

# Climate Action

## Climate Action

- Get Involved At Home At Work OCF Partnership
- Our Climate Future What is Our Climate Future? Putting People First The Big Moves The Next Moves Glossary of Terms
- Reporting Dashboard Measurement and Assessment
- home
- city services
- Environmental Services
- Climate Action
- Reports

## Our Climate Future Progress Updates #

## Our Climate Future In Action - 2023-2024 #

2024 FoCo EcoFest!

Our Climate Future is the community guide to reducing pollution and waste and adapting to the changing climate in Fort Collins, with a focus on people's day-to-day needs.

This work is led by people across the Fort Collins community and City organization. We can all play a part to shift the systems that are causing climate change. While we do this, we have opportunities to make the city a healthier, more comfortable, and more connected place.

Read on to explore project highlights from each Big Move (the themes that the community laid out for a sustainable Fort Collins) and community-wide indicators for OCF's energy, greenhouse gas, and waste goals. These highlights provide a snapshot of the extensive community-led, City-led and co-led work underway in all these areas.

Highlights noted by \* were funded by the new 2050 Tax , approved by Fort Collins voters in the fall of 2023. Thank you for supporting and contributing to climate action!

## Key Takeaways #

- The Fort Collins community and City organization made progress in each of the 13 Big Moves in 2024!
- The 2050 Tax, approved by voters in 2023, has already begun making a difference, supporting 16 climate-related projects with a total of ~\$3.8 million in 2024. (2050 Tax projects are indicated by \* in the Highlights section and a full list is provided in the 2050 Tax section)
- OCF encompasses two of Fort Collins' most complex challenges – affordability and climate change. While these issues can sometimes be in tension, multiple projects from 2024 show it's possible to tackle them together, making Fort Collins a more inclusive and safer place.

## Big Move Highlights #

### Big Move 1: Shared Leadership and Community Partnership #

A Youth Climate Action meeting, organized by the Sustainable Living Association

Centered in equity and leading with race, all parts of our community lead, implement and benefit from Our Climate Future.

2024 Highlights :

- The CSU Center for Environmental Justice was selected to co-lead the new EPA Region 8 Technical Assistance Center . It helps community organizations, municipalities, and Tribal organizations find funding, partners, and other resources to solve environmental issues throughout Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana.
- Larimer County's Climate Smart Future Ready (CSFR) initiative works to broaden climate and sustainability action throughout the County and neighboring regions. During the first year of implementation, CSFR created an EV Charging Station Information Guide and an Energy Efficiency and Electrification Technical Assistance Navigators guide for businesses, as well as bringing over \$16 million into our region to support CSFR priorities.

Plus -

- The Youth Climate Action Event

- EcoFest
- Community Leadership Grants
- Climate Equity Committee

## **Big Move 2: Zero Waste Neighborhoods #**

Delivery of new yard trimmings carts through the single-hauler waste program

We can all share and reuse so we don't have to buy things we won't regularly use and are able to recycle or compost the rest.

2024 Highlights:

- The City of Fort Collins began a contracted residential trash and recycling program , which provides weekly yard trimmings collection for thousands more Fort Collins households from April – November each year and shifted from every other week to weekly recycling collection.
- Wolverine Farm Publiick House launched a project to pilot a citywide, reusable cup system for Fort Collins. Several other businesses across Fort Collins are also leading the way with shared reusable cups!
- FoCo Trash Mob (FCTM) spoke to hundreds of people and organizations throughout the year, educating our community about the negatives of single-use plastics. FCTM is also participating in a pilot project called CLimate COOLERS with University of Northern Colorado and advocating for legislation regarding single-use plastic water bottles in Fort Collins.

## **Big Move 3: Climate Resilient Community #**

An educational program in the Poudre River

People, buildings, watersheds and ecosystems are prepared for the threats of climate change.

