



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

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### STAFF

Honoré Depew, Climate Program Manager  
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Molly Saylor, Lead Specialist, Waste Reduction and Recycling  
Judy Schmidt, Legal

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### SUBJECT

**Resolution 2022-108 Adopting an Interim Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to consider adoption of a Resolution setting an ambitious interim target in 2026 of 50% below 2005 levels for community greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions.

In support of Council establishing a 2026 interim goal, staff have projected the community GHG inventory for 2026 at 43% below the 2005 baseline with the inclusion of the Council Action Roadmap and other key strategies presented to Council at the October 11, 2022 work session. If Council adopts this Resolution, it will be necessary to accelerate existing strategies, identify new, or accelerate planned, City-led strategies and to invest in additional community leadership and action.

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### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution with an interim, aspirational target be set between 45% and 50%.

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### BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Fort Collins community and its elected leaders have long put a high priority on being a regional, national, and global leader in addressing the climate emergency.

- 1999 – City's first Climate Action Plan adopted
- 2008 – Resolution establishing community-wide GHG goals
- 2015 – Resolution [updating GHG goals](#) and reconfirming climate commitment
- 2018 – Resolution [committing to 100% renewable electricity](#)
- 2019 – Resolution [declaring a climate emergency](#). Platte River Power Authority has also expressed commitment with the adoption of the Resource Diversification Policy and 100% non-carbon electricity goal for 2030.
- 2021 – Adoption of the [Our Climate Future](#) plan, centering equity and resilience alongside mitigation.

At the October 11, 2022 work session, Councilmembers expressed broad support for proposed action steps within the OCF framework to be considered in the coming years to help Fort Collins do its part to (Our Climate Future October 11 work session summary and Our Climate Future Council Action Roadmap October 2022):

1. Minimize the worst impacts of the Climate Emergency (emissions mitigation),
2. Adapt to climate impacts that are increasing in frequency and severity (resilience), and
3. Transition to a cleaner, healthier future in a just and fair way (equity).

OCF is a framework for accomplishing community and Council environmental priorities using a data-informed, systems-based approach. The robust modeling tool staff has developed to organize and track strategies and outcomes also maps out important decision points and milestones for Council actions along the way.

## **Our Climate Future Background**

Adopted by Council in April 2021, OCF is an integrated update of the Climate Action Plan, Energy Policy, and Road to Zero Waste that articulates the community's vision for a sustainable future. OCF reinforces Fort Collins' deep commitment to mitigating and adapting to climate change and meeting energy and waste goals with a people-first systems approach. This means community members' voices and priorities are at the center of solutions, summed up in 13 visionary outcomes known as Big Moves.

Our Climate Future (OCF) implementation intensifies our community efforts to achieve these primary environmental goals:

- Reduce 2030 greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 2005 baseline levels
  - Carbon neutral by 2050
- Provide 100% renewable electricity by 2030 with grid and local sources
- Achieve zero waste, or 100% landfill diversion, by 2030

Specific strategies associated with the Big Moves are called Next Moves. These actionable strategies are evaluated for their impact on goals, benefits and costs, potential results for improving equity and resilience, and what it will take to implement them. Next Moves also have defined implementation mechanisms and defined roles for the City and other stakeholders. That modeling of the Next Moves is what informs both the Pathways to 2030 and the Council OCF Action Roadmap, described in the following sections.

