

BOULDER'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

CAP

Accomplishments

- Stopped the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and achieved real emissions reductions
- Helped thousands of residents and businesses implement energy efficiency improvements at home and at work
- Significantly increased the number of property owners and tenants investing in, and benefitting from, energy efficiency programs
- Earned Boulder one of the highest rates of installed solar capacity per capita in the country, and recognition as a gold-level Solar Friendly Community
- Piloted new programs and approaches that have been replicated nationwide

Boulder's climate leadership

A number of successful programs and services born from the CAP tax and developed in Boulder have since been adopted by other cities and organizations. EnergySmart's energy advisor model is now used by organizations nationwide. Boulder's Small Building Tune-Up pilot (2010-2013) encouraged Platte River Power Authority and Xcel Energy to launch utility incentive programs now available to thousands of customers across the state.

Climate Action

Preserving the health and sustainability of our climate has been valued by our community for many years. Boulder's Climate Action Plan, often referred to as the CAP, is a set of aggressive, city-funded programs and services designed to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change.

As a result of CAP-funded programs, Boulder avoided more than 60,000 metric tons of emissions between 2007 and 2017, keeping our community emissions fairly constant despite growth in population, jobs and economic activity.

Our goal now is to build on this success and foster economic vibrancy while **reducing overall emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050**. Reaching this goal means ramping up our climate efforts and in particular, our actions to promote energy efficiency and conserve natural resources.

What's the CAP tax?

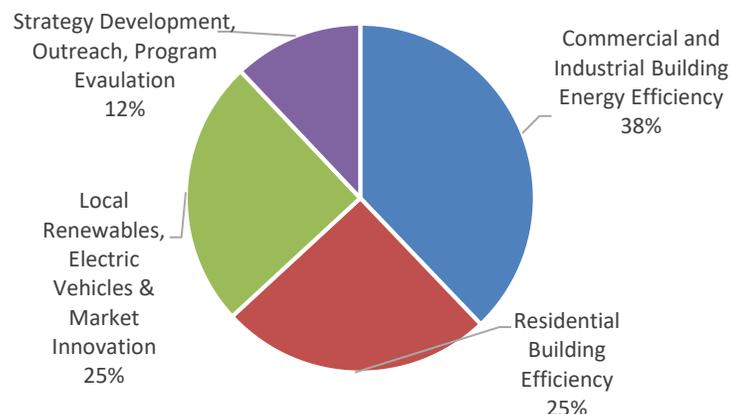
In 2007, Boulder passed a Climate Action Plan (CAP) tax– the nation's first voter-approved tax dedicated to addressing climate change. The CAP tax is levied on city residents and businesses and is based on the amount of electricity they consume. Tax rates are different for each of three sectors, listed here with their average yearly amount: residential (\$21), commercial (\$94), and industrial (\$9,600). The CAP tax generates approximately \$1.8 million each year.

The current tax expires in March 31, 2023.

What does the CAP tax fund?

The CAP tax funds programs and services to reduce GHG emissions by encouraging residents and businesses to reduce energy consumption, save money on energy costs over time and minimize reliance on external energy sources. Programs and services are periodically evaluated and adapted to be most effective and meet the needs of the community.

Average Annual CAP Tax Allocation



CURRENT PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The current 2017 CAP tax revenue funds a variety of effective efforts including:

EnergySmart energy advising services and rebates for residents

More than 9,700 City of Boulder housing units have participated in EnergySmart since the program's inception in 2010.

More than \$1.6M in rebates have been paid and over \$13.7M in private investments have been made.

SmartRegs energy efficiency requirements for rental properties

SmartRegs requires that all rental housing units comply with energy efficient requirements by December 21, 2018.

More than 15,000 rental units (out of about 20,000) are now compliant with SmartRegs.

Pilot programs that spur market innovation and local renewable energy generation

Thermal Decarbonization:

Strategies to support residential households in replacing natural gas appliances with high efficiency electric heat pump alternatives.

Residential Roadmap to Renewable Energy: A program to assist homeowners in understanding the steps they can take to go fossil fuel free in their households, as well as support to facilitate taking action.

Funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and bulk purchasing discounts for solar and EVs.

Programs and policies designed to improve energy efficiency in commercial properties

EnergySmart for Businesses: More than 2,700 city of Boulder businesses have participated in EnergySmart since 2010. More than \$2.8 M in rebates have been issued and more than \$12.4M in private investments have been made.

Building Performance Ordinance: This ordinance requires owners of large commercial and industrial buildings to annually rate and report their buildings' energy use, and perform periodic energy efficiency measures. It achieved 100 percent compliance in the first two years of implementation.

Program tracking, reporting and evaluation

Annual greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories to track progress against goals.

Adoption of the city's Climate Commitment goals and development of pathways to reach them.

Want to know more about the CAP tax?

Visit BoulderClimate.com or Contact us at PH&SClimateSustainability@bouldercolorado.gov with any questions or feedback you may have.