

## FCSG Questions to City Council Candidates Concerning the Fort Collins Climate Action Plan

Candidates were asked to respond with "Yes", "No", or "Neutral" to each of nine questions. Those responses are shown in the grids below for Mayoral Candidates, District 1 Candidates, District 3 Candidates, and District 5 Candidates. Additional written responses from the candidates to all questions, including question #10 (closing comments) are shown below the four grids.

### Mayoral Candidates

	Kwon Atlas	Elizabeth Wilson Hudetz	Michael Pruznick	Wade Troxell
1. Do you believe that greenhouse gas emissions pose a serious threat that requires urgent action to rapidly reduce emissions to minimize climate change?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Neutral
2. Do you believe that we need to prepare for a changing climate because Fort Collins already faces climate hazards (such as forest fires, increase in severe storms, declining water quality, and availability, wildfires, and extreme temperatures)?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Neutral
3. CAP goals approved by City Council in 2015 are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2030, compared to 2005 emission levels. Do you support the full implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan to reach these goals?	Yes	Yes	Neutral	Neutral
4. Do you support increased investments by the City as required to achieve the CAP's 2020 and 2030 targets, in such areas as energy efficiency, public transportation, waste management, etc.?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Neutral
5. Do you have significant concerns or reservations regarding CAP implementation? If so, please state your most important concerns or reservations.	Neutral	No	Yes	Neutral
6. Should the City press the Platte River Power Authority to accelerate its transition to non-carbon energy sources? If yes, what specific actions should the City take?	Yes	Yes	Neutral	Neutral
7. Over 20 cities in the US have committed to reaching 100% renewable energy by 2035 or sooner, the most recent being the Pueblo City Council's commitment to 100% renewable electricity for the entire community by 2035. In Fort Collins, CSU recently committed to reaching 100% renewable electricity by 2030. Should the City of Fort Collins make a similar commitment?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Neutral
8. Do you believe that the City should actively advocate for climate action -- and against climate damage such as greenhouse gas emissions from fracking -- in the broader policy arena, such as to County and State policy makers?	Neutral	Yes	Neutral	Neutral
9. Do you support the City of Fort Collins waste reduction plan? The Road to Zero waste intends to divert 75% of the city's waste by 2020, 90% by 2025 and reach Zero Waste by 2030 helping to achieve CAP goals.	Yes	Yes	Neutral	Neutral

### District 1 Candidates

	Nate Budd	Bob Overbeck
1. Do you believe that greenhouse gas emissions pose a serious threat that requires urgent action to rapidly reduce emissions to minimize climate change?	Yes	Yes
2. Do you believe that we need to prepare for a changing climate because Fort Collins already faces climate hazards (such as forest fires, increase in severe storms, declining water quality, and availability, wildfires, and extreme temperatures)?	Yes	Yes
3. CAP goals approved by City Council in 2015 are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2030, compared to 2005 emission levels. Do you support the full implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan to reach these goals?	Neutral	Yes
4. Do you support increased investments by the City as required to achieve the CAP's 2020 and 2030 targets, in such areas as energy efficiency, public transportation, waste management, etc.?	Neutral	Yes
5. Do you have significant concerns or reservations regarding CAP implementation? If so, please state your most important concerns or reservations.	Yes	Yes
6. Should the City press the Platte River Power Authority to accelerate its transition to non-carbon energy sources? If yes, what specific actions should the City take?	Yes	Yes
7. Over 20 cities in the US have committed to reaching 100% renewable energy by 2035 or sooner, the most recent being the Pueblo City Council's commitment to 100% renewable electricity for the entire community by 2035. In Fort Collins, CSU recently committed to reaching 100% renewable electricity by 2030. Should the City of Fort Collins make a similar commitment?	Neutral	Yes
8. Do you believe that the City should actively advocate for climate action -- and against climate damage such as greenhouse gas emissions from fracking -- in the broader policy arena, such as to County and State policy makers?	Neutral	Yes
9. Do you support the City of Fort Collins waste reduction plan? The Road to Zero waste intends to divert 75% of the city's waste by 2020, 90% by 2025 and reach Zero Waste by 2030 helping to achieve CAP goals.	Yes	Yes

