



## WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

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### STAFF

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### SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

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**Our Climate Future Implementation.**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The purpose of this item is to provide Councilmembers with clear information about how the Fort Collins community can make progress towards the goals laid out in the Our Climate Future plan for waste, renewable electricity, and greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions.

Based on greenhouse gas and waste forecasts between 2021 and 2030, staff has provided a “roadmap” of Council actions to be considered in the years ahead that advance strategies to help reach Council-adopted goals.

Councilmembers will review the 2021 inventory of community greenhouse gas emissions along with forecasted emissions projections by sector and will be asked to use those forecasts to offer guidance on where to set a 2026 interim GHG goal for the community.

### GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

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1. How does the content and timing of the Council Action Roadmap align with Councilmember priorities?
2. What target would Councilmembers like to consider for the 2026 interim GHG goal at the October 25 meeting?

### BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

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The decade ahead is a critical time for the action local governments must take to address the climate emergency. During Council's Our Climate Future (OCF) Work Session (in April 2022), Councilmembers reviewed the extensive, leading-edge engagement work that led to developing Our Climate Future as a visionary, guiding framework for the Fort Collins community. Councilmembers expressed that they understood OCF to represent an actionable community vision and a “roadmap” was requested for clear steps that could be considered in the coming years to help Fort Collins do its part to:

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 and 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 and are summed up in the Big Moves attachment including 13 visionary outcomes.

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 (also reported as 24% below 2005 baseline), based on the following factors:

- Vehicle use and transportation emissions increased compared to 2020, though 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 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.

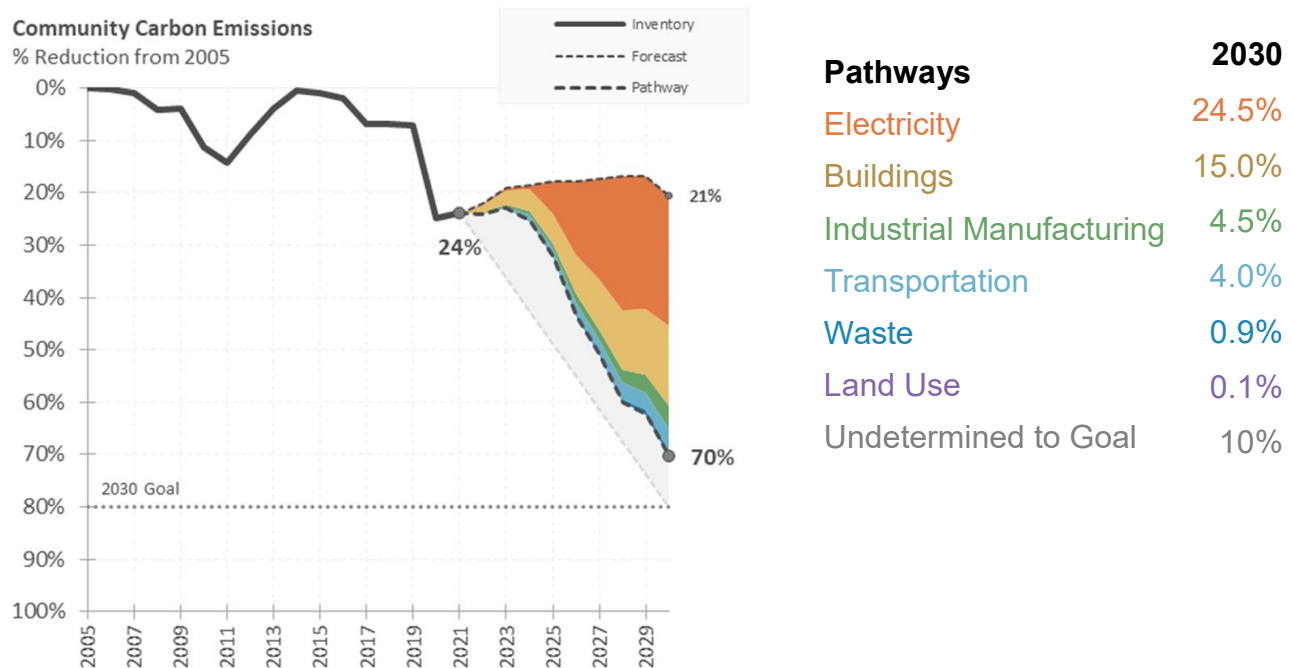


Figure 1: Pathways towards the 2030 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal

The attached *OCF Pathways - Descriptions & Methodology* describes each of the Next Moves that were included in the Pathways and their respective estimated GHG reduction potential. Staff approached these estimates with the following methodology:

- Referencing existing plans and commitments (e.g., Transit Master Plan, City Plan) and potential impact of strategies;
- Checking these assumptions with staff experts across the City;
- Gathering data and assumptions from other trusted sources (e.g., North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization's transportation model);
- Projecting historical trends (e.g., average household electricity consumption); and
- Determining reasonable forecasts for participation and efficacy rates, usually based on Fort Collins' and/or other communities' results.

