

Submitted by: Sustainable Revolution Longmont, Climate Action Committee Date: Jan 20, 2015

We hereby request that the Longmont City Council direct city staff to develop a “Sustainability and Climate Action Plan” with a detailed action timeline and accountability procedures. We request that the City adopt this plan in 2015. We ask each of you to take a stand and commit to do this and to establish Longmont as a sustainability leader for the health of our residents, for our economic vitality, and for the future success of this great City.

The City has made but not yet fulfilled commitments to develop a sustainability plan.

- The city has already adopted resolutions and passed ordinances in support of sustainability.
- While the city has stated that it either desires or has positioned itself as an environmental leader, there is no evidence that it is competitive in this area with other Colorado cities.
- The city began drafting an Integrated Sustainability Plan based on the award and requirements of a Department of Energy grant.
- The draft plan developed in 2010 with community input was halted by Council and never completed.
- The Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan identifies Goals and Key Performance Indicators for sustainability.
- A Quality of Life survey exists and has been used in the past to measure key performance indicators, but has not been taken since 2010.

The City is lagging in economic competitiveness and planning compared with neighboring cities.

- Why would a company with a commitment to sustainability want to set up in Longmont, when cities within close proximity (Fort Collins, Boulder, Denver etc) all have active sustainability plans and programs and we don't?
- In December 2014, Denver beat 21 other cities to win the new Panasonic facility, and Panasonic announced that the city's reputation for sustainability and renewable energy was a deciding factor.
- Fort Collins plans is currently revising its plan to set more aggressive goals. By 2030, combining results across all sectors, the accelerated scenario results in a net benefit of \$260 million for the community compared to business as usual, and an avoided 15 million metric tons of CO2. By 2050, the accelerated scenario could result in a total net benefit of \$2.0 billion compared to business as usual.” (RMI, Stepping UP Report)
- Leading with action is the key to Longmont's success.

A lack of leadership in sustainability is a detriment to our health and wellness.

- The City is first and foremost people. Sustainable design improves the health and wellness of those that live and work in our city through improved walkability, bike-ability, cleaner transportation options, cleaner air, land and water, as well as local, nutritious food and strong community.
- Sustainable: able to be maintained at a certain rate or level; conserving an ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources.
- Unsustainable: not able to be maintained at the current rate or level; upsetting the ecological balance by depleting natural resources
- Four interconnected domains of sustainability: ---ecology---economics---politics---culture

There is an urgent need for a Climate Action Plan.

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. The City should plan to make significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with the best available science. Understanding climate change and what to do is straightforward:

- **Simple:** Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide acts as a heat-trapping blanket which inevitably raises the temperature of the earth. This has been well understood since 1863 and is common sense.
- **Serious:** Having ignored the science for over a century, Colorado is a region on the edge. Increasing temperatures are speeding up the rate of evapotranspiration, increasing the number and intensity of wildfires and drought, increasing forest pest outbreaks and reducing snowpack. This is in addition to the negative health effects of fossil fuel production and use.
- **Solvable:** By combining an array of well-known, mature strategies, we can move past the fossil fuel blip that we have come to rely on. If we choose Climate Action, rather than Climate Inaction, with creativity, hard work and dedication, we can lead the way in developing a clean energy economy for our kids and grandkids.

Based on "Simple, Serious, Solvable" presentations by: Dr. Scott Denning, Director of Education at the Center for Multiscale Modeling and Atmospheric Processes and Montfort Professor of Academic Science at Colorado State Univ.

Writing a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan is good government, is not difficult, is well supported and will make Longmont's planning easier and more effective.

- Colorado cities who have completed greenhouse gas inventories and have a Climate Action Plans include: Fort Collins (1999, 2008), Denver (2014), Boulder (2004, 2006, 2010), Glenwood Springs (2009), Aspen (2005), and others as well as the State of Colorado (2007).
- The fact that sustainability is about interconnectedness means innovative solutions can be achieved cost-effectively on an integrated basis. This was the goal of the Integrated Sustainability Plan that was abandoned.
- Resources are available to assist Longmont in developing and implementing a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan. The Rockefeller Foundation, STAR Communities Network, Sustainable Cities Institute, US Green Building Council, Rocky Mountain Institute, Natural Capitalism and ICLEI to name just a few.

Longmont residents support Climate Action.

- Community for Sustainable Energy (CforSE) canvassed in several neighborhoods in Longmont in 2014. Of those that entered a conversation with the CforSE representative, 75% stated that they approved of the statement: The City of Longmont should develop a Climate Action Plan.

Resources

ICLEI Star Communities <http://www.icleiusa.org/sustainability/star-community-index>

The Business of Sustainability

http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/energy_resources_materials/the_business_of_sustainability_mckinsey_global_survey_results

Rocky Mountain Institute, Stepping Up <http://www.fcgov.com/climateprotection/pdf/stepping-up-report.pdf>

Climate Protection Manual for Cities <http://www.climatemanual.org/Cities/index.htm>

Get Started <http://www.starcommunities.org/get-started/>

City of Fort Collins Climate Protection <http://www.fcgov.com/climateprotection/>

Fort Collins Powers Ahead with Clean Energy, Economy and Jobs

http://blog.rmi.org/blog_2014_03_04_fort_collins_clean_energy_economy_powers_ahead

The Way Out: Kick-starting Capitalism to Save Our Economic Ass <http://www.amazon.com/The-Way-Out-Kick-starting-Capitalism/dp/0809034697>

US Green Building Council & Institute for Sustainable Communities, "12 Steps to a Greener Community:"

<http://www.usgbc.org/Docs/Archive/General/Docs7584.pdf>

Sustainable Revolution Longmont, www.SRLongmont.org. Monthly talks: Jan 21: Sustainable Longmont – Policy Wishlist, Feb 18: Simple Serious Solvable.