing the rights of utility customers to install and use battery storage to enhance their own renewable energy

systems, and the other directing the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules that address utility-scale energy storage systems.

- Supported high-visibility bills setting state carbon pollution targets and helping the state work with local governments on preparing for the impacts of climate change. Although these bills died, like most of the bills introduced during the session, we helped build public and political support for them and are now better positioned to pass them next year.
- Helped defeat bills that would have eliminated tax incentives for purchase of electric vehicles, repealed parts of the state renewable energy standards, and prevented the state from entering into climate and clean energy alliances with other states.

Advocating for state executive branch actions

CC4CA is actively pressing for more climate protection actions by the governor and state agencies.

- CC4CA is playing a meaningful role in state adoption of advanced clean car standards, a high priority for the coalition. On June 19, Governor Hickenlooper announced [Executive Order B 2018 006](#), directing the Colorado Department of Public Health Environment to develop a rule to establish a Colorado Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) program for possible adoption by December 30, 2018. This action counters the Trump Administration’s announced intention to roll back federal clean car and emission standards. CC4CA has been a leading voice in urging the governor to use the authority available to states under the federal Clean Air Act to join 12 other states and Washington, D.C. in adopting California’s alternative vehicle standards, which mirror the federal standards threatened by the rollback. In March 2018, CC4CA President Anita Seitz delivered to Gov. Hickenlooper a letter authored by CC4CA and signed by 52 county commissioners and city and town council members from 26 Colorado local governments urging adoption of state standards. Interim Executive Director Jacob Smith urged the Air Quality Control Commission to move forward with rulemaking at its May meeting, and CC4CA elected officials will participate in the Air Quality Control Commission’s rulemaking hearings to press for rules that establish the strongest standards possible under this authority.
- CC4CA also:
 - Established a presence in Public Utilities Commission proceedings through testimony by CC4CA President Anita Seitz in support of Xcel Energy’s proposed plan to retire early coal-fired power plants and invest instead in renewable sources.
 - Supported the climate protection executive order Governor Hickenlooper announced in July 2017, and urged the state to take even more actions—to adopt a tough long-term goal of reducing statewide heat-trapping emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050, and to develop a plan that will actually achieve the short-term and long-term goals.
 - Called on the Department of Public Health and Environment to undertake a new emissions inventory so Colorado can assess its progress and clearly understand the challenges to meeting our carbon pollution goals.

Training members for effective advocacy

Over the past year CC4CA conducted three well-attended regional training sessions around the state for elected officials, managers, and program staff of member jurisdictions. The sessions armed attendees with information and tools on how to be more effective in representing CC4CA and their individual local governments in advocating for climate action at the state and federal levels.

Building strategic relationships

CC4CA continues to build constructive relationships at multiple levels:

- By earning a seat at the table with allied climate and clean energy organizations as a trusted partner in collaborating on strategies for current and future actions in the state policy arena.
- By reaching out to all of the gubernatorial candidates from both major political parties to familiarize them with CC4CA and the policy priorities of most importance to member local governments.
- By continuing to cultivate relationships with General Assembly members, including at meetings and events during the months when the legislature is not in session.
- Developing working partnerships with other organizations that represent local government interests, particularly the Compact of Colorado Communities.

Establishing a strong organizational framework

During its first two years, CC4CA put in place an effective governance and communications structure to facilitate coalition decision-making and action.

- Members are fully engaged in a Steering Committee to set overall priorities and guide operational matters, as well as a Policy Committee and a Planning and Budget Committee to oversee each of these areas. An Executive Committee is also in place to facilitate day-to-day decisions.
- Internal and external communications capabilities are advancing, including development of *CC4CA Currents*, a bi-monthly newsletter designed to keep elected officials and managers of CC4CA members and others abreast of CC4CA's work, and submission of guest editorials by CC4CA member elected leaders, published in statewide and local news outlets.
- This strong organizational foundation facilitated a smooth transition in leadership during 2018, enabling CC4CA to pivot from the structural development led by the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization and former Executive Director Stephen Saunders to a greater emphasis on policy advocacy action under the leadership of Interim Executive Director Jacob Smith.

For more information:

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