2024 Highlights:

- Several partners, including the City, began implementation of an EPA grant "Enhancing Monitoring of Air Toxics and Air Quality Education in Underserved Communities in Northern Colorado. " The project includes air toxics monitoring at oil and gas operations, gas stations, and schools. An Air Quality Monitoring Advisory Committee guides monitoring and outreach to make information about air pollutants and health impacts more relevant and accessible.

- Staff began updating to Utilities' Water Efficiency Plan , in 2024 focusing on extensive public engagement, evaluation of conservation strategies for equitable outcomes, and development of a new water modeling tool for efficiency and conservation strategies under current and future climate and population scenarios.
- The Utilities team completed planning work for Phase 1 of One Water , the holistic management of drinking water, water reclamation, and stormwater utilities, in collaboration with other City departments. The result of Phase 1 is an assessment on the current state of water systems, plans and partnerships across the City organization.

## **Big Move 4: Convenient Transportation Choices #**

One of Transfort's original buses in the Fourth of July Parade

It is safe , easy, fast and affordable to get around without a car.

2024 Highlights:

- Transfort, Fort Collins' public transportation provider, is keeping the service fare-free for all riders after pausing fares during COVID-19.
- The City completed construction of raised separated bike lanes on Laporte Ave . between Sunset St. and Fishback Ave., as well as buffered bike lanes from Fishback Ave. to Wood St. This infrastructure will improve connectivity to nearby schools, businesses, downtown and CSU's Foothills Campus. \*
- Transfort received a \$2.4 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to fund its Accessibility Enhancements Project , which will improve accessibility infrastructure and comfort of over 40 bus stops in Transfort's service area.
- The City launched plans to add Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along West Elizabeth Street, which is a dense corridor of housing, restaurants and retail, especially for students in the community.

## **Big Move 5: Live, Work, Play Nearby #**

Use of Fort Collins sidewalks for getting to and from school safely

No matter where we live, we all can meet our basic daily needs without driving across town.

2024 Highlights:

- The US Department of Transportation awarded the City \$1.7 million through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program to study Harmony Road, install a demonstration project on Lake Street, and review Fort Collins codes and standards to make sure they align with the Active Modes Plan and Vision Zero.

- FC Moves launched several new initiatives in 2024 as part of the Shift Your Ride Plan including the Vanpool Subsidy Program, the creation of an online resource hub for sustainable transportation, and an extensive Transportation Demand Management outreach campaign.

- The City kicked off “ The Future of Commercial Corridors and Centers ”, which focuses on Land Use Code updates for commercial and employment zone districts, corridors, and development standards. These topics are intended to help advance the City’s 15-Minute City goals , exploring how the Land Use Code can help create neighborhoods where residents can access essential services, jobs, and recreation within a 15-minute walk or bike ride. City Council will consider potential adoption of these code updates in Fall of 2025.

## **Big Move 6: Efficient, Emissions Free Buildings #**

A manufactured home community in Fort Collins

Everyone lives and works in healthy, energy and water efficient buildings which transition to become emissions free.

2024 Highlights:

- Fort Collins Utilities partnered with the community to develop detailed Building Performance Standards (BPS) policy recommendations. BPS are a targeted way to cut pollution, reduce energy consumption, and create a healthier and more resilient environment indoors and outdoors. City Council will consider adoption of BPS in 2025.

- The City’s Municipal Innovation Fund awarded grants to eight projects that help City operations lead by example, including an upgrade to theatrical lighting in the Lincoln Center’s Magnolia Theater to LEDs.

- City staff and community consultants partnered with Energy Outreach Colorado to pilot an expansion of energy efficiency upgrades to increase service to mobile homes that have historically been excluded from efficiency programming.

- The City of Fort Collins was awarded a Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation grant from the US Department of Energy. In collaboration with the New Buildings Institute, Florida Solar Energy Center, International Code Council and Colorado Energy Office, the City is working to establish building specific energy use and carbon reduction targets for the next three code cycles (2024, 2027 and 2030).