## **2021 Community GHG Inventory**

The Community GHG Inventory is one tool used to track climate action efforts made by the City and community. Results reflect these actions as well as external factors that influence GHG emissions (e.g., COVID-19 in 2020). For 2021, the Community Inventory shows 24% from the 2005 baseline, which is a slight loss of progress from 2020 (reported as 25% below 2005 baseline), based on the following factors:

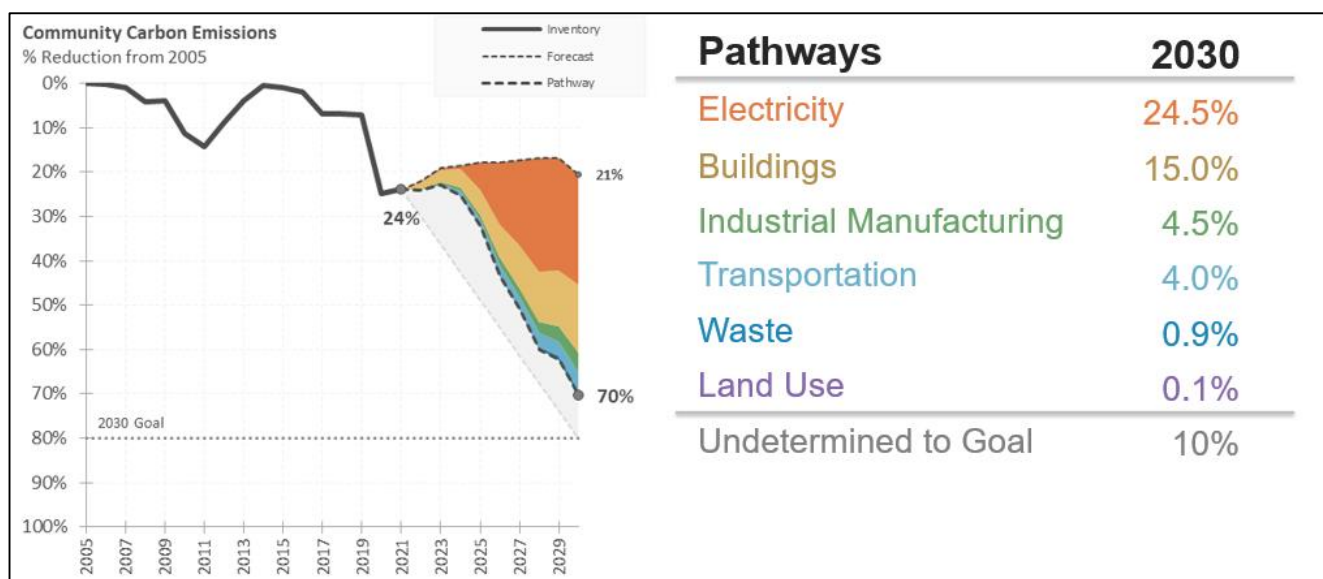
- Vehicle use and transportation emissions increased compared to 2020, though was still below 2019 levels (*increase in emissions*)
- Utility-scale renewable electricity continued to increase (*decrease in emissions*)
- Abatement of Industrial Process and Product Use (IPPU) emissions increased (*decrease in emissions*)

GHG inventories continually evolve as sources and methodology are updated. Please note that final waste and IPPU emissions are not yet included in this estimate.

## The Pathways to 2030 GHG Reduction Goals

- Pathways are groups of Next Moves (strategies) that drive towards a specific outcome (e.g., the *transportation pathway*, which includes Next Moves for transit, active modes, and vehicle electrification). They are high-impact strategies that include, though are not limited to, Council actions.
- The current total estimated potential from all the quantified Pathways is a 70% GHG emissions reduction by 2030. See *Figure 1* below.
- The gap between this projection and the 80% by 2030 target will primarily need to be addressed by additional community/partner action and will also be influenced by external factors.

The Pathways depicted below focus mainly on mitigation. At the same time, equitable processes and outcomes, community partnerships, and building community resilience are woven into the strategies and are often synergistic. Staff is also committed to using this pathways framework to explore equity and resilience focused strategies in the coming years.



