



Utilities – Energy Board

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: July 15, 2024
TO: Mayor Arndt and City Councilmembers
FROM: Margaret Moore, Energy Board Vice Chairperson
RE: Support for Building Performance Standards

The Energy Board has considered the Building Performance Standards as proposed by staff at the April 23, 2024, Council meeting, in accordance with our chartered duties and functions, specifically:

- (1) To advise the City Council and staff regarding the development and implementation of the Our Climate Future Plan (OCF) including tracking of the staff developed Council Action Roadmap for OCF;
- (2) To advise the City Council and staff in developing City policies that encourage the incorporation of energy conservation and efficiency, carbon emissions reduction and renewable energy into the development and provision of City utility services, the design and construction of City transportation projects, and the way in which the City impacts the overall built environment within the community;
- (3) To advise the City Council and staff regarding the alignment of energy programs and policies with City, ratepayer and community values and service delivery expectations.

Based on our review and staff presentations, we strongly agree with Staff's recommendation and encourage City Council to adopt Building Performance Standards.

In making this recommendation, we note that the existing building stock in Fort Collins contributes more than two thirds of the community's carbon emissions. Implementing Building Performance Standards is the most impactful direct action City Council can take to address the climate emergency and reduce carbon emissions to meet the community's 2030 carbon reduction goals.

Building Performance Standards align with the City's Our Climate Future, under Big Move 6. The carbon savings impact of implementing Building Performance Standards is projected to be just under that of all of the City's other efficiency programs combined.

Building Performance Standards are also linked to improved health, safety, comfort, resilience, reduced energy burden, economic growth and increased competitiveness, higher building occupancy and tenant retention, increased productivity of occupants, mitigation of utility impacts of rising temperatures for both the Utility as well as the rate payer, and improved indoor and outdoor air quality. Additionally, because improved energy efficiency reduces overall energy use, the community will be in a better position to achieve its renewable energy goals by enriching the impact of new and existing solar, as well as new and existing battery storage and other distributed resources.

Importantly, we understand that Building Performance Standards incorporate provisions intended to reduce the burden on the regulated community and assist with compliance. Those provisions include targets adjusted to building size and function and normalized to ensure fair application. Off-ramps are incorporated to accommodate special circumstances that may make compliance impractical (for example, a building slated for demolition). We also note and support the considerations for lower-income housing.



Staff also shared their concept of a partially or fully dedicated project facilitator. Among other duties, this individual would assist building owners and associations in pursuing grants and implementing efficiency projects. We view this as a high leverage position that would easily pay for itself in terms of financial benefits to those affected by the Building Performance Standards and the City at large.

In summary, we find Building Performance Standards to be well thought out and drafted, with a high likelihood of contributing to the City's conservation, efficiency and carbon emissions reduction goals. We are pleased to give them our support and strongly recommend their adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Energy Board,

DocuSigned by:

Margaret Moore, Vice Chairperson
Energy Board

cc: Katherine Bailey, Project Manager
Brian Tholl, Senior Manager, Mechanical Engineer