

# A Snapshot of Climate Action Planning in Fort Collins



## HONOR AWARD

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In 2015, the City of Fort Collins set the most ambitious goals in the country on climate action – becoming carbon neutral by 2050 as well as setting interim 2020 and 2030 targets. To achieve these goals, the City has developed a framework that clearly explains to the community why climate action is crucial in Fort Collins and provides a clear

path forward that would help the City to reach its goals. The adoption of this framework set a new standard of support



for making our community more sustainable.

The City is now focused on implementing the broader framework and is branding our climate efforts around the Road to 2020, the first interim goal. One of the key areas of implementation is in the operation of the City organization itself. To achieve these goals requires every department in the City to be involved. Toward that end, we have formed an executive team, 11 strategic teams, and a Community Advisory Committee that includes 70 staff members and 35 citizens all working to achieve the community's goals. These teams are focused on various strategy areas such as energy efficiency and waste reduction as well as key enabling strategies such as messaging and engagement and performance measurement.

The Climate Action Plan framework served as an important first step in bringing the city closer to carbon neutrality, but we can't get there alone. The CAP framework lays out multiple social, economic and environmental benefits to climate action. Importantly, one of the outcomes of the CAP framework is the new public/private partnerships that are creating inventive new approaches to reducing GHG emissions.

For example, the City of Fort Collins, Colorado State University, and Innosphere, a local startup incubator, have announced the winner of the first Innovate Fort Collins competition. This technology competition was focused on solving electric vehicle (EV) charging challenges because as more people buy electric vehicles, the pressure on charging loads can affect the reliability of the electric grid. Qmulus, an emerging technology company with a solution for a plug-and-play adapter, was announced as the winner on September 26th at Colorado State University's 21st Century Energy Transition Symposium.