CC4CA Policy Statement
Effective July 1, 2021
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==PROPOSED REDLINE EDITS==
==FORMALLY PROPOSED BY THE POLICY COMMITTEE 3/9/23==
==(and updated with new language for #18 on 4/13/23)==
==[Tracked changes are in RED and complete relocation of text is in GREEN.]==

Colorado Communities for Climate Action is a coalition of local governments advocating for stronger state and federal climate policy. CC4CA's policy positions 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.

CC4CA generally focuses on legislative, regulatory, and administrative action, supporting efforts that advance the general policy principles and the detailed policy positions described below, and opposing efforts that would weaken or undermine these principles and positions.

General Policy Principles

The following general principles guide Colorado Communities for Climate Action's specific policy positions. CC4CA supports:

- Collaboration between state and federal government agencies and Colorado's local governments to advance local climate protection and resilience.

- State and federal programs to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, including adequate and ongoing funding of those programs.

- Analyses, financial incentives, infrastructure, fiscal tools and enabling policies for the development and deployment of clean energy technologies.

- Locally driven and designed programs to support communities impacted by the clean energy transformation.

- Centering equity in decision-making by prioritizing policies that address systemic environmental and governance inequities based on race and socioeconomic status and that justly transition and grow the clean energy economy.

Adams County · Aspen · Avon · Basalt · Boulder · Boulder County · Breckenridge · Broomfield · Carbondale
Clear Creek County · Crested Butte · Dillon · Durango · Eagle County · Edgewater · Erie · Fort Collins · Frisco
Gilpin County · Glenwood Springs · Golden · Lafayette · Lake County · Larimer County · Longmont · Louisville · Lyons
Mountain Village · Nederland · Northglenn · Ouray County · Pitkin County · Ridgway · Routt County · Salida
San Miguel County · Snowmass Village · Summit County · Superior · Telluride · Vail · Wheat Ridge

Policy Positions

Colorado Communities for Climate Action supports policies that:

Statewide Climate Strategies

1. Reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions consistent with or greater than the State of Colorado's adopted, codified goals.

2. Secure accurate, actionable, useful, and regular state greenhouse gas inventories and forecasts for Colorado which are made accessible to local governments and incorporate alignment between state and local inventory data to the extent possible.

3. Adopt a comprehensive market-based approach to reduce Colorado's greenhouse gas emissions that ensures the benefits accrue justly and equitably to impacted communities.

4. Treat the environmental and health costs associated with the use of fossil fuels as an important priority in making and implementing climate-related policy.

Local Climate Strategies

5. Remove barriers and promote opportunities that allow counties and municipalities to maximize deployment of local clean energy and climate-related strategies, including resilience-oriented strategies, while promoting affordable, accessible, and equitable delivery of reliable clean energy.

6. Enable local governments to obtain the energy use and other data from utilities and state agencies that they need to effectively administer climate and clean energy programs.

7. Support well-designed public processes for evaluating retail and wholesale energy choice options for communities, informed by a broad variety of stakeholders.

8. Provide for cost-effective and equitable policies, strategies, and practices that enable and accelerate energy efficiency in buildings, beneficial electrification, reducing building related GHG emissions, and improving quality of life.

9. Modernize energy infrastructure to strengthen grid reliability, enhance resilience (community-based and otherwise), improve transmission, and more fully integrate renewable energy, distributed generation, and energy storage resources.

10. Retire or discontinue the use of fossil fuel power plants while ensuring grid reliability.

11. Discourage construction of new fossil fuel power plants.

12. Expand the ability of electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities to independently purchase local renewable electricity and take other steps to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

~~**12. Modernize energy infrastructure to strengthen grid reliability, enhance resilience (community-based and otherwise), improve transmission, and more fully integrate renewable energy, distributed generation, and energy storage resources.**~~

Energy Efficiency

13. Expand demand side savings from efficiency and conservation for all energy types.

14. Support ongoing and sustainable funding for weatherization and renewable energy assistance to low-income households.

15. Provide counties and statutory cities and towns with the same authority held by home rule cities to implement local energy conservation policies and programs.

Transportation

16. Ensure effective implementation of Colorado's vehicle emissions standards, GHG-related regulations, state and regional transportation-related plans, and other regulatory and programmatic activities designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from mobile sources.

17. Increase funding and policy incentives for multimodal transportation and mobility options, based on efficient use of resources.

Land Use

18. Encourage adoption and implementation of statewide policies that enable local governments to enact land use, zoning, and planning policies that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve resilience.

19. Encourage adoption and implementation of practices in the agriculture and forest sectors that durably reduce greenhouse gases, increase resilience, improve water conservation, support ecosystem health, and promote a sustainable, low-carbon agriculture and forestry economy in Colorado.

Resilience

20. Proactively improve the resilience and adaptability of Colorado communities in the face of natural disasters and other challenges associated with climate change, including ensuring that disaster stabilization and recovery efforts result in reduced greenhouse gas pollution and improved resilience to future disasters.

21. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with water management, and increase water resilience, through water conservation, efficiency, reuse, adaptation, low impact development strategies, and other approaches.

Fuel Sources

22. Eliminate emissions from and achieve comprehensive, high accuracy monitoring of fossil fuel extractive industry activities.

23. Secure appropriate guardrails on the development/use of alternative energy technologies, such as hydrogen and biomass, based on their life cycle greenhouse gas emissions impacts, environmental and social impacts, and cost.

Waste

24. Ensure that CDPHE has adequate authority to implement plans and policies for meeting Colorado's statewide and regional solid waste diversion goals.

25. Secure high levels of circular economy activities like reuse, recycling, composting, and reducing the carbon intensiveness of materials and products, including reducing and eliminating use of disposable/single-use products and construction and demolition waste.

26. Achieve significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions from solid waste, water treatment, and wastewater processing.

General

27. Support ongoing and sustainable funding for programs that assist communities in the transition from fossil fuel-dominated economies.

28. Support exploration and deployment, when appropriate, of well-regulated technologies and practices that retain currently sequestered carbon, capture greenhouse gasses before they are emitted, remove greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere, and use or sequester this carbon.

29. Encourage investments that achieve climate-positive solutions, including policies that encourage entities investing public dollars to consider partial or full divestment in fossil fuel extraction and use as part of their investment strategies.

30. Maintain protections and authorities currently provided under environmental laws like the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Air Act, and Clean Water Act, and ensure that these laws are fully implemented and can be improved through stakeholder input when appropriate.