

## **Mayor Wade Troxell Testimony:**

Thank you to Committee Chair Kathy Castor and Ranking Member Graves for the opportunity to address the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Thank you to Representative Neguse for hosting this hearing in the great state of Colorado. My name is Wade Troxell and I am the Mayor of Fort Collins, where I was born, raised, went to school and have my career, and now have the honor of serving as Mayor.

Fort Collins is a mid-sized city of 172,000 people, home to Colorado State University, with a strong, diverse economy and a deep commitment to innovation, resilience and excellence. As evidence, Fort Collins is a 2017 Malcolm Baldrige Award Winner recognized for an unceasing drive for radical innovation, thoughtful leadership, and operational excellence.

For context, Fort Collins was a community of 20,000 people when I was born and is now 8 ½ times that size and it's even better, more dynamic and forward-thinking. We like to think that we “punch above our weight class” as a city, and our collaborative approach to climate action is just one example of that. Fort Collins has one of the most aggressive climate action plans and will celebrate 20 years of climate action this fall, including our unanimously adopted goals by City Council in March 2015 to reduce community carbon emissions 20% by 2020, 80% by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. We set these goals because it makes financial, social, and environmental sense for our community.

Fort Collins is a “plan and do” City. While aspirational goals are important, what differentiates Fort Collins is that we’ve translated these goals

into action-oriented, pragmatic, cost-effective solutions that benefit all in our community, such as energy efficiency. Programs through our municipal electric distribution utility and Platte River Power Authority are saving businesses almost \$10 million annually from improved efficiencies and their employees are more comfortable and productive as additional benefits. Efficiency and solar programs generated in excess of \$40 million in local economic benefits last year, while supporting over 200 jobs.

Our “Climate Economy” strategy, along with our collaborative approach, has been a key to our progress, and I’d like to share some examples:

Platte River Power Authority and its four owner communities including Fort Collins have led the way with a resource diversification policy calling for 100 percent non-carbon energy mix by 2030. Our community also committed to 100% renewable electricity by 2030, as have a number of our large local businesses. We can transition to clean and resilient electric infrastructure while optimizing affordability, reliability, and stewardship. Near-term Utility-scale investments will result in more than 50% of our electricity coming from non-carbon sources with, importantly, a neutral bill impact on our customers.

Our ground-breaking Regional Wasteshed partnership with Larimer County and other municipal jurisdictions looks at waste as a beneficial resource. A master plan was developed for new wasteshed diversion facilities and supporting policies were developed to help us achieve our waste diversion goals.

We’re also one of 27 communities in Colorado to partner on state and federal policy advocacy via a local government coalition, the *Colorado*

*Communities for Climate Action*. This group helped pass over a dozen bills in the legislature this past session.

These efforts and investments have led to significant results for Fort Collins – we’ve seen net reductions in our emissions, and reduced per capita emissions 34% since 2005, all while our population and economy have continued to grow.

With this being said, some challenges can best be solved at the state and federal level, and we are excited to continue a partnership with the federal government on innovative efforts to address climate action.

I would like to offer the following considerations for the committee:

1. Encourage goal setting at all levels: Setting ambitious goals can help establish community direction, ensures accountability, and it spurs innovation.
2. Recognize the “Climate Economy”: Fort Collins is leading the way with its focus on the “Climate Economy”, which we define as a strong, stable and innovative economy based on lower carbon solutions and infrastructure. Scalable integration technologies will come from our private sector partners.
3. Recognize the value of renewable energy solutions at multiple scales:  
Utility-scale investments, distributed energy resources, and energy storage solutions, are all critical to the transition to clean energy systems. Systems-thinking and integration must overlay these initiatives while vertically integrating with end-use “prosumers”. Consequently, Fort Collins collaborates with industry

and research partners, such as Colorado State University Energy Institute and the GridWise Alliance, to transform and modernize the grid to meet the rapidly transforming electric utility industry.

