

Overview: Community Guide to Boulder's Climate Action Plan

A guide to achieving Boulder's climate action goal

The **Community Guide to Boulder's Climate Action Plan** provides a roadmap for reducing local greenhouse gas emissions to meet Boulder's climate action goal:

To reduce Boulder's greenhouse gas emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. This equates to a 23 percent reduction in current emissions.

The Community Guide provides information on:

- Our inventory of local greenhouse gas emissions and their sources,
- Recent progress toward the goal,
- Strategies and programs that help the community reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, and
- What you can do to make a difference.

Go to www.beClimateSmart.com/about to check out the Guide. The 44-page document describes in detail the six strategy areas for reducing local greenhouse gases:

Strategy Area 1: Reduce Use

- *Make existing buildings more energy efficient.*
- *Adopt energy-conserving behavior.*

What you can do:

- Get an energy audit of your home or business to identify the most strategic investments for energy savings.
- Turn off lights and electronics like TVs and computers when not in use.
- Go to www.beClimateSmart.com to find more ways to take part and take action.

Strategy Area 2: Build Better

- *Maximize energy efficiency in new buildings.*

What you can do:

- If you're planning to build, expand or remodel, ask your contractor to design for higher energy efficiency than the building code's minimum requirements.

Strategy Area 3: Ramp Up Renewables

- *Expand the use of renewable energy sources for individual building and sites.*
- *Increase renewable sources in our regional energy supply.*

What you can do:

- Take advantage of rebates and tax credits for solar panels.
- Subscribe to Xcel Energy's Windsource, wind-generated power, for your home or business.
- Purchase carbon offsets to offset your fossil fuel use.

Strategy Area 4: Travel Wise

- *Increase trips made by bus, bike and walking.*
- *Switch to low-emission vehicles.*

What you can do:

- Get a tune-up and adjust tire pressure to improve your vehicle's gas mileage.
- Map the best biking route to any destination in Boulder at www.GOBikeBoulder.net.
- Plan to take the bus, using RTD's Trip Planner at www.rtd-denver.com.

Strategy Area 5: Waste Not

- *Minimize the amount of waste going to landfills.*

What you can do:

- Do curbside composting and single-stream recycling at home.
- Get three months of free recycling and a rebate on composting collection for your business. Go to www.environmentalaffairs.com.
- Join PACE (Partners for a Clean Environment) for more support in reducing business waste. Go to www.pacepartners.com.

Strategy Area 6: Grow Green

- *Plant more trees and protect the existing urban forest.*

What you can do:

- Plant for trees in your yard or on your commercial property.
- Learn how to keep your trees alive and healthy at www.bouldercolorado.gov; go to Forestry.