

**Responses to NCALF Questionnaire for Fort Collins City Council Candidates:
District 1**

	Nick Armstrong	Susan Gutowsky
1. City staff recently submitted the "Our Climate Future (OCF) Plan Draft" (Attachment 3 of this Work Session Item) ¹ that presents a list of "Big Moves" and "Next Moves" that are projected to reduce community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 75% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. This is 5% short of the City's 2030 climate goal, although staff will revisit the plan every two years to look for additional opportunities to reduce GHG emissions. Are you prepared to support implementing the policies and making the investments that will be needed to achieve the full 80% climate goal?	Yes	No Response Received
2. City staff has identified achieving a 100% renewable electricity supply as a "critical path next move" for reaching the City's 2030 climate goal in the "OCF Plan Draft." The group Northern Colorado Partners for Clean Energy has called on the Platte River Power Authority to investigate establishing an interim goal of 70% renewable electricity by 2023 ² to help ensure that the 2030 target is met. Would you support a resolution requiring the Platte River Power Authority establish at least one interim goal for renewable electricity prior to 2030?	Yes	
3. The "OCF Plan Draft" also includes a preliminary list of "next moves" that would help Fort Collins adapt to climate change impacts we cannot avoid, such as extreme heat, hazardous air quality, floods, novel disease outbreaks, and mitigating city heat island effects. Would you support implementing the policies and making the investments that would help Fort Collins adapt to these climate change impacts?	Yes	
4. Would you support moving the City's target date for achieving zero net GHG emissions from 2050 to 2038, in accordance with the latest scientific consensus for preserving a 66% chance of limiting global warming to 1.5° C summarized in this 2018 IPCC Special Report ³ ?	Yes	
5. Boulder County Commissioners recently approved a requirement that future oil and gas well pads be at least 2,500 feet away from homes, schools and daycare facilities to protect public health. Would you support establishing a similar requirement within the City of Fort Collins and its Growth Management Area?	Not sure	
6. Do you believe that the City should actively advocate for climate action -- and against climate damage like greenhouse gas emissions from fracking -- in the broader policy arena, such as to County, State, and Federal policy makers?	Not sure	
7. City staff has incorporated a "Big Move" titled "Local, Affordable, and Healthy Food" into the "OCF Plan Draft" referenced previously. Are you prepared to support implementing the policies and making the investments that will be needed for "everyone to have access to healthy and affordable food, sourced or rescued from local and regional producers"?	Yes	
8. Are you in favor of adding a section to the City's website dedicated to providing information about local food production, such as a dashboard showing the percent of food produced within the metropolitan area and an interactive map of community gardens, farmers' markets, and food stands?	Yes	
9. Would you support the creation of an advisory board or commission with the specific purpose of addressing sustainable food production in the city?	Yes	
10. Are you prepared to include existing and future organizations that advocate for local food production in the decision-making process for planning and resource allocation in this area?	Yes	
11. Would you support setting aside portions of City-owned land, such as parks and median strips, for community gardens and other local food production projects?	Yes	
12. Are you in favor of a regulation requiring future multi-family housing projects to set aside a portion of their land for community gardens?	Yes	
13. Would you support the establishment of a "green belt" around Fort Collins that would include zoning for land dedicated to food production?	Yes	
14. Disrupted rainfall patterns leading to droughts and flooding, increasingly violent hurricanes, and the spread of non-endemic disease resulting from climate change are making survival in southern Mexico, Central America and other parts of the world much more difficult. If the federal government were officially to recognize climate refugee status, would you support resettling climate refugees in Fort Collins?	Not sure	
15. In 2017 the US Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution ⁴ highlighting the need for a transformation of funding priorities away from war-making and toward meeting human needs and addressing environmental problems. The "Divest from the War Machine" ⁵ campaign encourages individual and institutional investors to remove invested assets from companies that derive their profits from the production and sale of U.S. military arms both home and abroad. Would you support a resolution by City Council to join the Divest from the War Machine campaign?	Not sure	
16. Would you support campaign finance reform in our local elections to exclude corporate and PAC money, and provide equal media time on public media?	Yes	
17. Given the public's high engagement in local politics, more than two candidates are often interested in running for the same City Council seat. Under our current voting process, if more than two candidates actually run, the victor may receive less than a majority of the votes cast. This problem could be addressed by implementing a system of "ranked choice voting." ⁶ Would you support an ordinance establishing a ranked choice voting system for Fort Collins municipal elections?	Yes	

Optional Additional Comments

Nick Armstrong: Where I've indicated "Not Sure" - it's because I want to understand the long-term externalities of the associated decision. Truly visionary policies are possible when idealism is paired with pragmatism to create cohesive, connected solutions that require multiple organizations in the community to achieve (despite disparate goals). In taking actions, it's important we focus on highly-leverageable low-hanging fruit to improve quality of life while also meeting climate goals, like connecting infrastructure between neighborhoods to reduce dependency on cars. This is a no-brainer! We cannot also leave our neighbors who work in energy out in the cold - we have to help provide job placement and vocational training programs to bolster our workforce's ability to support and sustain these efforts. We have to do these things hand-in-hand with support from the business sector, truly and cohesively partnering, not just dealing out heavy-handed regulations. Question #5 - SB 181 gives us a lot of tools to put into play to protect the health of our community with regards to O+G production. I'm not an expert in how they can be applied locally, but I'm interested in exploring that with City Staff. #14 - obviously we should be good neighbors to neighbors in need - my uncertainty comes in the form of this: we currently have very little ability to get our EXISTING neighbors to and from work. Relocating refugees to Fort Collins where there aren't bike lanes, sidewalks, or trail paths, let alone a high stock of affordable housing, would seem to put additional pressure on the homelessness and affordable housing crises. With proper, 360* support mechanisms, sure. But just "yes/no" with no supports - we'd be simply changing the nature of the crisis they face from environmental to infrastructural. We'd have to truly work with these countries to mitigate effects on a more local level. This is also far beyond the reach of a single City Councilperson. #15 - the "war machine" is loaded language and needs to be clarified. I hope these help :-)

Susan Gutowsky: No response received.

References

¹ https://citydocs.fcgov.com/?cmd=convert&vid=72&docid=3517884&dt=AGENDA+ITEM&doc_download_date=FEB-09-2021&ITEM_NUMBER=01

² <https://colivableclimate.org/ncp4ce-white-paper-on-prpa-integrated-resource-plan/>

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

⁴ <https://www.usmayors.org/the-conference/resolutions/?category=a0F610000BLCpXEAX&meeting=85th%20Annual%20Meeting>

⁵ <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/2020/05/22/watch-codepink-and-world-beyond-wars-5-part-webinar-series-online-now/>

⁶ <https://www.rcvresources.org/>