



CC4CA Policy Statement

Effective July 1, 2021

Adopted by the Board of Directors June 4, 2021

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, 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.
- Prioritizing policies that put equity at the center of decision-making by addressing systemic environmental and governance inequities based on race and socioeconomic status and by justly transitioning and growing the clean economy.

Policy Positions

Colorado Communities for Climate Action supports the following policy positions:

Statewide Climate Strategies

- 1. Reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions consistent with or greater than the State of Colorado's 2019 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. Expand consideration of the environmental and health costs associated with the use of fossil fuels 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 a comprehensive public process 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 GHG emissions, improving quality of life, and making the electric grid more robust and resilient.**

Energy Generation

- 9. Accelerate retirement of existing fossil fuel generation facilities and their replacement with cost-effective and reliable clean energy supplies, through means that support utilities, consumers, and the communities where these facilities have been located.**

10. 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.

11. Modernize energy infrastructure to enhance community-based resilience and integrate distributed energy resources.

Energy Efficiency

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

13. Support ongoing and sustainable funding for weatherization and renewable energy assistance to low-income households, including those in fossil fuel-dominated economies, so that all Coloradans have access to comfortable and affordable homes.

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

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 and other regulatory and programmatic activities designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from mobile sources.

17. Implement the 2020 Colorado Electric Vehicle Plan and other efforts to increase electrification of all motor vehicles.

18. Increase funding and policy incentives for multimodal transportation and multimodal-friendly development statewide.

19. Incentivize and select mobility alternatives, including movement of both people and goods, based on energy efficiency, and environmental costs and benefits.

Fossil Fuel Extraction Activities

20. Expand monitoring and reduction of the full life cycle emissions from fossil fuel extractive industry activities.

Waste

21. Grant CDPHE authority to implement a plan for meeting Colorado's statewide and regional solid waste diversion goals.

22. Reduce or eliminate use of disposable/single-use products and promote reuse of materials, including construction and demolition waste.

23. Foster circular economy policies like reuse, recycling, composting, and reducing the carbon intensiveness of materials and products.

24. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from solid waste, water treatment, wastewater processing, and agricultural activities.

General

25. Encourage adoption of climate-positive innovations like telecommuting, drawing from the lessons learned during the coronavirus pandemic, to substantially reduce air and greenhouse gas pollution.

26. Promote proactive programs and efforts that improve the resilience and adaptability of Colorado communities in the face of natural disasters and other major 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.

27. Support exploration and deployment, when appropriate, of natural climate solutions (NCS) and of carbon capture and utilization/sequestration (CCUS).

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

29. Encourage investments that achieve climate-positive solutions, including policies that encourage entities investing public dollars to consider partial or full divestment 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.