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District 3 Candidates

	<b>Gordon Coombes</b>	<b>Ken Summers</b>
1. Do you believe that greenhouse gas emissions pose a serious threat that requires urgent action to rapidly reduce emissions to minimize climate change?	Yes	
2. Do you believe that we need to prepare for a changing climate because Fort Collins already faces climate hazards (such as forest fires, increase in severe storms, declining water quality, and availability, wildfires, and extreme temperatures)?	Yes	
3. CAP goals approved by City Council in 2015 are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2030, compared to 2005 emission levels. Do you support the full implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan to reach these goals?	Yes	
4. Do you support increased investments by the City as required to achieve the CAP's 2020 and 2030 targets, in such areas as energy efficiency, public transportation, waste management, etc.?	Yes	
5. Do you have significant concerns or reservations regarding CAP implementation? If so, please state your most important concerns or reservations.	No	
6. Should the City press the Platte River Power Authority to accelerate its transition to non-carbon energy sources? If yes, what specific actions should the City take?	Yes	
7. Over 20 cities in the US have committed to reaching 100% renewable energy by 2035 or sooner, the most recent being the Pueblo City Council's commitment to 100% renewable electricity for the entire community by 2035. In Fort Collins, CSU recently committed to reaching 100% renewable electricity by 2030. Should the City of Fort Collins make a similar commitment?	Yes	
8. Do you believe that the City should actively advocate for climate action -- and against climate damage such as greenhouse gas emissions from fracking -- in the broader policy arena, such as to County and State policy makers?	Yes	
9. Do you support the City of Fort Collins waste reduction plan? The Road to Zero waste intends to divert 75% of the city's waste by 2020, 90% by 2025 and reach Zero Waste by 2030 helping to achieve CAP goals.	Yes	

District 5 Candidates

	<b>Ross Cunniff</b>	<b>Duane Hansen</b>
1. Do you believe that greenhouse gas emissions pose a serious threat that requires urgent action to rapidly reduce emissions to minimize climate change?	Yes	Yes
2. Do you believe that we need to prepare for a changing climate because Fort Collins already faces climate hazards (such as forest fires, increase in severe storms, declining water quality, and availability, wildfires, and extreme temperatures)?	Yes	Yes
3. CAP goals approved by City Council in 2015 are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2030, compared to 2005 emission levels. Do you support the full implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan to reach these goals?	Yes	Yes
4. Do you support increased investments by the City as required to achieve the CAP's 2020 and 2030 targets, in such areas as energy efficiency, public transportation, waste management, etc.?	Yes	Yes
5. Do you have significant concerns or reservations regarding CAP implementation? If so, please state your most important concerns or reservations.	Yes	Yes
6. Should the City press the Platte River Power Authority to accelerate its transition to non-carbon energy sources? If yes, what specific actions should the City take?	Yes	Neutral
7. Over 20 cities in the US have committed to reaching 100% renewable energy by 2035 or sooner, the most recent being the Pueblo City Council's commitment to 100% renewable electricity for the entire community by 2035. In Fort Collins, CSU recently committed to reaching 100% renewable electricity by 2030. Should the City of Fort Collins make a similar commitment?	Yes	Yes
8. Do you believe that the City should actively advocate for climate action -- and against climate damage such as greenhouse gas emissions from fracking -- in the broader policy arena, such as to County and State policy makers?	Yes	Neutral
9. Do you support the City of Fort Collins waste reduction plan? The Road to Zero waste intends to divert 75% of the city's waste by 2020, 90% by 2025 and reach Zero Waste by 2030 helping to achieve CAP goals.	Yes	Yes

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#### Additional Comments From Mayoral Candidates

**Kwon Atlas:** 6. Yes, the city should request multiple timelines regarding these goals and would like an expedited timeline to be presented to the city council ASAP. 7. This is a great benchmark for the city to aim for and will only improve the future of Fort Collins. 8. Regarding fracking the city's position on this matter should mirror that of the community, by conducting surveys, talking with folks and gauging the community feel.

