



## **CC4CA 2020-2021 Policy Statement**

### **Adopted by the Board of Directors on June 19, 2020 For Ratification By Each CC4CA Member Jurisdiction**

Colorado Communities for Climate Action is a coalition of local governments advocating for stronger state and federal climate policy. CC4CA's policy priorities for 2020-2021 reflect unanimous agreement among the coalition members on steps that should be taken at the state and federal level, often in partnership with local governments, to enable Colorado and its communities to lead in protecting the climate.

CC4CA generally focuses on legislative, regulatory, and administrative action, supporting efforts that advance the general policy principles and the detailed policy positions described below, and opposing efforts that would weaken or undermine these principles and positions.

### **General Policy Principles**

The following general principles guide the specific policies that Colorado Communities for Climate Action supports:

Collaboration between state and federal government agencies and Colorado's local governments to advance local climate protection and resilience.

State and federal programs to reduce carbon pollution, including adequate and ongoing funding of those programs.

Analyses, financial incentives, infrastructure, and enabling policies for the development and deployment of clean energy technologies.

Locally driven and designed programs to support communities impacted by the clean energy transformation.

Prioritizing policies that put people at the center of decision-making, minimizing disparities in growing the clean economy, especially for historically marginalized communities, and enhancing equitable outcomes for all.

## **Policy Positions**

Colorado Communities for Climate Action supports the following policy positions:

### *Statewide Climate Strategies*

- 1. Reduce statewide carbon emissions consistent with or greater than the State of Colorado's 2019 codified goals.**
- 2. Secure accurate, frequent state greenhouse gas inventories and forecasts for Colorado which are made accessible to local governments and designed to be useful for stakeholders.**
- 3. Adopt a comprehensive market-based approach to reduce Colorado's greenhouse gas emissions that ensures the benefits accrue justly and equitably to impacted communities.**
- 4. Expand consideration of the environmental and health costs associated with the use of fossil fuels in making and implementing climate-related policy.**

### *Local Climate Strategies*

- 5. Remove barriers and promote opportunities that allow counties and municipalities to maximize the deployment of local clean energy and climate-related strategies, including resilience-oriented strategies, while promoting affordable, accessible, and equitable delivery of reliable clean energy.**
- 6. Enable local governments to obtain the energy use and other data from utilities and state agencies that they need to effectively administer climate and clean energy programs.**
- 7. Support a comprehensive public process for evaluating retail and wholesale energy choice options for communities, informed by a broad variety of stakeholders.**
- 8. Support policies that promote the efficient use of energy in buildings.**
- 9. Provide for cost-effective and equitable policies, strategies, and practices that enable and accelerate beneficial electrification, reduce GHG emissions, improve quality of life, and make the electric grid more robust and resilient.**

### *Energy Generation*

- 10. Accelerate retirement of existing fossil fuel generation facilities and their replacement with cost-effective and reliable clean energy supplies, through means that protect both utilities and consumers.**
- 11. Expand the ability of electric cooperatives to independently purchase local renewable electricity and take other steps to reduce carbon pollution.**
- 12. Modernize energy infrastructure to enhance community-based resilience and integrate distributed energy resources.**

### *Energy Efficiency*

- 13. Expand demand side savings from efficiency and conservation for all energy types.**
- 14. Support ongoing and sustainable funding for weatherization and renewable energy assistance to low-income households, including those from coal-dominated economies, so that all Coloradans have access to comfortable and affordable homes.**
- 15. Support ongoing and sustainable funding for programs that assist communities in transition from coal-dominated economies.**
- 16. Provide counties and statutory cities and towns with the same authority held by home rule cities to implement local energy conservation policies and programs.**

### *Transportation*

- 17. Ensure effective implementation of Colorado's vehicle emissions standards and other regulatory and programmatic activities designed to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles.**
- 18. Implement the 2020 Colorado Electric Vehicle Plan and other efforts to increase electrification of all motor vehicles.**
- 19. Increase funding and policy incentives for multimodal transportation and multimodal-friendly development statewide.**

**20. Incentivize and select mobility alternatives, including movement of both people and goods, based on energy efficiency and environmental costs and benefits.**

*Fossil Fuel Extraction Activities*

**21. Expand monitoring and reduction of the full life cycle emissions from fossil fuel extractive industry activities.**

*Solid Waste Reduction*

**22. Grant CDPHE the authority to implement a plan for meeting Colorado’s statewide and regional solid waste diversion goals.**

**23. Reduce the use of disposable/single-use products and promote the reuse of materials, including construction and demolition waste.**

**24. Foster infrastructure, policies, incentives, and programs for reuse, recycling, and composting.**

*General*

**25. Encourage the adoption of climate-positive innovations like telecommuting, drawing from the lessons learned during the coronavirus pandemic, to substantially reduce air and carbon pollution.**

**26. Promote proactive programs and efforts that improve the resilience and adaptability of Colorado communities in the face of natural disasters and other major challenges associated with climate change, including ensuring that disaster stabilization and recovery efforts result in reduced carbon pollution and improved resilience to future disasters.**

**27. Optimize the potential for carbon sequestration through regenerative agriculture, improved soil health, and forest management.**

**28. Incorporate equity, accessibility, and just transition considerations into climate policies and actions.**

**29. Encourage investments that achieve climate-positive solutions, including policies that encourage entities investing public dollars to consider partial or full divestment as part of their investment strategies.**

**30. Maintain protections and authorities currently provided under environmental laws like the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act.**