## **Big Move 7: Healthy Affordable Housing #**

Grand Opening of Northfield Commons

Everyone has stable, healthy housing they can afford.

#### 2024 Highlights:

- City Council adopted Land Use Code updates in May of 2024, the first comprehensive update of the Land Use Code since 1997. In addition to many updates for usability and clarity, this set of updates included changes to help expand and recalibrate incentives for affordable housing.
- The City provided utility fee offset grants to three affordable housing projects that are going over and above code requirements to produce highly efficient, comfortable, and sustainable housing for low-wage workers. Sustainability features often add cost to build, and these three developments were able to include these and still offer homes at affordable prices. \*
- To support affordable housing and landscape resiliency, the Water Conservation Department is piloting a grant program for nonprofit affordable housing providers. In 2024, one grant was awarded for \$29,700 that helped complete the installation of 4 water-wise yards at Habitat for Humanity's Harmony Cottages location.
- Neighborhood Services and Environmental Services departments partnered to award \$90,000 to 23 projects for mobile home and rental property upgrades to improve the health, safety, comfort and efficiency of homes in Fort Collins.

## **Big Move 8: Local, Affordable and Healthy Food #**

#### Kestrel Fields Opening Event!

Everyone has access to healthy and affordable food, sourced or rescued from local and regional producers.

#### 2024 Highlights:

- An AmeriCorps Fellow conducted foundational research to determine how the City organization can better support the community in achieving a more sustainable and equitable food system and made recommendations for the City's next steps to support local food systems.
- The Northern Colorado Foodshed Project and their regional partners have been awarded grant funding from both the USDA and the City of Fort Collins to launch a program called the Veg Van. The Veg Van will be a 'low to no-cost farmers market on wheels' to address food insecurity in areas of need.
- In November, Larimer County partnered with CSU Extension to host the Farm 2 Local Biz Event . Local producers and businesses were invited to come and learn about each other's work, network and make connections to increase local food purchasing in Northern Colorado.

## **Big Move 9: Healthy Local Economy and Jobs #**

## NoCoBiz Connect Program Launch!

The community supports a healthy, innovative local economy with new opportunities for all people and businesses to thrive.

### 2024 Highlights:

- NOCOBiz Connect launched in early 2024 and is a free, bilingual program that provides tailored support to Northern Colorado businesses taking on small changes that lead to big savings while positively impacting their community and planet. Participating businesses report saving money, improving operational efficiency, strengthening community reputation, and tapping into new customers or markets.
- In June 2024 Fort Collins Utilities introduced the Building Industry Scholarship to further educate and expand local industry workforce on energy efficiency, high performance building, and zero energy/zero carbon building. The initial \$35,000 funded scholarships for 27 recipients. \*
- Landscape professionals engaged in Utilities' water conservation programs are eligible to be listed on the City's Water-Wise Landscape and Irrigation Professionals web page and receive monthly updates on opportunities. The page is a resource for members of the community seeking out professionals well versed in water-wise landscape principles.

## Big Move 10: Zero Waste Economy #

### Construction on Shields Street

Business, industry, institutions, and government collaborate to recirculate resources and eliminate waste.

### 2024 Highlights:

- The City fostered community collaboration on the adopted Circular Economy Workplan through the Economic Health Office's 2024 Business Appreciation Celebration. Local circular businesses and leaders came together to explore how embracing these principles creates opportunities for innovation, strengthens our workforce, and ensures a thriving business community despite the challenges of climate change.
- Compost Queen , a local food scraps compost collection and processing business, expanded to open a new food scraps compost facility in north Fort Collins.
- The City's Hoffman Mill Crushing Facility began composting yard trimmings generated from municipal operations, diverting these materials from the landfill.
- The City supported progress toward the State's Producer Responsibility law implementation, including supporting the State legislature's vote and serving on the advisory board. Producer Responsibility will bring producer-funded recycling service to all single- and multi-unit residences in 2026.

