

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 23, 2019
SUMMIT COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ADOPTION
CONSENT AGENDA**

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Adoption of the Summit Community Climate Action Plan

ISSUES:

None

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

Not applicable

RESOLUTION STATUS

Draft resolution attached

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Resolution
- Summit Community Climate Action Plan



STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
FROM: Kate Berg, Senior Planner
FOR: Meeting of April 23, 2019
SUBJECT: Adoption of the Summit Community Climate Action Plan

PURPOSE:

The Summit Community Climate Action Plan (CAP) has been prepared by the Summit Climate Action Collaborative over the past several months, and all participating Collaborative member organizations are now proceeding with adopting the CAP and beginning to work together to implement the priority strategies set forth in the Plan.

At the March 12 BOCC work session, County staff and representatives from High Country Conservation Center (HC3) provided the Board with an overview of the CAP, including the Plan's key goals and strategies, and the recommended priority projects to be pursued in 2019. Based on direction received from the Board and County Manager's office at the March 12 work session, the attached resolution has been prepared for BOCC adoption of the CAP at the April 23 meeting. Further discussion of the County staff work plan for CAP implementation is planned for an upcoming Board work session on May 14.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT :

In May 2017, the BOCC signed onto the Compact of Colorado Communities, along with the towns of Breckenridge and Frisco and neighboring Eagle and Pitkin counties. By signing onto the Compact, communities commit to establish a climate action plan or measurable emissions reduction goal within 24 months, announce the plan or goal publicly, provide updates on implementation, and share lessons learned with peer Compact members.

In February 2018, the BOCC joined the Town of Breckenridge in adopting a resolution committing to 100% renewable electricity by 2035, and the County began participating in a community wide effort to collaboratively develop and implement a Climate Action Plan through the Summit Climate Action Collaborative. The Collaborative is being facilitated by HC3, with participation from the County, towns, ski areas, utilities, school district, CMC and other key community stakeholders. The group has worked to draft the CAP over the past several months, which is now being reviewed and adopted by all Collaborative member organizations.

Through the Collaborative, the County and towns intend to work together to align and partner with the utilities and other community partner organizations, to jointly set goals and collectively develop and implement plans, programs and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout Summit County communities. This collaborative approach is intended to maximize efficiency and coordination, minimize duplication of efforts, and create a shared roadmap for implementation that will position us to effectively apply for funding requests that demonstrate regional coordination and a holistic evaluation of key opportunities throughout all jurisdictions in the County.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP) OVERVIEW :

Planning Process :

The Collaborative convened in 2018, and hired Lotus Engineering and Sustainability, LLC to support the development of the CAP and complete an initial community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for Summit County. An overview of the GHG emissions inventory is provided on pages 14-16 of the CAP. As with many communities, emissions in Summit County are largely generated through energy use in buildings (65 percent) and transportation (33 percent). Over a 6-month timeframe, Lotus worked with the Collaborative to help develop recommended strategies for reducing these emissions, which were then modeled for GHG emissions reduction potential. Input was solicited from subject area experts through a series of focus group meetings, and from the larger community at an open house event in November 2018 to inform Plan development. Following is a summary of the key goals and strategies included in the CAP.

Key Plan Goals : **Reduce countywide emissions 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, below a 2005 baseline.**

- **Renewable Energy** - Reduce emissions from electricity use 100 percent by 2035.
- **Building Energy** - Reduce emissions from building energy use 21 percent by 2030 and 36 percent by 2050.
- **Transportation** - Reduce emissions from transportation 25 percent by 2030 and 91 percent by 2050.
- **Waste** - Reduce emissions from waste 50 percent by 2030 and 90 percent by 2050.
- **Forests** - Maintain forest cover in Summit County and improve forest resilience to climate impacts.