### Interim GHG Goal

In support of Council establishing an additional interim goal between now and 2030, staff have projected the community GHG inventory for 2026. If all the strategies in the pathways modeled above were implemented, the expected community inventory in 2026 will be approximately 43% below the 2005 baseline. (This is an estimate due to many variables affecting our community inventory; the range is between 28% and 48% below baseline.)

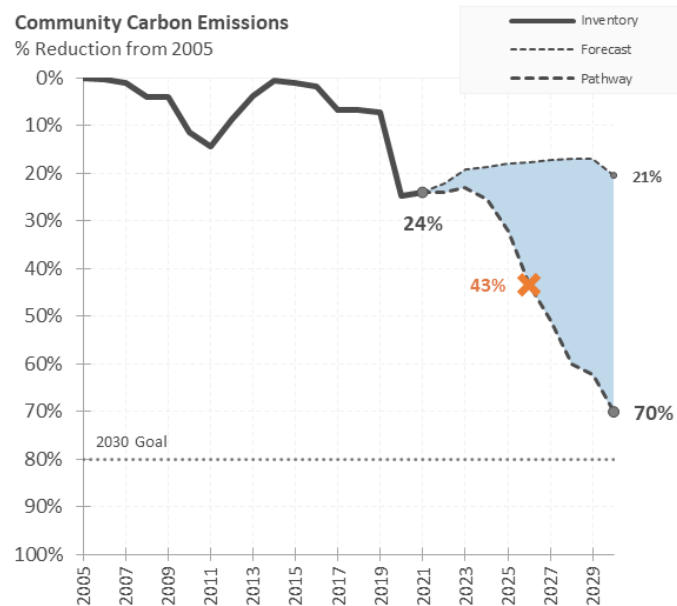


Figure 2: Interim Greenhouse Gas Target, 2026

That possible target of 43% assumes policy and infrastructure investments that will require hard decisions and tradeoffs. If Council wishes to create an even more ambitious stretch goal, staff analysis shows that additional strategies will need to be identified, existing strategies will need to be accelerated, and/or additional community leadership and action would be needed. While there are likely more strategies that can be identified, those in the modeled pathways represent the most significant interventions, so additional strategies may not deliver the same levels of impact.

If a Resolution is adopted, 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.

