



**LARIMER COUNTY POLICIES
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

SUBJECT: CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

REVISION DATE: January 31, 2023

REPLACEMENT OF: October 29, 2019 Environmental Responsibility Policy

REVIEW: Every 2 years in November, or as needed

REFERENCE: Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) 2021 Policy Statement

PURPOSE:

This Climate, Environmental Stewardship, and Sustainability Policy will ensure that the County operates in a manner regarding mitigating and adapting to our changing climate, environmental stewardship responsibilities, and sustainable operations and decision making today and into the future. This policy is reflective of current scientific findings and methods and consideration of community sustainability values. This policy addresses both County operations as well as decision making guidance that is in alignment with the Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) policy statement for which this county is a coalition member. This policy supports the work of the County's Internal Climate and Sustainability Action Plan as well as the Climate Smart and Future Ready initiative.

POLICY:

Larimer County is committed to demonstrating leadership on environmental stewardship and sustainability by operating in a manner that is actively promoting mitigation and adaptation toward a more resilient future. Operations and decision making will promote a strong commitment to the environment while being inclusive of our economic and social equity priorities.

The County will provide community leadership by reducing its environmental impact while benefiting the economy, and community members while providing sound stewardship of public resources. In order to meet or exceed these objectives, Larimer County will:

1. Meet or exceed all legal compliance obligations and voluntary commitments regarding environmental responsibility and sustainability.
2. Establish measurable objectives for evaluating environmental performance, prioritize policies that put equity at the center of decision-making and action, and evaluate and report results annually.
3. Develop, implement, and continuously improve existing programs for pollution prevention, energy conservation and natural resource protection that reflect current scientific findings and methods. Emphasize climate specific impacts by supporting action toward:
 - a. Reduction of Green House Gas emissions,
 - b. Reduction of emissions due to transportation related activities,
 - c. Integrated land use and transportation planning,
 - d. Solid waste diversion and fostering a circular economy,
 - e. Alignment of Green House Gas mitigation activities with partner entities,
 - f. Prioritization of environmental and health costs of actions,
 - g. Resilient and adaptive natural disaster preparedness and avoidance,
 - h. Efficient utilization of energy and water, prioritizing the least carbon intensive and local renewable sources,
 - i. Advance clean water resources and healthy ecosystems through responsible land and water management and disaster recovery,
 - j. Investing in climate-positive and natural climate solutions,
 - k. Conserve and improve critical wildlife and plant habitat,
 - l. Maintenance of ecologically sustainable and economically sound agricultural, open, and forested lands, and
 - m. Advancing policy and programs with benefits to historically underserved communities.
4. Foster a culture where all employees are educated, empowered, and encouraged to proactively perform work in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.
5. Collaborate with communities within Larimer County, in our Northern Colorado region, and across the State to advance local climate mitigation and adaptation, sustainability and resilience.
6. Support initiatives with funding or seek financially enabling strategies to develop and deploy pollution reduction, conservation, and resilient actions.
7. Provide balanced protection of public natural resources that the County manages with long-term economic considerations and community needs, supporting locally driven and designed programs.

This policy will be communicated to employees and contractors, community partners, and be available to the public.

Adopted this 31st day of January 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

BY: Jody Shaddock-McNally
Chair

ATTEST:
Ernest L. Cost
Deputy Clerk