4. With a convergence of electric and transportation systems, continue investments in multi-modal and electric vehicle infrastructure: Thanks to federal investments, Fort Collins has doubled its transit ridership in the past four years because of MAX, our Bus Rapid Transit system, and we'll add seven electric buses in the next four years. In partnership with the Electrification Coalition, we now have electric charging stations at most of our large employers throughout the city and in municipal parking structures. We are advocating for statewide zero emission vehicle standards because that will bring public health benefits and improved electric vehicle choices to Coloradoans.
5. Encourage innovation: Last year, Fort Collins was one of 9 award winners of the 2018 Bloomberg Philanthropies U.S. Mayors Challenge and the associated \$1 million prize for its innovative **Epic Homes** program that provides health and equity benefits for low-to-moderate income renters by improving the energy efficiency of rental homes.

In conclusion, Fort Collins is a wonderful community and is only getting better. Fort Collins is uniquely positioned to demonstrate how carbon neutrality can be achieved to benefit all residents and businesses through equitable solutions. Like the Fort Collins I grew up in, we continue to enjoy the quality of life that we intend to enhance and preserve for future generations. As past president of the Colorado Municipal League, I am

reminded of the words of Frederick G. Bonfils: “ 'Tis a Privilege to Live in Colorado”. I look forward to our discussion and your questions.

**Attachments**

Energy Policy 2018 Annual Update Infographic

Climate Action 2017 Annual Update Infographic



# Energy Policy Report

2018 Annual Update

ATTACHMENT 1



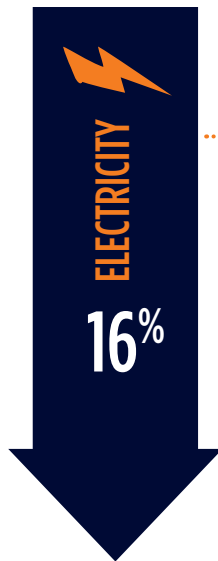
We can lead in **ENERGY EFFICIENCY** and **RENEWABLES** with **HIGH RELIABILITY**, **AFFORDABLE BILLS** and **AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS**.

The Energy Policy reflects Fort Collins' values of reliability, affordability, safety, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, pollution prevention, environmental stewardship and energy independence. It is aligned with the Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals of 20% carbon reduction below 2005 levels by 2020, 80% by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2050.

How do you fit in?

## COMMUNITY ENERGY USE

Per capita reductions from 2005



Electricity use per capita is the lowest it's been since 1986.

## SINCE 2005



Thanks to residents and businesses improving efficiency and practicing conservation.



Building square footage increased by 21%, but buildings are **9% MORE EFFICIENT**.

## OUR IMPACT

Despite a growing population, efficiency programs have helped limit the increase in electricity use. It would be **13% higher** without Utilities' programs.

Residential Efficiency Savings: 46M kWh

Business Efficiency Savings: 155M kWh

Saved Electricity from Efficiency

Actual Community Electricity Use

2005

2010

2015

2018



[fcgov.com/what-we-do](http://fcgov.com/what-we-do)

## Energy Efficiency

Customer electricity savings from efficiency programs totaled **32.8M kWh** (2.1% of the community's annual use), equivalent to taking 4,200 homes off the grid.



The average residential customer uses about **650 kWh** per month (or 7,800 kWh per year).

## Reliability

With **99.997%** reliability, most residents did not experience an outage.

## Community Economics

Customer projects generated **\$40M** in local economic benefits through reduced utility bills, direct rebates and leveraged investments, and also supported **200+ JOBS**.

