

**Responses to NCALF Questionnaire for Fort Collins City Council Candidates:  
District 4**

	<b>Jessica Dyrda</b>	<b>Erin Hottenstein</b>	<b>Shirley Peel</b>	<b>Melanie Potyondy</b>	<b>Sidna Rachid</b>
1. City staff recently submitted the "Our Climate Future (OCF) Plan Draft" (Attachment 3 of this Work Session Item) <sup>1</sup> 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	Yes	Not sure	Yes	Yes
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 <sup>2</sup> 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	Yes	Not sure	Yes	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	Yes	Not sure	Yes	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 <sup>3</sup> ?	Yes	Not sure	No	Yes	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?	Yes	Not sure	No	Yes	Yes
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?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
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	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not sure
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	Yes	Yes	Yes	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	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not sure
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	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not sure
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	Yes	Yes	Yes	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?	Not sure	Not sure	No	Not sure	Yes
13. Would you support the establishment of a "green belt" around Fort Collins that would include zoning for land dedicated to food production?	Not sure	Not sure	Not sure	Not sure	No
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?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
15. In 2017 the US Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution <sup>4</sup> 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" <sup>5</sup> 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?	Yes	Yes	No	Not sure	Yes
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	Yes	Yes	Yes	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." <sup>6</sup> Would you support an ordinance establishing a ranked choice voting system for Fort Collins municipal elections?	Not sure	Yes	Not sure	Yes	Yes

#### Optional Additional Comments

Jessica Dyrdahl: Please visit [www.jess4foco.com](http://www.jess4foco.com) for more information!

Erin Hottenstein: Since making Fort Collins my home 20 years ago, I've been committed to the prosperity of our city and its residents. I live with my husband and two children, and work as a small-business owner and consultant at Public Speaking for the Professional. My experience in public service is vast and varied, including founding Colorado 50-50, a non-partisan organization that trains women of different races, classes, ages, and abilities to run for political office. Separately, I have volunteered on 20 different political campaigns and served as an election judge. I've been part of numerous local work groups and advisory boards, including Larimer County's Workforce Development Board, CSU's Water Literate Leader's Program, and the Health District's Compass Advisory Committee. My dedication to our community runs beyond civic involvement. I've served as Board President for my church, taught Sunday School, tutored ESL, refereed soccer games, and ran a local spelling bee club. I grew up in Wyoming and Colorado. After heading to Baltimore to attend Goucher College, I was happy to come back home and start my professional life as a radio journalist. In the interest of accurate, robust reporting, I learned to seek all sides of a story, to ask questions and to listen. This work shaped my life, giving me the skills and confidence I needed to know I could make a difference and be a leader. I'm determined to do my best to effectively represent the people of my district and help make our city the best it can be - and I ask for your vote.

Shirley Peel: On the questions I marked unsure, I either need more information or I partially supported the idea or supported the idea with caveats.

Melanie Potyondy: For the items marked, "Not sure," I would be open to further discussion as, at this time, I do not believe I have enough background to make informed decisions in those particular areas. In general, I support assertive climate action, local agriculture, and humanitarian values. Thank you!

Sidna Rachid: I answered 'not sure' for questions 7, 9 and 10 because I'm not convinced that a climate like Fort Collins lends itself to food production in a sustainable manner. I answered 'no' for question #13 because I am worried about the strain on water. As long as farming can be done without irrigation, I wouldn't be opposed. My website includes a detailed description of my positions: [www.sidna4district4.com](http://www.sidna4district4.com).

#### References

<sup>1</sup> [https://citydocs.fcgov.com/?cmd=convert&vid=72&docid=3517884&dt=AGENDA+ITEM&doc\\_download\\_date=FEB-09-2021&ITEM\\_NUMBER=01](https://citydocs.fcgov.com/?cmd=convert&vid=72&docid=3517884&dt=AGENDA+ITEM&doc_download_date=FEB-09-2021&ITEM_NUMBER=01)

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

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

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

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.rcvresources.org/>