**Elizabeth Wilson Hudetz:** 1. Our air quality in Ft Collins is currently #10 for the worst in the US for ozone. We are seeing the results of it already in the weather patterns' shifting, causing consistently hotter days and increased and more intense storms along our coasts than we have on record. 2. We need to understand how climate change presents, and prepare for it. We need city leaders who can help with this. In CO it looks like 2012 and 2013... 3. We need to fully fund and fully implement the CAP. 4. We need to put solar on all city buildings, incentivize solar for citizens, and put solar in parking lots, to provide shade while they charge, and they could have plug-ins for charging electric vehicles. We need public transportation, that will get people out of their cars, using more of a grid-type system, running 7 days a week for extended hours. 5. We need to move quickly to fully implement the CAP. 6. Well, the more off-grid we are the less control outside interests will have over us. We should aim to be off-grid as well as carbon neutral. We should also get PRPA to commit to fully transitioning to renewable energy. It is in the best interest of us all. 7. Absolutely! We should work with them, and other cities, to strategize and educate our citizenry as to how we can achieve this. 8. We also need to partner with CELDF, the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, pro bono attys who are fighting the O&G industry. We have good advocates at our state house and senate level but our US representatives in congress have clear ties to Oil & Gas and are working against us all. We need to find and elect new leaders at the national level if they won't work with us. This is a huge task but imagining it happening is a good beginning to making it happen. and then there is our new US federal government... 9. This will help, also I believe we should collect organic materials for those people who don't do composting. 10. I am running for mayor to help balance the development and financial focus of our city, with the need to sustain life as we know it on the planet at a local level. I am running for mayor to help balance the development and financial focus of our city, with the need to sustain life as we know it on the planet at a local level. There is much we can do here as a city to affect change, especially if we act in solidarity with other cities to implement new ideas for achieving carbon neutrality and helping regenerate the life that we have been destroying, if inadvertently, over the years. We must look at the big picture, see what is happening, determine what is causing the negative impacts we are experiencing and brainstorm to come up with new solutions, coupled with the ways we did things long ago that weren't destructive, to make it through this era of climate change we are in already. I have my eyes wide open and am stepping up to accept the challenge of being mayor of our remarkable city. We can change the world for the better from right here where we are. I ask for your help to achieve this. Please go to our website to find out how you can help: Elizabeth4MayorFortCollins.com

**Michael Pruznick:** 1. I also support the bigger concern that the, harvesting, transporting, and burning of fossil fuels is poisoning our air, water, and food supply. CO2 is just one of many problems with this non-value chain. 2. In fact, I'm preparing my home to be net-positive and carbon-free once storage becomes cost-effective. The 120% rule is blocking my progress. The city limits me to 14KW solar to offset PRPA coal. My roof will support 80KW allowing me to eliminate natgas and most gasoline. As mayor I will work to eliminate the 120% rule and other artificial limits. 3. I believe we can do better than what CAP specifies. If CSU can be 100% renewals by 2030, Fort Collins can be 2029. 4. The city has invested about \$200M for corporate welfare over the past decade, but balked at a mere \$36M to support on-bill financing program for residents. As mayor I will prioritize efforts that move us to a sustainable, if not net-positive, community. 5. CAP favors big expensive government programs. Such programs centralize power and money and thus are prone to corruption and abuse. Look at how hard it is to shutdown Rawhide? CAP must favor net-positive building codes and other competitive private industry solutions. 6. Should increase rooftop solar so the city exports to PRPA, eliminate utility bills so that rising rates become increased revenue, not a liability, allowing us to shut down the dirtiest coal plant in our sphere of influence. 7. We need to be the nation's first net-positive city and leading host for environmental conferences. 8. The city should not pass up opportunities, but must prioritize taking care of its own house first, lead by example. See previous questions about being the net-positive environmental conference leader. 9. I think the plan is a political compromise and we can do better faster. 10. Businesses use 65% of the electricity, but are only 12% of the customers. Businesses get a bulk rate discount while residents get a bulk rate surcharge. Must make appropriate corrections to rate structure. See [http://vote4mike.pruz.org/issues\\_utils.htm](http://vote4mike.pruz.org/issues_utils.htm).

