



## CC4CA Accomplishments

May 2017

Colorado Communities for Climate Action is a new coalition of local governments that advocates for state and federal policies to protect Colorado's climate for current and future generations. In its first year since being launched in May 2016, CC4CA has already begun making a difference.

**Representing one-eighth of all Coloradans.**—Colorado Communities for Climate Action has grown to include 14 local governments, including five counties and nine municipalities, which together are home to more than one-eighth of Colorado's population. Other local governments are considering joining CC4CA, too.

**Advocating for policy priorities.**—By unanimous agreement among the coalition's members, CC4CA developed and adopted a policy agenda containing four general principles and 15 specific policy positions, and began advocating for them. The policy agenda calls for state government measures to support local climate protection actions, strengthen state climate programs, reduce heat-trapping emissions, promote clean energy technologies, and assist communities impacted by reduced fossil-fuel power production.

**Building strategic relationships.**—CC4CA met with and began building relationships with officials of Governor Hickenlooper's administration, leaders and members of the General Assembly, state agency staff members, other advocacy organizations, and business interests.

**Lobbying in the legislature.**—The coalition contracted with a professional lobbying firm, Frontline Public Affairs, and with the firm's assistance advanced CC4CA's agenda in the Colorado General Assembly, through member testimony, personal contacts with legislators, and collaboration with other organizations. Supporting 12 bills and opposing one, CC4CA:

- Testified for and helped win support for a bill which was enacted, extending local authority to fund Regional Transportation Authorities.
- Supported three additional bills which passed and are awaiting the governor's signature. The bills extend for another decade a law requiring regulated electric utilities to meet demand reduction targets; require those utilities to disclose to their customers the sources and costs of the utilities's electricity; and continue funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
- Opposed a bill which was defeated, that would have eliminated current tax incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles.
- Supported other bills which passed in the House but died in the Senate. One of those bills, to set requirements for state government climate action plans, included a key provision reflecting CC4CA's official policy priorities—that state climate plans include goals for reductions in heat-trapping emissions at least as stringent as the goals set by Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., in 2007.

**Advocating for state executive branch actions.**—CC4CA representatives met twice with the governor's staff and state agency managers to urge a broad range of further climate

actions by the Hickenlooper administration. The coalition also urged the Air Pollution Control Division to allocate funds paid by Volkswagen for its Clean Air Act violations for electric vehicle charging stations and the purchase of alternative-fuel buses for local transit fleets.

**Advocating for federal climate actions.**—In an initial action at the federal level, CC4CA submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency urging that energy efficient low-income housing be credited toward compliance with the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan. CC4CA is now monitoring congressional and other federal actions for needs and opportunities for testimony in hearings and other advocacy efforts.

**Establishing the coalition’s governance system.**—CC4CA created a governance and committee structure to guide and facilitate coalition decision-making on matters concerning policy, advocacy, work plans, budgeting, and communication, and elected member-leaders to oversee each of these areas. Members have been and are fully engaged in organizational development and policy-setting through monthly Steering Committee meetings, two full-day retreats, and numerous subcommittee meetings on coalition actions and operations. Subject to direction from coalition members, CC4CA is administered on a day-to-day basis by the [Rocky Mountain Climate Organization](#).

For more information:

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