## **Big Move 11: Healthy Natural Spaces #**

An example of Nature in the City, a program run by the Natural Areas Department

We all are stewards of healthy natural spaces and honor the deep and historical human connection to this land.

2024 Highlights:

- City Forestry staff have been working to develop the City's first Urban Forest Strategic Plan , which will establish a 20-year vision for managing the urban canopy. City Council will consider adoption of this plan in January 2025.
- The Poudre River Health Assessment project was launched by a team from Natural Areas and Utilities, in collaboration with the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed. The project team developed a sampling plan, hired a river sampling team, and drafted the 2025 engagement strategy. Results will be available in early 2026. \*
- Oil and gas production within City limits ceased operation after the one remaining legacy operator was ordered to shut down due to repeated environmental violations. Oil & gas related land use code continues to prevent approval of any new applications for development within City limits, including the City's Natural Areas and Parks.

## **Big Move 12: 100% Renewable Electricity #**

A tour of rooftop solar at the Museum of Discovery

Everyone in the community receives affordable and reliable 100% renewable electricity, including from local sources.

2024 Highlights:

- Utilities offered an increased "boost" incentive that helped people purchase solar, add battery storage to their project, or receive a new incentive to increase the size of their existing systems. During the special seven-month boost in 2024, customers almost doubled their community battery capacity!
- Fort Collins Utilities partnership on Virtual Power Plant (VPP) continues through our implementation of our Peak Partners program and collaboration with Platte River Power Authority on a holistic approach to developing and launching a regional distributed energy resources management system (DERMs).
- In 2024, much progress was made on the redesign and construction of the Riverside Community Solar array , to be repowered in early 2025. After an equipment failure in 2023, staff have worked with a vendor to extend the lifetime of the site with a more resilient design for the next 15+ years! \*

## Big Move 13: Electric cars and fleets #

Electric vehicle charging in the downtown parking garages

Residents can afford and use electric cars, including shared electric cars, and conventional fleets are converted to electric

2024 Highlights:

- The City is updating the Electric Vehicle Readiness Roadmap with current information about electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, along with refreshed strategies to facilitate increased EV adoption and support equitable access to charging throughout the community.
- The Smart Charging Program aligns residential EV charging with times the City's primary electricity source is wind power. This program helps customers manage their energy usage, lower our community's peak demand, and reduce our community's carbon emissions.
- As part of the City's Transportation Electrification Plan , four more battery electric buses were added to Transfort's fleet in 2024.
- The City of Fort Collins received over \$1 million from the Department of Transportation's SMART Grants program to pilot software on existing vehicle charging stations to optimize and monitor charging and reduce demand, with the intention to improve electric vehicle fleet performance and battery health.

## Recognizing Ongoing Work #

A MAX bus driver on the job!

In addition to the more recent updates above, ongoing work continues to be of immense importance to our community goals. The City adopted its first Climate Action Plan in 1999, in response to advocacy in the community. Even before that, community members and organizations and the City have been committed to actions that promote sustainability. Here are a few examples of the ongoing efforts that support Our Climate Future!

- Colorado State University's continued leadership on sustainability in facilities, transportation, and education, including: Climate Adaptation Partnership Active Transportation (nearly half of CSU faculty, staff and students use active forms of transportation!) Sustainable Facilities Management Student Sustainability Center
- Fort Collins Utilities' services, incentives, and financing for homes and businesses, including: Income-qualified assistance for Utilities customers Epic Homes and Loans Efficiency Works Peak Partners Program

- Transfort's transit services, including: Door-to-door service for People with Disabilities Bus Rapid Transit Regional service to Loveland, Longmont, and Boulder Late night service
- FC Moves' bike and pedestrian infrastructure, programming, and education
- The Healthy Homes Program's residential indoor air quality assessments and resources
- The Natural Areas Department's work on: Nature in the City Land restoration and conservation Conservation agriculture (in partnership with Poudre Valley Community Farms)
- And many more!