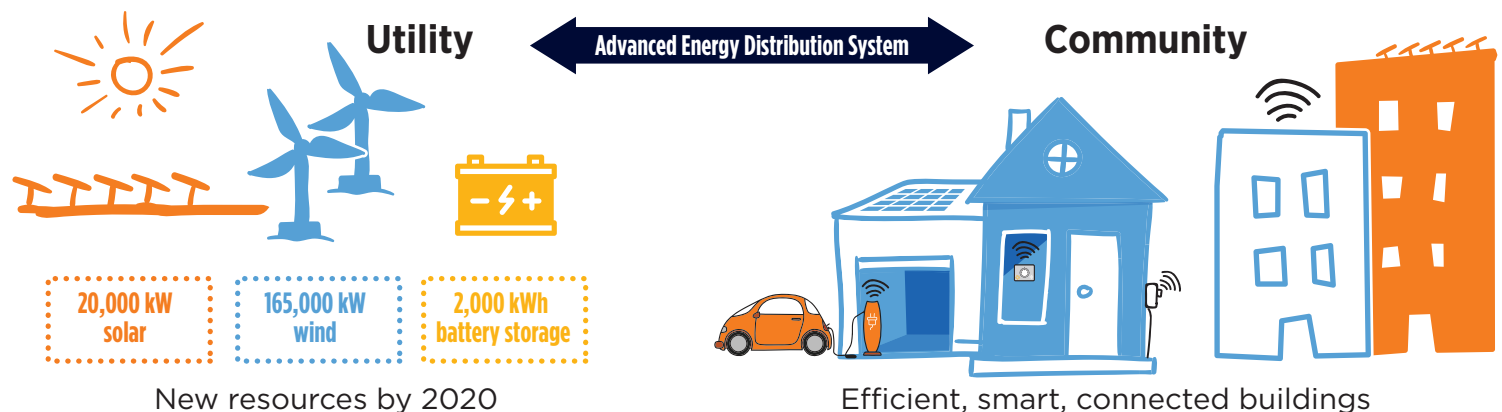


## Peak Usage

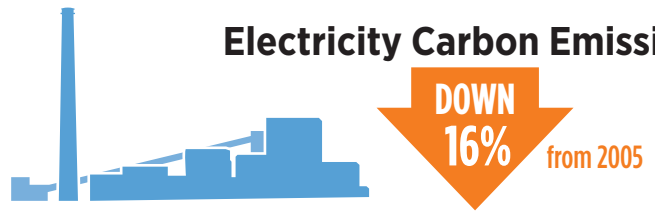
Fort Collins Utilities customers reduced demand by **2,000+ kW** during peak times.

## LOOKING FORWARD

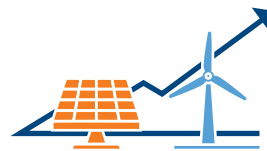
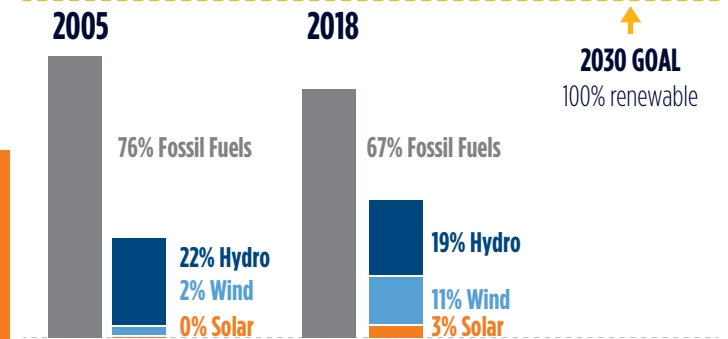
Vision: Fort Collins is a leader in the transition to sustainable and resilient local energy systems.



## Electricity Carbon Emissions



## Electricity Supply



**1.2%** of electricity came from local renewables.



## Local Solar

Installed **350+** new rooftop solar systems, adding **2,400 kW**, a **20% increase** in total capacity from 2017.

## Rates

Residential rates are approximately **32% less** than those for the average Colorado electric customer.



# Climate Action Plan

## 2017 Community Carbon Inventory

Fort Collins has some of the most aspirational climate goals in the country - 20% reduction below 2005 levels by 2020, 80% reduction by 2030, and carbon neutral by 2050. As of 2017, Fort Collins' carbon emissions were 17% lower with a growing population and economy. **With three years to go, we are nearly to our first milestone of a 20% reduction!**

### How do you fit in?

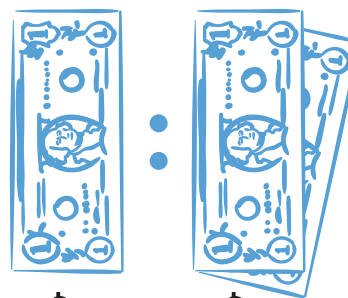
#### PROGRESS PER CAPITA

Our actions add up. Changes by residents, businesses, and local action have reduced per capita emissions by 34% from 2005 levels.