Key Strategies:

- **Renewable Energy Strategies:**
 - Encourage all jurisdictions to **adopt or support renewable energy goals** and work with utilities to achieve these goals.
 - Develop and implement a **shared work plan / roadmap to achieve 100% renewable electricity** countywide.
 - **Advocate at the state level** for a rapid increase in the amount of renewable energy on the grid.
 - Increase education about renewable energy and make it easier to install renewable energy on homes and businesses. Execute a **community campaign to increase solar installations** through education and bulk purchase programs.
 - Pursue **Solsmart designation** for Summit County communities to analyze and remove barriers for solar installations, streamline the solar permitting process throughout the County and towns, and promote Summit County as a solar-friendly community.
- **Building Energy Strategies:**
 - Adopt and enforce the **2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)** countywide.
 - **Amend the Sustainable Building Code to create a new 'above building code' standard** - Convene a building code working group with

representatives from the towns, county and building community to develop recommended code amendments to incentivize or require high performance building standards such as **“solar-ready”, “net-zero energy ready” or similar building standards and EV-ready code standards** for new construction. Also consider code amendments to require mandatory **building energy benchmarking for buildings over a certain size**, and explore the feasibility of requiring new construction to be **heated with electricity** as there are no carbon-free alternatives to natural gas or propane.

- Expand participation in existing **energy efficiency programs** for residential and commercial buildings.
- **Host LED bulb giveaways**
- **Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy for school and government buildings.** Prioritize energy efficiency and green building in new construction and major renovations of school and government facilities.
- **Develop a long-term financing mechanism** to provide incentives for reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in buildings.
- **Transportation:**
 - Create and implement a **community-wide Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan.** Pursue **electrification** of government fleet and transit vehicles, and support adoption of more electric vehicles communitywide through expanded infrastructure and incentives. Partner with utilities to ensure grid capacity for increased electric vehicle charging. Also pursue clean fuels and alternative fueling infrastructure for heavy duty fleet vehicles.
 - **Discourage single occupancy vehicles** through incentives, policies and participation in regional initiatives.
 - Work with the Transit Board to **increase bus service** (routes and frequency) and reduce first/last mile connection issues.
 - Plan and develop **Park n’ Ride facilities to increase the use of public transit** within the County.
 - Pursue **amendments to county and towns’ land use and development codes** to add consideration of connectivity and multimodal transportation access to development review criteria.
 - Develop and implement a Summit County **bicycle and walking master plan** to identify and close existing gaps where needed.
- **Waste:**
 - Encourage local governments to create and enforce **zero waste event requirements**, and provide **zero waste stations in all county and municipal facilities.**
 - **Amend county and towns’ codes** to require new construction to include space for recycling and compost/food scrap collection, and require recycling at new construction job sites.
 - Consider adoption of a **save-as-you-recycle ordinance and/or landfill bans** for easily recycled items across the County.
 - Work with haulers to implement a **curbside food scrap collection program.**
 - Create ways to **recycle construction materials**, such as developing local markets for used asphalt and concrete.
- **Forests:**

- Improve the understanding of forest health in a changing climate. Educate and advocate for the important role of forests for sequestering (capturing and storing) carbon emissions.
- Develop and implement a **community-wide forest management plan**.
- Encourage local governments to set **goals for maintaining forest and tree canopy**.
- **Expand the use of the county's Transferable Development Rights (TDR) program** by encouraging the towns of Dillon, Frisco and Silverthorne to use TDRs as a tool for protecting forested lands from development.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - **Collaborate with ski areas and towns** to promote the Climate Action Plan and implement strategies to educate millions of visitors.
 - Create an **outreach campaign to engage locals and visitors**.
 - Provide **free workshops** to help residents learn how to reduce their carbon footprints.
 - Develop programs to **engage K-12 and college students** on climate change and solutions.
 - **Utilize special events** to share messages, provide resources, and engage participants in carbon reduction strategies.
- **Funding:** Develop a long-term financing mechanism for climate action implementation (e.g., Renewable Energy Mitigation Program (REMP), Commercial and Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), Revolving Loan Funds, etc.)

Projected Emissions Reductions : The modeling done by Lotus Engineering & Sustainability, LLC during the CAP planning process shows that effective implementation of the strategies identified in the Plan would result in a projected 60 percent reduction of GHG emissions by 2050. In order to achieve the goal of reducing emissions 80 percent by 2050, we will need to find cost-effective ways to decrease our dependence on natural gas heating.

