

BOULDERS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

CAP accomplishments

- Stopped the growth of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) 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 platinum-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 50,000 metric tons of emissions between 2007 and 2015, 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 is 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 2018. If voters approve continuation of the CAP tax in 2015, the tax would extend for five years and the current rates and collection mechanism would remain the same.

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 waste, 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.

2015 CAP Tax Allocation

Residential Programs 18%

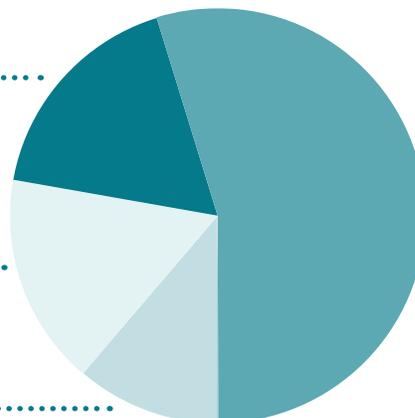
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Market Innovation 16%

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Climate Commitment 11%

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Commercial Programs 55%

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CURRENT PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The current 2015 CAP tax revenue funds a variety of effective efforts including:

EnergySmart energy advising services and rebates for residents

- More than 7,500 city of Boulder housing units have participated in EnergySmart since the program's inception in 2010
- More than \$1.4M in rebates have been paid and more than \$10.5M in private investments have been made

SmartRegs energy efficiency requirements for rental properties

SmartRegs requires that all licensed rental housing units comply with energy efficient requirements by December 31, 2018

- **The SmartRegs program** recently surpassed a "stretch goal" by reaching 3,000 compliant rental units in a one-year contract period between Feb. 2014 and March 2015
- More than 7,600 rental units (out of about 20,000) are now compliant with SmartRegs

Pilot programs that spur market innovation and local renewable energy generation

- Boulder Energy Challenge grant program has provided \$300,000 funding for innovative solutions from the community to reduce emissions

□ **Boulder Rooftop Solar Tool** will assist residents, businesses and property owners in understanding their unique solar potential. Launching August, 2015

Programs and policies designed to improve energy efficiency in commercial properties

□ **EnergySmart for Businesses:** More than 2,300 city of Boulder businesses have participated in EnergySmart since 2010. More than \$2M in rebates have been issued and more than \$7.5M in private investments made

□ **Building Performance Ordinance:** This proposed ordinance would require owners of large commercial and industrial buildings to annually rate and report their buildings' energy use, and perform periodic energy efficiency measures

Program tracking, reporting and evaluation

- Tracking community GHG emissions using a new international standard used by other global cities. Latest GHG inventory completed for 2012
- Development of a sustainability data tracking, management and reporting system
- Development of a roadmap to reduce GHG emissions in collaboration with community partners and experts

Want to know more about the CAP tax?

For questions or feedback:

Visit: bouldercolorado.gov/climate.

Contact: via Inquire Boulder or at lead@bouldercolorado.gov