**Wade Troxell:** 1. In March 2015, I voted to support Climate Action Plan Framework. I submitted a letter to then-President-Elect Trump describing City of Fort Collins substantial commitment an actual progress made to meeting the goals of the Climate Action Plan Framework. [https://issuu.com/bhuey/docs/0103-\\_letter\\_to\\_poetus\\_re\\_climate](https://issuu.com/bhuey/docs/0103-_letter_to_poetus_re_climate) I have also signed the Open Letter to President-elect Donald Trump on Climate Action. <https://medium.com/@ClimateMayors/open-letter-to-president-elect-donald-trump-on-climate-policy-and-action-33e10dcdcf85#gy36j1dix>. 2. I am supportive of a resilient Fort Collins planning for future needs. Since on Council, I have been an advocate for integrated distributed energy resources, electric vehicles, waste-to-energy, and TOU rate structure. 3. I voted to support the ambitious CAP goals and have supported the strategies to operationalize and implement the Climate Action Plan Framework. I have continued to support the CAP through the Budgeting for Outcomes and approval of the 2017-2018 City budget. I have also supported Fort Collins' CAP goals at Platte River Power Authority. 4. Fort Collins continues to be a leader by establishing and then mapping aspirational climate goals into an implementation plan. This sets Fort Collins apart from other municipalities. The City of Fort Collins has made increased investments as part of the 2017-2018 budget. In order to meet the 2030 and 2050 targets, it will take a systems approach involving energy efficiency, transportation systems, land use changes, (waste) materials management and systems integration. I support the climate economy strategy and a cost/benefit analysis showing a ROI in meeting the CAP. 5. We need the support of the Fort Collins community. The challenge is we have a \$10 issue with \$1. We need to leverage innovation. The climate economy is strategy that I believe will enable Fort Collins to reach our CAP goals. FortZED is an excellent model of how we can leverage our innovation community. 6. I serve on the PRPA Board with Councilmember Horak. We are and we will continue to do so. The divesting of Craig Unit No. 1 is a current example. I have been consistent advocate of integration of distributed energy resource. The City's electric utility will be key in realizing our energy future and subsequently our CAP goals. 7. I believe most of these "commitments" will be baseless as to how they might be achieved. Fort Collins needs to continually work towards truly make an operational and implementation impact (i.e., cost/benefit with ROI). With regards to CSU, we are working closely with them to meet their goal of 100% renewable by 2030. This is good for CSU, PRPA and Fort Collins. 8. Fort Collins needs to focus on Fort Collins and what makes sense for Fort Collins. To date, we have done a good job in involving the broad interests in our community thus keeping broad community support. 9. In addition to the PRPA Board, I serve on the NOCO Regional Waste Shed Policy Group. This is a key element as to how we accomplish our waste-reduction and GHG energy future. I support looking closely and evaluating waste-to-energy options and a circular economy. 10. Fort Collins is a "plan" and "do" city. We actually plan and then execute the plan by doing it. In March of 2015, City Council approved the Climate Action Plan Framework. This is a plan and it needed to be operationalized and implemented to reach the ambitious goals set forth in CAP. The Road to 2020 is the operation approach for CAP between now and 2020. Fortify is a marketing approach to help our community implement Road to 2020 and CAP, in general. I support the approach we have taken to plan and execute our climate action goals.

#### Additional Comments From District 1 Candidates

**Nate Budd:** 1. Climate change is real and it is on us as individuals and a community to look for ways to do our part to combat greenhouse gas emissions for the future of our planet. 2. As a major utility provider the City is beholding to our customers to provide reliable and sustainable utility services. Given the hazards and increased volatility of our weather systems do to climate change the city should look for increased resiliency in our energy and water utility services. 4. Depending on where those funds are generated. 5. My biggest reservation around these issues is the potential increased costs to some of our already cost burdened populations in our community. I want to make sure that any steps we make regarding CAP take into account the existing affordability issues in the community. 6. The city should be working at every level to expedite the shift in mindset necessary to accelerate its transition to non-carbon energy sources. As a leader and partner we could look for efforts to.... 8. The city should not be silent, but whenever possible we should speak with our actions to show true leadership around climate action to be a positive example for out County and State policy makers.

