



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: HILARY SUEOKA, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS COORDINATOR
RE: COLORADO COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION UPDATE
DATE: MAY 9, 2023

Summary and Background: This work session seeks to provide background on Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) and an overview of the Policy Statement update process.

Colorado Communities for Climate Action is a coalition of 42 local governments across the state advocating for stronger state and federal climate policy. CC4CA is governed by a Board of Directors representing all of the member communities.

As a group of local governments and local elected officials, CC4CA has a unique perspective on the threats and challenges that climate change poses, a perspective that is often overlooked in policy debates. All members have come to understand that climate change poses unique and severe risks to their communities and that they cannot meet their own local climate goals without effective state and federal policy.

The Town of Frisco became a member of CC4CA in 2018. Part of that process involved the Town Council adopting a resolution expressing support for CC4CA's Policy Statement. CC4CA goes through a formal process of updating this Policy Statement every other year. Because the last time the Board updated it was in June 2021, the Board is slated to decide on a new round of updates at this year's annual retreat (June 8-9, 2023)

CC4CA's Policy Committee leads this process. Hilary Sueoka is Frisco's representative on the Policy Committee. The process has included soliciting input from every member jurisdiction, a preliminary review by the Board of Directors at its February 2023 meeting, and now this final set of proposed updates.

In preparation for the annual Board retreat, each CC4CA member is asked to review the proposed changes and identify any that might be of concern.

There are several key points to keep in mind:

1. The process of crafting the proposed updates is extensive and thorough, so these proposed updates have already gone through substantial vetting and baking.
2. For each proposed update, Board members will have the option of supporting, abstaining, or objecting. If a single member objects to a specific proposed change at the Board retreat, that change does not occur, so we ask that members only object (i.e., veto) if they have a strong objection.

3. Ultimately, the question for our Board representative will be “can you live with this proposed change?” as opposed to “Is this the best possible wording?”
4. Because the coalition now has 42 members, and each jurisdiction essentially has a veto over every proposed update, it is important for member jurisdictions to raise any concerns about proposed updates as soon as possible to give everyone time to understand and try to resolve the issue.
5. The Policy Statement does not guide how CC4CA prioritizes among advocacy opportunities. The Policy Committee does that separately. The Policy Statement simply identifies the organization’s positions on each of the relevant policy issues.

The Town of Frisco’s Board member has been asked to review the proposed updates to confirm that they have no objections. CC4CA does not dictate how each member jurisdiction does this. Some jurisdictions require or prefer that the elected body review and formally approve the proposed updates. Some leave it to the Board member. Some handle this at the staff level. All that CC4CA requires is for each member’s Board representative(s) to be empowered to represent the jurisdiction for this final decision at the June retreat.

If we do raise concerns, CC4CA asks that we be very specific about what they are:

- a) Which specific proposed update is of concern?
- b) What exactly is the concern?
- c) Would we rate the concern as minor (e.g., grammatical edits), moderate (may require discussion but probably doesn’t require major changes to the proposed updates), or serious?

Finally, since we are participating in the annual Board retreat, we need our Board representative(s) to be prepared to work through the final discussion and decision at the retreat. The major discussion will occur on the first day of the retreat. If that discussion leads to any proposed tweaks to the official proposed updates, Board members will have until the meeting resumes the next day to secure any final additional approvals they may need.

Analysis: Participation in CC4CA gives small towns a powerful voice on legislation through the collective power of a coalition with significant membership from towns and cities across the state. A policy statement approved by all jurisdictions represented in CC4CA gives staff and representatives the advance support and autonomy to express support or oppose appropriate and applicable legislative efforts without returning to Town Council each time a decision needs to be made. If there are any major issues or objections to the CC4CA Policy Statement updates, staff requests that these are brought up during the work session if time allows or communicated later to Town staff. If there are no objections to the Policy Statement updates, then the Board representative will support the adoption as-is and will communicate any substantive changes proposed during the Board retreat with the Town manager. Following the CC4CA Board retreat in June, Town Staff will bring a formal resolution to ratify the updates Policy Statement to Council.

Financial Impact: The Town pays \$5,000 in annual membership dues to CC4CA. In return, Frisco receives timely and concise information on current climate legislation, guidance and opportunities for Staff and Council members to testify and provide comment from CC4CA Staff, and the collective power of being part of a 42-member coalition.

Environmental Sustainability: participation in CC4CA advances environmental sustainability

state-wide and aligns with the Town's Community Plan Guiding Principle 6: Sustainable Environment and more specifically, 6.1A Support implementation of the Climate Action Plan and 100% renewable energy initiatives. Working with CC4CA supports emissions goals listed in the Climate Action Plan through advocacy at the state and federal levels.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This action aligns with the Strategic Plan goal of a Sustainable Environment and Council's goal of implementing the Climate Action Plan. While CC4CA may be focused on a broader range of Coloradans, we know that climate change and climate action is a collective problem and needs to be addressed with collective solutions. By continuing to participate in CC4CA, Frisco is continuing its commitment to its environment and the health of future generations.

Staff Recommendation: Staff requests that Council provide any major concerns with the proposed CC4CA Policy Statement updates. If there are no concerns, Staff recommends Council support to move forward with the update as-is.

Reviews and Approvals: This report has been reviewed and approved by:

Tom Fisher, Town Manager
Leslie Edwards, Finance Director

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – CC4CA Policy Statement Updates Process Graphic
Attachment 2 – Proposed updates to Policy Statement
Attachment 3 – Proposed Policy Statement updates – redlined
Attachment 4 – Proposed Policy Statement updates – redlines accepted