MTCO<sub>2</sub>e = metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent

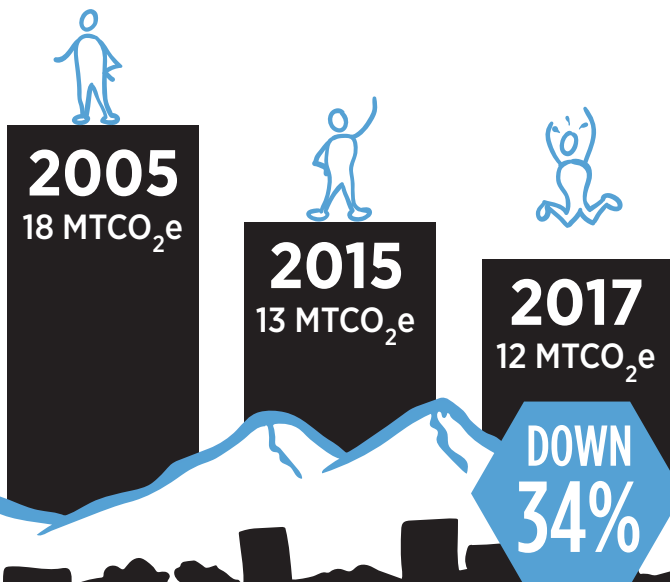


Average annual **community savings per household** from five years of climate action investment.



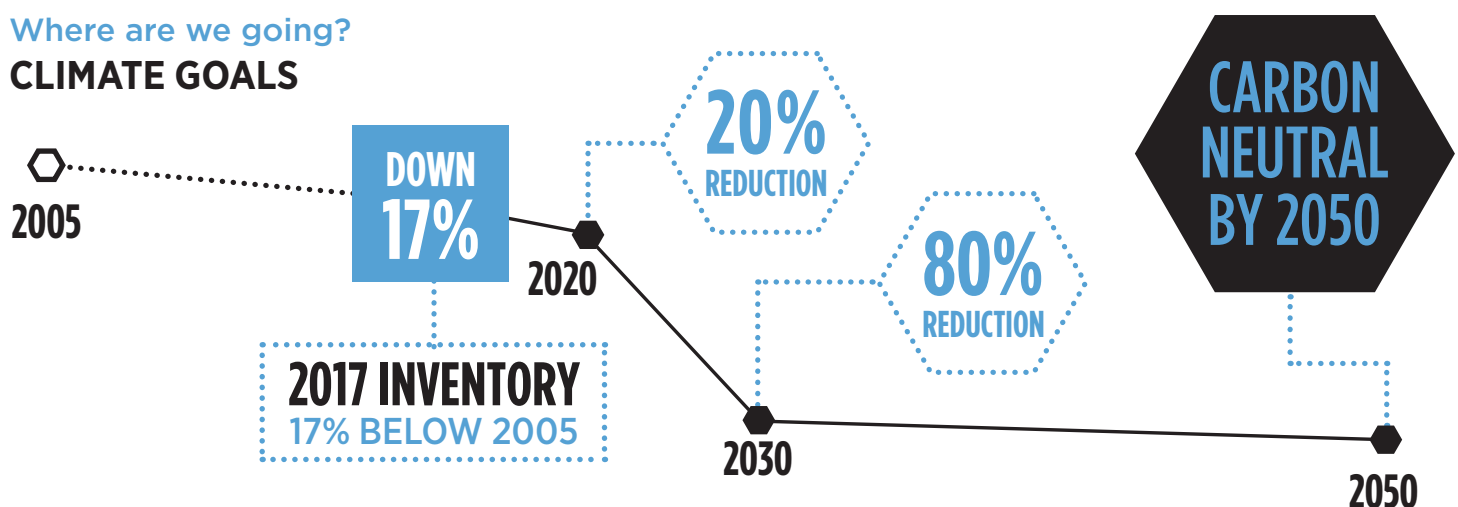
\$1 : \$2

Every one dollar invested by the City is leveraged by almost two dollars by the community and private investment.