**Bob Overbeck:** 5. I am concerned that there are organizations that will oppose implentation even with measured cost effective approaches. 6. I would suggest a possible solution might be to change the city utility's contract with PRPA to adjust the carbon output of its purchases of electricity, to ratchet downward by a specified number of tons each year until it reaches zero in 10-12 years, with no nuclear. 7. In so far as we have influence in the policy arena with the County and State policy makers, we should absolutely set an example as a leading city for climate action and encourage others to follow. 10. We should put the word climate back into CAP. To have a name that does not reflect the projects end goal does not make sense.

Additional Comments From District 3 Candidates

**Gordon Coombes:** 6. I believe that the City should negotiate and have constructive dialogue on how the two entities can work in concert to our CAP goals. 8. This is a regional issue that needs to be addressed at the county and state level. It has both an environmental and economic impact on Fort Collins.

**Ken Summers:** Ken Summers has not yet responded to the questionnaire.

Additional Comments From District 5 Candidates

**Ross Cunniff:** 5. My concern is that we have not funded actions sufficient to achieve intermediate 2020 goals, much less 2030 or later. 6. Negotiate with partner cities; possibly bring more partner cities in to PRPA who share our policy goals; push PRPA to create a bigger renewable energy strategy (including a 5- and 10-year energy storage plan). 10. I have been a strong supporter and leader in pushing the adoption and implementation of both the CAP as well as the Road to Zero Waste. If re-elected, I will continue my support and leadership.

**Duane Hansen:** 1. The overwhelming amount of data points to the emission of greenhouse gasses and climate change. I would look at how we combat climate change as just that: combat. You don't just utilize one means of fighting, you organize a broad spectrum of strategies to achieve your ultimate goal. In this instance reduction of emissions is one means of combating climate change. Conservation techniques, clean energy development, and sequestration efforts would all play a significant role in how our city tackle climate change. 2. Absolutely. There is an old saying in the Marine Corp--Observe, adapt, and overcome. We are already observing the effects of climate change are having just within our local area. What we must do now is discover and implement the means to adapt to these changing conditions. 4. One of my key platform components is working to move Transfort from this patchwork of odds-and-ends routes system to a frequency grid route system. It would create system inefficiencies, make the system more rider friendly encouraging greater ridership, and be more equitable and accessible throughout Fort Collins. I would also like to explore some innovative solutions for public work projects similar to Portland's idea of hydroelectric generation within the cities water mains or algae-based lighting for roads and building at night. 5. Funding first and foremost. Where will we be getting the funding to help implement some of these programs outlined in CAP. I also want to make sure that people in the lower-moderate income brackets are bearing the brunt of the financial implications. During implementation I would also like to see every business bullet point in the CAP to ensure we don't negatively create a chilling effect on our economy. 6. I am not currently aware of what PRPA's plans for generation are for the future. However, we should be talking with them to ensure as we develop more green and distributive energy generation within Fort Collins we can begin implementing means to support that such as distributive energy grids. 7. I would have to see an overall framework for what would be needed to meet our community's specific needs before signing off. I would further like to see an implementation process that also includes funding and mitigation against the above low-moderate income populations as well as businesses before completing signing off on the commitment. 8. Yes, but we also need to be understanding to other communities needs within the county and state. We can make our stance clearly known and be a forerunner in how to promote and implement more sustainable energy methods. We would not be good stewards of climate change policy if we don't show a more clear path to sustainability that can be meet other communities diverse needs. 9. Our current landfill does not have much life left and the hunt for new land for its replacement is already underway. The biggest challenge I foresee with implementation is the exhaustive amount of education that will need to go out for public consumption and waste habits. 10. I am proud to be a part of a community that has decided long ago to not bury its head in the sand and instead tilt into the seemingly overwhelming challenge of climate change and its effects. I look forward to working with all stakeholders in the community to ensure we can achieve these high standards without placing extra burdens on a select handful within our community.