**Figure 1: Pathways towards the 2030 Community Greenhouse Gas Goal**

## Interim Goal Considerations

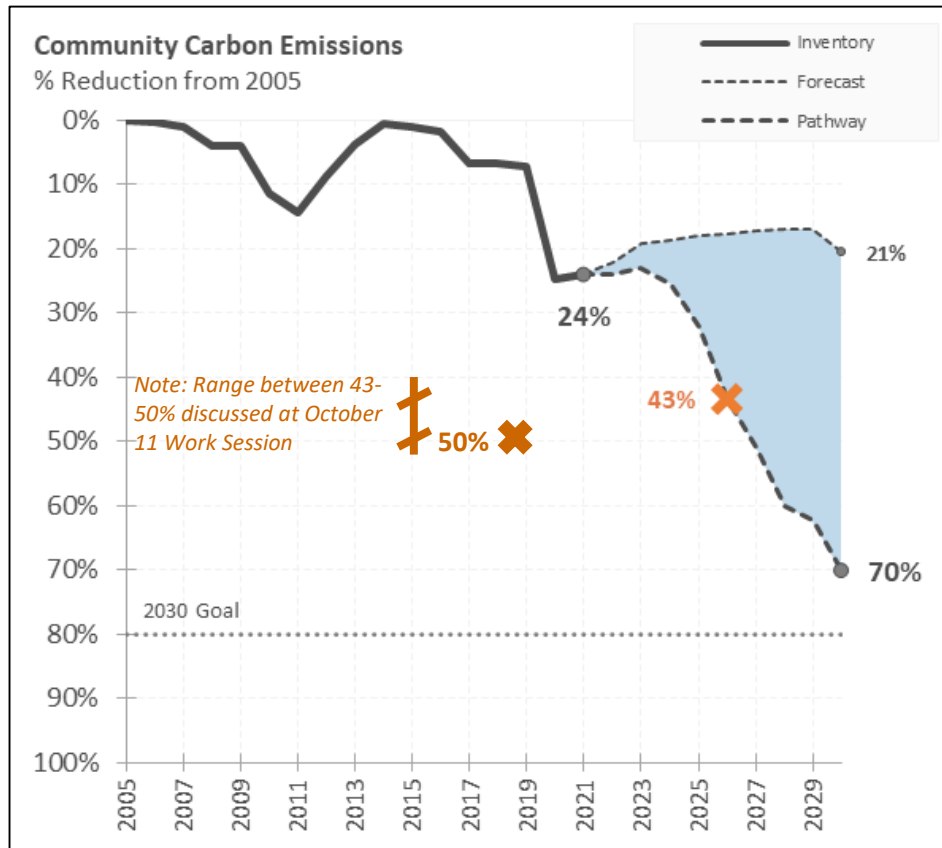
At the October 11 work session, Councilmembers expressed support for adopting an aspirational 2026 interim community greenhouse gas goal between 43% and 50% below the 2005 baseline year. This range is in turn based upon staff projection of the community GHG inventory for 2026 with the pathways at approximately 43% below 2005. Staff recommends choosing 2026 as the target year for an interim goal because it falls halfway between the current year and 2030, allowing for two full City budget cycles before and after the interim goal year.

This result assumes policy and infrastructure investments presented in the Council Action Roadmap (attached) are implemented and resourced. Pending Council's final decision to adopt a more aspirational goal of 50% (Figure 2), the following steps will be necessary:

- Accelerate existing strategies
- Identify new, or accelerate planned, City-led strategies
- Invest in additional community leadership, partnership, and action at all levels

With the continuously evolving nature of greenhouse gas modeling, staff can estimate the potential of accelerating or identifying some new strategies in the short-term. Modeling the impacts of community-led action (likely the greatest lever to scale impact) have a longer time horizon. Staff is also exploring how

quantification of state and federal action can be incorporated into the pathways, e.g., the Inflation Reduction Act and statewide legislation.



**Figure 2: Potential 2026 Interim Community Greenhouse Gas Goal**

### CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Not applicable.

### BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

### PUBLIC OUTREACH

Not applicable

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Work Session Summary, October 11, 2022
3. Council Action Roadmap, October 2022
4. Presentation