### Where are we going?

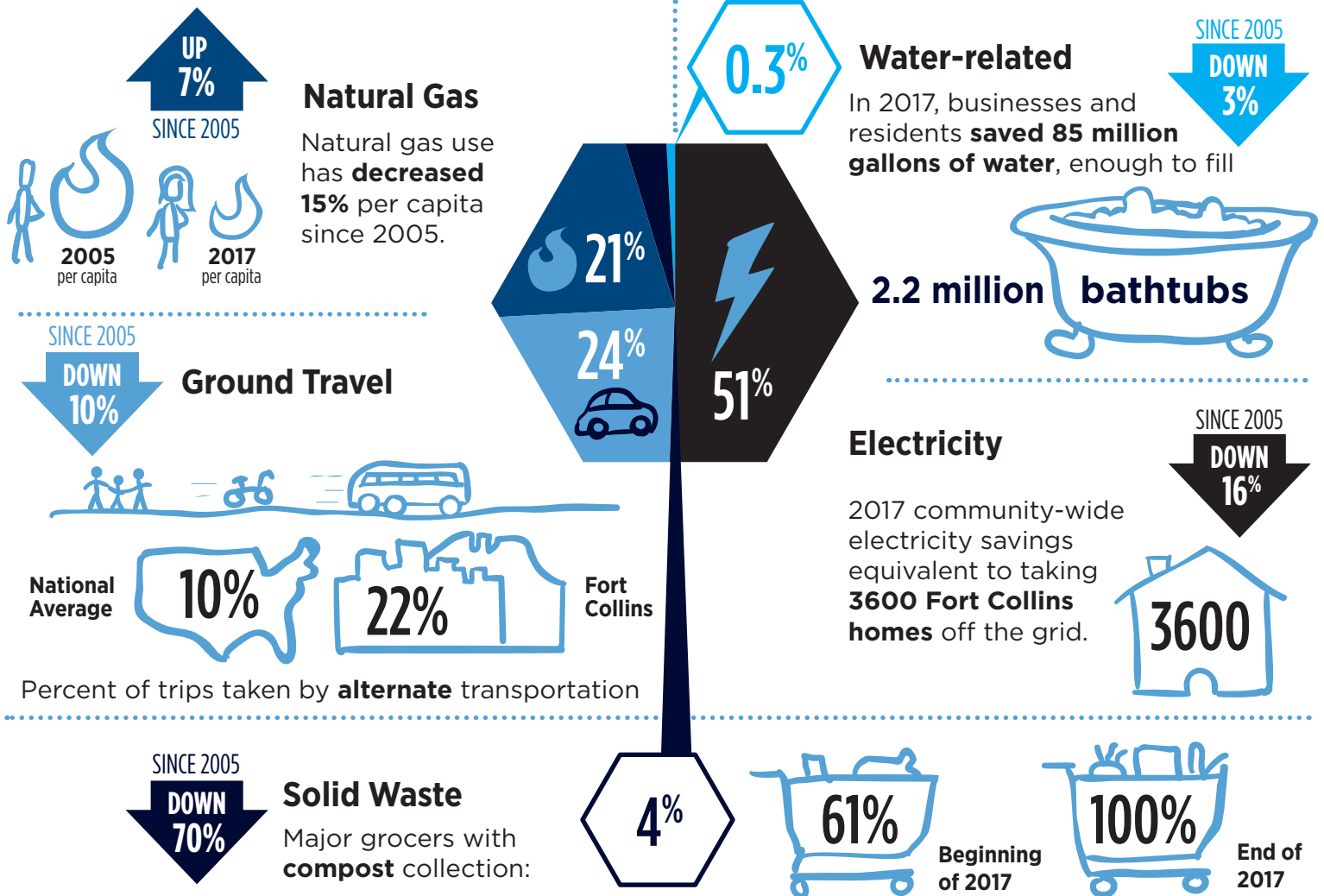
#### CLIMATE GOALS





# WHERE DO OUR EMISSIONS COME FROM?

## 2017 Emissions Sources & Highlights



Visit the CAP Dashboard for more information  
[fcgov.com/climateaction](http://fcgov.com/climateaction)

### Our climate journey...

Timberline **Recycling Center** opens



2016

2015

**CAP goals** adopted



2017



Installed **local solar** hits 10 MW from over 1,000 systems across the community



2018



"Take 2" engages 7500 homes in simple action to have a big impact.

2020

150 MW of **wind energy** will boost our non-fossil electricity resources to nearly 50%



**MAX** bus service begins offering **365 day service**

**TO 2050**