



Boulder County's Climate Change Preparedness Plan

Over the last few years, officials from the Boulder County and the City of Boulder, Colorado have faced growing concerns around mitigating against and preparing for expected climate impacts. These include prolonged dry spells, early snowmelt, and higher temperatures. In 2011, these local governments partnered to commission a vulnerability analysis and related recommendations from locally-based Stratus Consulting.

Boulder County's Climate Change Preparedness Plan (affectionately known as the "C2P2") is intended to "assist county and city departments that manage climate-sensitive resources and assets to achieve their departmental objectives in the face of challenges posed by anticipated future changes in the climate." The plan focuses on four key sectors—water supply, emergency management, public health, agriculture and natural areas—providing 31 sector-specific strategies for building resilience to expected climate impacts, focusing on a "no regrets" approach to adaptation. In addition, the report suggests another eight recommendations for cross-cutting issues related to the plan's implementation.

Since releasing the draft report in December of 2011, the county has held two public meetings and prepared an electronic survey to gather feedback on the initiative. Project staff expects to present the results to the Board of County Commissioners in April before rolling out the plan to the consortium of local municipalities. The County will then partner with municipal agencies and their respective sustainability committees to prioritize and implement the recommendations. Lisa Friend, Sustainability Planner with the County Commissioners Office, expects the process will follow a progression similar to that which has resulted from a zero waste resolution for the county. Recognizing that a plan is just a plan until it is taken from idea to implementation, Friend anticipates working with partners across the Boulder area to set policy and budgetary priorities for moving this important work forward.



Image credit: <http://www.bouldercounty.org/sustain/energyclimate/pages/climatechangepreparednessplan.aspx>

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For More Information

Project website: <http://bit.ly/C2P2BoulderCounty>

"Draft Boulder County 'climate change preparedness plan' Finished", Laura Snider:
http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci_19786666

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This case study was produced by the Institute for Sustainable Communities for our Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy. The Academy is a state-of-the-art training and technical assistance program on community-based climate solutions. Its purpose is to build the capacity of communities to take smarter, swifter, more effective action to increase energy efficiency, reduce climate pollution and dependency on fossil fuels, create green businesses and jobs, and strengthen their resilience to the local impacts of climate disruption.

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