The Collaborative recognizes that changes and innovations in technology and the economy over the coming years will likely make new strategies applicable to our community. Therefore, the Collaborative plans to remain open, engaged and informed of additional opportunities to drive greater emissions reductions over the coming years.

2019 PRIORITY PROJECTS :

The Collaborative has developed the following list of recommended priority projects to be initiated in 2019, which were discussed with the Board at the March 12 work session. Further discussion of the work plan for CAP implementation is planned for an upcoming BOCC work session on May 14.

- Develop a **shared work plan / roadmap to implement the goal of 100% renewable electricity** by 2035 and initiate work on priority action items, working collaboratively with the towns, Xcel Energy, Mountain Parks Electric and other partner agencies.
- Facilitate County and towns adoption of a GoEV goal to transition to electrification of the transportation sector, develop a **regional EV readiness plan** and begin work on the implementation priorities. Priorities for local governments include: conversion of fleet and transit vehicles to EVs; installing EV charging infrastructure at county/municipal buildings; partnering with the utilities to identify priority areas / opportunity zones for charging infrastructure; and facilitating development of utility-owned charging

infrastructure, EV infrastructure incentive programs and rebates, and EV-specific rate design. Group buy programs and state and federal grant funding can be used to help fund the cost of vehicle purchases and build-out of the necessary EV charging infrastructure. CoPIRG, SWEEP and CLEER are also offering to provide free technical expertise and assistance with development and implementation of this regional EV Readiness Plan for Summit County communities.

- Pursue **Solsmart designation** for Summit County to analyze and remove barriers for solar installations, streamline the solar permitting process, and promote Summit County as a solar-friendly community, working collaboratively with the towns who have already begun work on a Solsmart designation (Breckenridge, Dillon and Frisco).
- Work collaboratively with the towns and building community to **adopt the 2018 IECC, update the Summit Sustainable Building Code, and develop recommended land use and development code amendments** to increase energy efficiency, renewable energy installations, EV charging infrastructure, connectivity and multimodal transportation access, recycling and food scrap collection, and water conservation in new developments.
- **Implement Solarize Summit County**, a bulk buy solar PV program for local property owners in Summit County.
- Install **zero waste stations** in County and town facilities, create and enforce **zero waste event requirements**.
- Work with the towns, Xcel Energy, Mountain Parks Electric and other partners to **develop new funding sources** for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- Facilitate implementation of **County policies and procedures** to achieve energy and cost savings, and emissions reductions in Summit County Government facilities and operations. This includes working with Public Works, Facilities, Housing and other relevant departments to incorporate energy efficiency, renewable energy, EV charging infrastructure and other sustainable design features into new County capital projects.
- Work to expand forest protection by encouraging Dillon, Frisco and Silverthorne to begin utilizing the **Transferable Development Rights (TDR) program**.
- Continue to engage in **local, state and federal climate action advocacy** efforts through ongoing County participation in CC4CA (Colorado Communities for Climate Action).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS:

The CAP is currently being reviewed and adopted by all Collaborative member organizations, and all participating Collaborative member organizations are being asked to dedicate staff to participate in development and implementation of the policies, programs and initiatives identified in the Plan.

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the Summit Community Climate Action Plan via the attached resolution. Following BOCC adoption of the CAP, further discussion of the CAP implementation work plan is scheduled for the May 14, 2019 Board work session.

Moving forward, the Collaborative plans to publish a progress report on the CAP implementation on an annual basis, and to complete an updated GHG emissions inventory every three years to track progress toward meeting the Plan goals.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft resolution adopting the Summit Community Climate Action Plan
- Summit Community Climate Action Plan

CC: Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager
Jim Curnutte, Community Development Director
Don Reimer, Planning Director
Jen Schenk and Jess Hoover, High Country Conservation Center
Tom Gosiorowski, Public Works Director
Curtis Garner, Transit Director
Scott Hoffman, County Building Official
Kelly Flenniken, Xcel Energy