### Pathways to Zero Waste by 2030

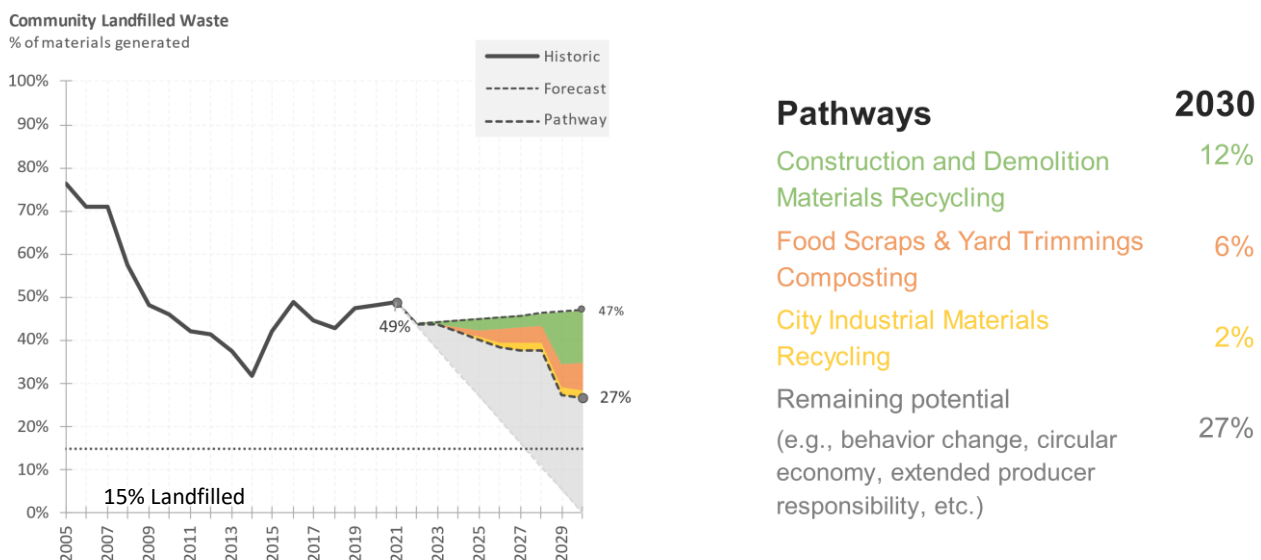


Figure 3: Pathways to 2030 Zero Waste Goal

The three identified pathways are highlighted in Figure 3 above, and additional detail about the strategies within each pathway are described in the *Pathways - Descriptions & Methodology* attachment.

Key waste pathway assumptions and context:

- Waste policy conversations are dependent upon infrastructure projects, which must be in place for waste diversion to occur.
- Staff determined milestone years using available planning information and similar projects' timelines.
- If key infrastructure (e.g., a composting facility for yard trimmings, etc.) is constructed later than indicated in planning materials, policy work and related waste diversion would also shift.
- Two key pieces of infrastructure are currently unscheduled in regional planning materials: the composting facility for food scraps and the construction and demolition materials sorting facility.
  - Staff modeled these projects conservatively and as occurring in the latter half of the decade. When more specific timing information is available, staff will update modeling accordingly.

Identified pathways get Fort Collins to 27% of waste being landfilled in 2030 (otherwise known as a diversion rate of 73%). Addressing the remaining 27% of materials requires action in two distinct areas, each making up roughly half of the needed diversion:

- Community participation: once regional infrastructure and policies are in place, individuals and businesses need to fully utilize the programs to ensure the system achieves its full potential.
  - Community leadership, supported by City programs, will be required to close participation and efficacy gaps in current and new recycling systems.
- Addressing challenging materials: cities with zero waste goals are collectively experiencing a “ceiling” of around 15% materials that are not feasible to recycle. These materials include complex consumer products not designed to be recyclable, hazardous and contaminated materials, etc.
  - This 15% line is indicated on Figure 3
  - These materials are best addressed by specialized strategies, for example:
    - Building upon the recently adopted Expanded Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation at the state level to incentivize recyclable product design;
    - Expanding circular economy industry leadership (starting with circular economy focus in the current update to the Economic Health Strategic Plan); and
    - Supporting community leadership to reduce consumption and increase reuse.

## **Council OCF Action Roadmap**

For decades, those serving on Council have reflected community desire for environmental leadership by adopting ambitious goals for climate, renewable electricity, and waste and supporting strategies to advance towards those goals. That long history of leadership to use environmental lenses in planning and policy development means implementation strategies across the organization already align with OCF outcomes, as do many of the specific priorities set by Council. This alignment is reflected in:

- Council's current workplan, which directly supports OCF Big Moves; and
- Councilmembers request for clear actions to reach 2030 waste, energy, and climate goals.

Council regularly works at all levels to enact sustainability measures, from passing building code changes (direct impact) to funding rebate programs (incentivizing) to serving on regional boards and committees (Regional Wasteshed, Platte River Power Authority, etc.) and everything in between.

The Council OCF Action Roadmap is a tool for confirming, organizing, and sequencing important Council decision points. The actions on the roadmap are not exhaustive of everything Council, staff or the community will do to achieve the 2030 goals – they represent Council's highest impact tools (policy making, infrastructure, and funding). Council also employs other tools that will be critical in the success of OCF overall, including fostering partnerships and educational behavior change.

### **Community Action and Going Beyond the Roadmap**

Council acts as a major leader on climate, waste, and energy in the Fort Collins community and beyond - reaching adopted goals will require new leaders to join in. Solidifying Council's workplan will help give shape to *City-led* efforts over the next decade and help expand focus to scaling *community-led* action, as well as building the skills needed to lead together (*co-led* action). Once the City's most impactful levers, as described in the Roadmap, have been pulled, much of the remaining potential rests in scaling community action and leadership. Council has already helped strengthen this element of OCF through the 2023/24 budget and staff will continue to work with the community and Council to grow this capacity.

### **NEXT STEPS**

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- October 18
  - Land Use Code Update – Phase I
- October 25
  - Interim GHG Goal Resolution
  - Active Modes Plan Work Session
  - 15-minute City Work Session
- November 1
  - 2023/24 City Budget Adoption
- December 6
  - Active Modes Plan Adoption
- December 13
  - Sustainable Revenue Work Session

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Big Moves
2. Pathways - Descriptions & Methodology
3. Council OCF Action Roadmap
4. Presentation