

Regional, National and International Areas of Collaboration 2017

Legislative & Regulatory

- **Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC)**-- In 2016, the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo) began filing a series of proceedings at the PUC intended to begin the company's transition to the company's "Our Energy Future" described in recent public statements. Each proceeding is being evaluated for its impact on Boulder's energy future, potentially requiring intervention by staff. In 2017, staff has intervened in or is monitoring the following PUC proceedings: - 2017 Electric Resource Plan (16A-0396E) - Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism (16A-0546E) - Advanced Grid Intelligence & Security (16A-0588E) On Sept. 2, 2016, Xcel filed a global settlement agreement involving three litigated PUC proceedings: the Phase II Rate Case - Proceeding 16AL-0048E; Solar*Connect – Proceeding 16A-0055E; and, the Renewable Energy Plan –Proceeding 16A-0139E ("The Global Settlement"). The city signed on the Global Settlement along with more than 20 other Parties (collectively "the Settling Parties"). Throughout 2017, staff is monitoring and participating in working groups related to the implementation of the settlement agreement, including on rate design, new customer programs and battery storage.
- **Monitored bills introduced in 2015/2016/2017 Legislative Session.** Staff testified on several climate-related Bills specifically aimed at the Clean Power Plan and the requirement for the PUC to include the full cost of carbon in utility resource planning processes. Staff also provided feedback on legislation related to battery storage.
- **EPA Clean Power Plan**- In partnership with 17 US states and four cities, Boulder intervened in the DC District Court case. The coalition, led by the New York Attorney General's office, was formed to defend the Clean Power Plan against motions to stay the rule. Boulder submitted a Declaration from the mayor which was submitted as testimony in the case. Boulder continues to be an active party in the case during 2017.
- In partnership with Boulder County, developed the **Colorado Communities for Climate Action Coalition (CC4CA)** to lead efforts to advocate for policy and regulatory changes that promote and support local decision making in pursuit of a low carbon energy future including those that would simultaneously promote community resilience, economic vitality and job creation. CC4CA membership includes Boulder County, City of Fort Collins, City of Westminster, City of Boulder, Eagle County, Summit County, City of Lafayette, City of Golden, Pitkin County, San Miguel County, City of Aspen, Town of Vail, Town of Telluride, and Town of Mountain Village. Other jurisdictions are expected to soon join the coalition. In November 2016, the local governments in the coalition approved a policy agenda of priorities to guide CC4CA's advocacy efforts in 2016/2017. The Coalition hired Frontline Public Affairs to represent the group on legislative matters. During the most recent Legislative Session, CC4CA testified on numerous Bills, and actively advocated for climate-friendly legislation at the state capital.

Regional Technical and Outreach Working Groups

- **Colorado Climate Networking Steering Committee**—The Colorado Climate Network (CCN) and the Colorado Municipal League are convening a statewide Local Resilience Project and the Northern Front Range Resiliency Project to help improve the resilience of Colorado local governments and local

resources to possible climate change impacts. The report of the Colorado Local Resilience Project, is available at: www.coclimatenetwork.org/resilience2.htm. A second phase of the program that is now ongoing focuses on implementation of the recommendations in the report. Additionally, the CCN will perform the administrative functions for the Colorado Communities for Climate Action Coalition mentioned above.

- **Local Government Working Group on Public Utilities Commission Issues**—Developed strawman community energy report and participated in meetings with Xcel Energy technical staff to refine list of energy consumption and programmatic metrics that will be provided to local governments for climate and energy planning.
- **Boulder Sustainability Alliance**—Representatives from CU Boulder, BVSD, Boulder County and the city have continued to meet to discuss sustainability related issues; particularly issues associated with energy.
- **Boulder, Boulder County & City/County of Denver Collaboration**—Staff from the four agencies met quarterly to discuss ongoing issues related to energy and climate, waste reduction and transportation alternatives.
- **Renewable Diesel** - Convened group of regional sustainability directors and fleet managers to evaluate the potential to integrate renewable diesel into fleet operations - Submitted grant application to RAQC to fund feasibility analysis of renewable diesel pilot in the Front Range
- **Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)** – This year, the city received approximately \$100,000 to install new electric vehicle charging stations.
- **DOE REDI Grant**—The city is using its DOE REDI grant to support three on-the-ground projects and two energy resilience design and assessments.

These include:

- Boulder Housing Partners—Solar + Storage + back up generation to insure capabilities of operation during grid outage at the BHP north Boulder HQ
- Via—Solar + Storage + Back up generation enabling Via to maintain core operations and second responder capabilities during grid outage. The system will also be sized to support electrification of transit and other transport vehicles.
- CU—Support for CU campus microgrid completion. Designs/Assessments
- **Neighborhood Scale Energy Resilience** – Work with NREL to develop a neighborhood scale energy design and analysis identifying the solar + storage configurations that would enable an entire neighborhood to be islanded from the grid.
- **Campus Scale Energy Resilience**—Support for CU/NREL analysis to evaluate renewable energy and storage deployment across the entire CU campus to optimize assets for both sustainability and resilience.

- **Solar Working Group:** Re-engaging the solar working group to provide input and expertise into the development of a city-wide solar strategy. This began with the solar strategy community workshop on July 18 and work on the strategy will continue throughout 2017.

- **iUrban Smart City Advisory Group**—Participated in three collaborative webinars with international advisory group members.

- **Circular Cities Network**—Started by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Boulder is part of a new knowledge sharing group that includes Austin, Boulder, Copenhagen, London, Ljubljana, New York, Petersborough, Phoenix and Rio de Janeiro. Staff participated in inaugural webinar in early October and participated in a Circular Cities Panel at the Conference on World Affairs

- **Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance**—CNCA is a network of 20 international cities who have all made a commitment to 80% emissions reduction or greater by 2050 or sooner. The city has been an active participant and secured many of the first grants issued by CNCA for innovative pilot projects designed to significantly reduce emissions.

Two active projects for 2017 include:

- Thermal decarbonization: Boulder is leading an effort with multiple cities and external partners to develop strategies to transition off natural gas in the residential and municipal building infrastructures.

- Zero Net Carbon Buildings: Boulder is part of an effort with 9 other cities and many external partners to develop city specific pathways to net zero energy codes and buildings by the year 2030.

- **Urban Sustainability Directors Network**—City staff are taking part in a number of different USDN related working groups including accelerated net-zero building codes; emissions reduction projection tool development; ecodistrict planning, carbon tax strategies and other emerging topics. In December 2016, the city received a USDN Innovation fund grant to work with three other cities—New York City, Washington DC, and Burlington, VT to develop a coordinated program to foster retirement of natural gas appliances with renewable ready heat pumps.

- **DOE “Better Communities” Alliance**—The city was invited by DOE to participate in a new initiative within DOE to work directly with cities to identify opportunities to link city initiatives around energy and transportation with DOE funding and research support. Boulder was invited to a meeting in Washington DC in early January of 2017 along with a number of other leading US cities to help DOE develop its 2018-2019 program priorities.