## **Community-wide Indicators #**

- Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Renewable Electricity
- Waste Diversion

## **Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory #**

Goals:

- 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to the 2005 baseline
- Carbon neutrality by 2050

In 2023, the Fort Collins community reduced our greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) 27% compared to 2005 baseline levels. Per capita (per person), emissions were down even more - 44%!

Key reduction areas include:

- Lower community electricity use (3% decrease in electricity consumption since 2022)
- Increased local solar (36% increase in local electricity generation from 2022)
- Lower industrial manufacture emissions (69% reduction in emissions from 2022)
- Decreased materials going to the landfill (13% decrease in tons of waste from 2021)

Check out the Climate Dashboard!

## Renewable Electricity #

Goals:

- 100% renewable electricity consumption by 2030
- 5% of Fort Collins electricity consumption supplied by local solar

In 2023, Fort Collins electricity came from 49% renewable sources . Staff project that it will be similar for 2024 and jump to 55% in 2025 and 65% in 2026, based on Platte River Power Authority's\*\* plans for additional generation from wind, solar , and energy storage.

The community now has 3,820 local solar systems in the community that contributed 3.2% of our electricity.

\*\*Platte River Power Authority is the community-owned public power utility that generates and delivers safe, reliable, environmentally responsible and financially sustainable energy and services to Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland, Colorado, for delivery to their utility customers.

Learn more about Fort Collins energy data!

## Waste Diversion #

Goal: 100% waste diversion by 2030

In 2023, the Fort Collins community recycled or composted 61% of the total waste that was generated , up from 57% in 2022. Called the community diversion rate, this community-wide indicator can vary significantly year to year based on large construction projects and other factors.

In 2023, the primary factors that led to a higher diversion rate were:

- Demolition of a large commercial space (which led to larger amounts of industrial materials being recycled)
- Increased asphalt, concrete and soil recycled at the City Streets Department's Hoffman Mill Crushing Facility
- A new data source for commercial cardboard recycling (a methodology change that means we are including these materials in the diversion rate for the first time)

Learn more about Fort Collins waste data!

## 2050 Tax - OCF Projects #

## 2024 Projects #

Winter Bike to Work Day

In 2024...

- Projects helped reduce the impact of rising energy costs, benefitting affordability, comfort and safety, especially for low income and underserved households.
- Projects that engaged with community members and small businesses helped build relationships and create opportunities for the City to learn from our community.
- Direct home improvements and loans increased climate resilience and health for residents, especially regarding increasing summer temperatures and poor air quality.
- Several projects contributed to foundational planning or research on topics including integrated community transportation systems, under-resourced community buildings, and riparian carbon sequestration and watershed health.

Check out the full list of projects in the drop-downs below!

Learn more about Voter-Approved Taxes

- Bicycle infrastructure on Centre Ave (\$350,000)
- Development of the Mobility Hubs Plan (\$200,000)
- Bicycle infrastructure on Laporte Ave (\$57,000)
- Transportation Emissions Reduction Strategy Tool (\$25,000)
- Introduction of new capital for the Utilities Epic Loans program (\$600,000)
- Comprehensive exterior lighting retrofits at City Recreation Centers (\$500,000)
- Healthy Homes Program (\$250,000)
- Expansion of Mobile Home Park mini-grants through Neighborhood Services (\$200,000)
- Support upgrades to under-resourced buildings (\$100,000)

- Grants to offset utility fees for sustainable affordable housing development, particularly electric and water (\$400,000)
- Expansion of scholarship program for builders and building industry to meet new industry techniques and future codes (\$35,000)
- Support for businesses for plastic and Styrofoam transition through NoCoBiz Connect (\$75,000)
- Poudre River Health Assessment (\$300,000)
- Addition of solar PV on City Facility (835 Wood St; \$250,000)
- Repair of Riverside Community Solar Array (\$250,000)
- Replacement of existing utility carts with electric Utility carts in Parks (\$200,000)

We are proud of all the work that the community and the City organization have done in 2023-24 toward the Our Climate Future vision. To consider how you can continue to be involved moving forward, visit the OCF Community Partnership page.

