



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

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### STAFF

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Honoré Depew, Climate Program Manager  
John Phelan, Energy Services Manager and Policy Advisor

### SUBJECT

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**Resolution 2022-094 Adopting an Interim Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal.**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The purpose of this item is to consider adoption of a Resolution setting an interim target for community greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions between now and the 2030 goal of 80% below 2005 levels. The specific date and reduction target in the Resolution may be determined by City Council during discussion.

In support of Council's discussion regarding the establishment of an additional interim goal between now and 2030, staff have projected the community GHG inventory for 2026. The expected range, based on currently planned projects and known variability factors is between 28% and 48% below 2005 baseline. 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.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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None.

### BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

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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.

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

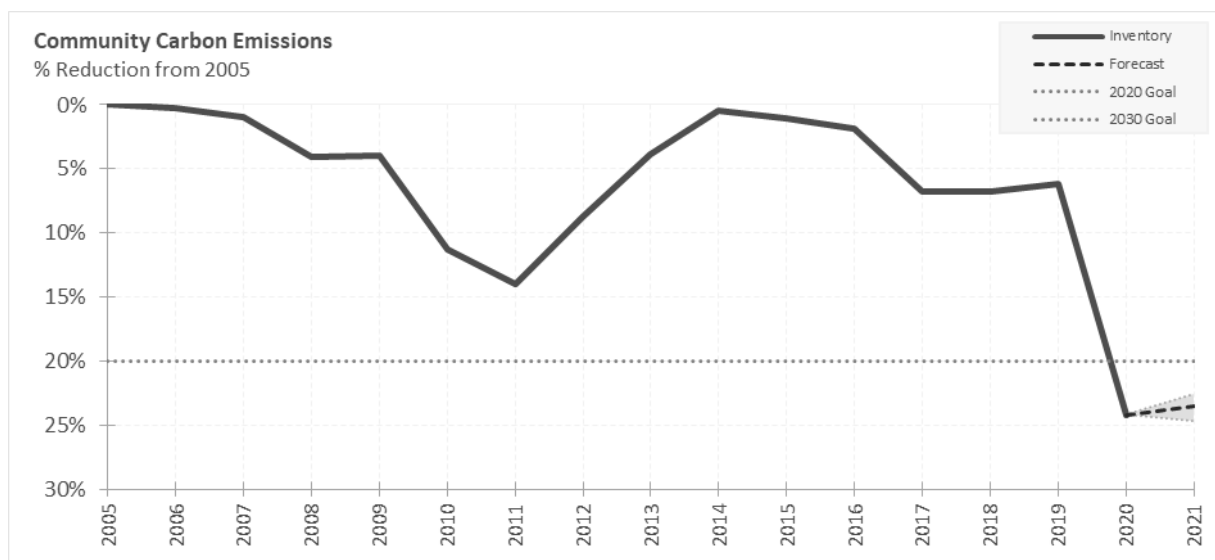
### Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory – History and Goal Setting

Fort Collins has conducted annual greenhouse gas inventories since 1999, with ongoing improvements in the carbon accounting as reporting protocols and data sources have evolved. Current reporting uses the Global Protocol for Community-scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories.

The 2020 inventory showed a 24.5% reduction from the baseline year. Based on preliminary estimates without all the final data, 2021 inventory is expected to be within 1% of the 2020 inventory, resulting in between a 23-25% reduction below 2005 levels.

The historical results of the inventory illustrate that progress towards lower and lower emissions has not been a linear process (see Fig. 1). Variations from year to year can result from a variety of factors, from weather to local economic activity to changes in renewable electricity production. More context about the drivers of change in the historic is available in the staff presentation for this item.

