

COLORADO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS GLOBAL WARMING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Colorado's greenhouse gas emissions are steadily climbing, contributing to a worldwide climate change crisis. Our emissions in 2005 were 35 percent higher than in 1990 and under a business-as-usual scenario, are projected to grow to 81 percent above 1990 levels by the year 2020.



Our goal is to mobilize Colorado's businesses, governments and citizens in an effort to first slow and halt the increase and then reduce emissions to 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. We believe that goal is achievable, that it will make a material difference, and that it will put us on the path to making the even steeper emissions reductions that the world's scientists say we must achieve by the middle of this century.

These are real challenges for the State of Colorado. But by fully engaging in the New Energy Economy – by training thousands of workers to improve energy efficiency in our homes, stores and factories, and training thousands of others to build wind farms, solar facilities and geothermal plants across the state, and by aggressively pursuing new technologies for using our abundant coal resources cleanly – we can reduce our emissions, create jobs and build more sustainable communities.

Colorado state government has three important roles to play in facing the climate change challenge:

- Enact “bridge strategies” that immediately reduce greenhouse gas emissions while we pursue technologies to generate cleaner energy.
- Provide leadership to ensure that long-term solutions, such as renewable energy and clean coal technologies, are fully developed and broadly implemented.
- Prepare the state to adapt to those climate changes that cannot be avoided.

Specifically, Colorado will...

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- By 2020, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent below 2005 levels.
- By 2050, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent below 2005 levels.

Recognize Agriculture as Part of the Solution

- Encourage agricultural carbon sequestration and reductions of emissions by leading the establishment of a carbon credit market.
- Provide revenues to farmers and ranchers for switching to management practices that sequester carbon in soils and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Encourage the energy sector to offset its emissions by buying carbon offset credits from farmers and ranchers in Colorado and the West.

Transportation

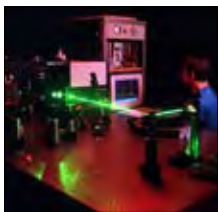
- Reduce emissions from passenger vehicles by adopting greenhouse gas emissions standards.
- Expedite broadband access statewide to expand teleworking and teleconferencing options for business, education and government.
- Increase clean transportation options for state employees through the Greening of State Government program.
- Recognize community excellence in land use and transportation in the Governor's Annual Awards of Excellence in Sustainability.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONT.)

Provide Greener Electricity

- Establish a goal for major electric utilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020 and work with smaller electric utilities to set comparable goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Give utilities flexibility to meet the 2020 goal while encouraging broad implementation of energy efficiency measures that are cost effective, create jobs, and save consumers money.
- Expand renewable energy resources and make use of new clean coal technologies.



Research and Innovation for Coal, Natural Gas and Renewable Energy

- Partner with research institutions and industry to expand research and development of clean coal technology, such as integrated gasification combined cycle and geologic sequestration.
- Partner with research institutions and industry to develop ways to prevent methane leakage from natural gas drilling.
- Promote the research and development of new energy resource technologies through the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory.



Recycling/Solid Waste

- Establish a state government waste diversion goal of 75 percent by 2020.
- Expand Greening of State Government to implement a three-bin strategy throughout state government.

Emissions Reporting

- Phase in mandatory reporting as standardized protocols become available.

Lead by Example

- Launch the Governor's Energy Office "Best Practices" website.
- Reduce state government energy consumption by 20 percent by 2012.
- Reduce petroleum use in state vehicle fleet by 25 percent by 2012.
- Use performance contract financing to audit and make energy efficiency improvements to state buildings and K-12 schools.
- Increase E-85 fueling stations statewide.

Regional Carbon Emissions Trading

- Continue to serve as observers in the Western Climate Initiative.
- Call for the federal government to adopt a national global warming strategy as soon as possible.
- If Congress and the President fail to agree on a national carbon credit trading program, join the Western Climate Initiative.

Foster an Educated Workforce

- Partner with K-12 educators to develop and teach sustainability curricula.
- Partner with higher education to educate the workforce needed for the New Energy Economy.
- Utilize the Governor's Jobs Cabinet to create a well-trained workforce for the New Energy Economy.

Adapt to Climate Change

- Investigate vulnerabilities of the state's water supplies to climate change.
- Analyze impacts on interstate water compacts.
- Plan for severe drought, flooding and other risks of climate change.
- Reduce risk of wildfires.