Please contact Our Climate Future staff at [OurClimateFuture@fcgov.com](mailto:OurClimateFuture@fcgov.com) if you would like to contribute your own highlights, or if you have any questions or comments about these updates.

## Sitewide Menu

- How Do I?
- Government
- Arts & Culture Cultural Services The Lincoln Center The Gardens Museum of Discovery Center for Creativity Art in Public Places
- Recreation & Open Spaces Recreation Natural Areas Parks Park Planning Golf Trails Recreator Forestry Cemeteries
- Accessibility Accessibility Policy and Support Non-Discrimination Policy Web Standards Compliance Digital Accessibility Progress Report
- Contact Us

## Contact Information

- Honore Depew
- aGRicGV3QGZjZ292LmNvbQ==
- 970.221.6600
- 222 Laporte Ave Fort Collins, CO 80521
- Access Fort Collins
- Business hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (M-F, except for holidays ) 2025 City Holidays Date Holiday Wed, Jan 1 New Year's Day Mon, Jan 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Mon, Feb 17 President's Day Mon, May 26 Memorial Day Thu, Jun 19 Juneteenth Fri, Jul 4 Independence Day Mon, Sep 1 Labor Day Tue, Nov 11 Veteran's Day Thu, Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day Fri, Nov 28 Day After Thanksgiving Thu, Dec 25 Christmas Day

## Climate Action

- Get Involved At Home At Work OCF Partnership
- Our Climate Future What is Our Climate Future? Putting People First The Big Moves The Next Moves Glossary of Terms
- Reporting Dashboard Measurement and Assessment

## Alerts

There are currently no alerts.

## Fort Collins, Colorado USA

- 40.585258, -105.084419
- Local Facts and Demographics
- Poudre School District
- Colorado State University

- Front Range Community College
- Convention & Visitor's Bureau

## **Our Organization**

- Mayor & Council
- Mission, Vision, Values
- "City of Fort Collins MVP"
- City Budget
- Open Book
- Sustainability
- Careers
- Contact Us
- Email Subscriptions

## **Social Media Accounts**

- City of Fort Collins
- Police Services
- Utilities
- FC Moves
- Transfort
- The Lincoln Center
- Natural Areas
- Fort Collins Museum of Discovery

- Golf
- Parks and Rec
- Archives & Collections at FCMoD
- Connexion (Broadband)
- Gardens on Spring Creek
- OtterBox Digital Dome Theater at FCMoD
- City of Fort Collins
- Police Services
- Utilities
- FC Moves
- Transfort
- The Lincoln Center
- Natural Areas
- Golf
- Parks and Rec
- Connexion (Broadband)
- Fort Collins Museum of Discovery
- OtterBox Digital Dome Theater at FCMoD
- City of Fort Collins
- Poudre Fire Authority
- The Lincoln Center
- Fort Collins Museum of Discovery

- Gardens on Spring Creek
- Police Services
- City of Fort Collins
- Police Services
- The Lincoln Center
- Golf
- Parks and Rec
- Fort Collins Museum of Discovery
- Fort Collins Police K9
- Gardens on Spring Creek
- Natural Areas
- Utilities
- Visual Arts Program
- City of Fort Collins
- Fort Collins Museum of Discovery
- The Lincoln Center
- City of Fort Collins
- City of Fort Collins
- Police Services

## **Performance Excellence**

# Employee Resources

- Copyright
- Privacy
- Non-discrimination / Title VI
- Accessibility
- Social Media