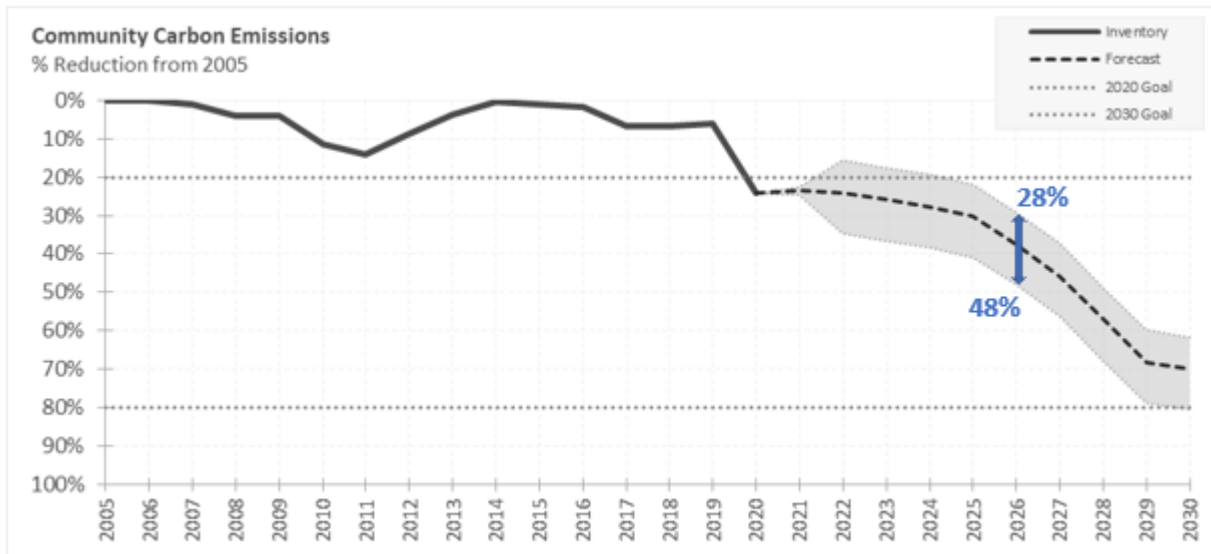
**Figure 1: Community Carbon Emissions (Percent Reduction from 2005 baseline)**



Looking forward, an 80% reduction in GHG by 2030 has been established as an ambitious interim milestone towards the end goal of being a carbon neutral community by 2050. “80 by 30” goes beyond the expectations in the global Paris Climate Agreement for local mitigation progress.

In support of Council’s discussion regarding the establishment of an additional interim goal between now and 2030, staff have projected the community GHG inventory for 2026. This value provides a lower range estimate for potential goals.<sup>1</sup> A near linear estimate for between 2020 and 2030 for the year 2026 sets an upper limit for potential progress. However, as noted above, linear progress in the inventory has not been demonstrated, nor is it expected.

<sup>1</sup> The forecast includes the next utility-scale solar project planned by Platte River in 2025, population growth and impacts of two city budget cycles.



### Interim Goal Considerations

This information is presented to inform Council discussion of a specific GHG goal for the year 2026. If the 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.

- 28%-48%: Forecasted range for 2026 inventory reduction based on currently planned projects and known factors
  - This range is a reflection of the variability in weather, population growth, and resource areas (e.g., electricity, natural gas, petroleum) as seen in past inventories

### Upcoming Climate-Related Council Discussions

There are several climate related Council topics and discussions scheduled in the coming months.

- The City Manager’s Recommended 2023/2024 Budget will be published at the beginning of September. Staff will prepare a companion memo that summarizes the anticipated impacts to OCF outcomes, including greenhouse gas impacts.
- The New Revenue topic, including sustainable funding for climate work, will again be discussed at Council Finance Committee on September 1 with a full Council Work Session on December 13. This includes estimates of funding needs for climate initiatives that do not have any established mechanisms for new resources.
- Our Climate Future is scheduled as a Work Session topic for October 11.
  - Staff will provide data-based pathways and decision points to achieve 2030 waste, energy, and climate goals that embed resilience and equity. The pathways will include a year-over-year forecast of GHG emissions, providing the opportunity to inform Council decision points and potential interventions.
  - Staff will finalize the 2021 Community Inventory and share a draft Next Moves Plan with strategic actions for 2023-24.
  - If this Resolution is adopted, staff will share 2030 Pathways in the context of the new interim GHG target.
  - If this Resolution is not adopted, staff will propose an interim GHG goal at Council’s October 11 Work Session in alignment with 2030 Pathways and relevant science-based targets (i.e., Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports and global goals for addressing the climate emergency), and in the context of OCF commitments to climate resilience and equity.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Powerpoint Presentation