

City Council Responses on Climate Action Recommendations Implementation

Below are the consolidated responses of all council members who provided their comments on the questions regarding direction for next steps in the implementation of Climate Action Task Force recommendations.

BOARDS

We will be taking the Climate Action Task Force recommendations to advisory boards in July and August (TAB: 7/13, SAB: 7/15, Water Board: 7/20, and PRAB: 8/10)

- What information/feedback are you looking for from the boards?
 - Council Member Peck: Do the timelines in the CATF work for you?
 - Council Member Waters: Using a Likert scale, I would like to know degrees of agreement or disagreement with each recommendation.
 - Council Member Martin: The boards should give each major recommendation a thumbs-up, down, or sideways as to whether it should be added to the comprehensive plan and/or council work plan. A sideways must be accompanied with a paragraph explaining a recommended modification. Please keep it simple. Thumbs up means the recommendation should be adopted as written, and down means don't adopt the recommendation. A downvote also requires an explanation. This is essentially the same method that the Center for the Built Environment facilitators used when we gave the recommendations their final review in the CATF.
- When/how would you like that information to come back to you?
 - Council Member Peck: It should come back to us in a report in the board minutes
 - Council Member Waters: If we are to include funding in the 2021 budget for any of these recommendations, then we will need to see feedback before making any final budget decisions.
 - Council Member Martin: After all the board reviews are done, only the recommendations that have received a sideways or down board review need to be reconsidered. The Council may choose to accept the board's advice or adopt the recommendation as originally presented. Recommendations that got only upvotes from the advisory boards should be automatically adopted by Council, except that any Member of Council may move the rejection of a recommendation. The Council then debates and votes on that recommendation.

GOVERNANCE

The Climate Action Task Force is recommending that oversight of the implementation and progress reporting of the Climate Action Task Force recommendations be integrated into the scope of the Sustainability Advisory Board, with the formation of ad-hoc committees as-needed to support implementation of specific recommendations, and incorporating Climate Action Task Force recommendations into existing plans, such as the Council Work Plan.

- Council Member Martin: I did not understand the ad-hoc committees to be attached to the SAB at all. It was my intent in suggesting them that they be attached to the staff organizations running the several programs, just as volunteer groups helping with wildlands maintenance are attached to PWNR
- I do not think I agree with this interpretation of the outcomes of the governance committee of the CATF. Was it recorded? If so I would like access to the recording. The

Council Work Plan is an artifact of the present/one previous Council, and it may not survive into the next one. While I brought up the CWP in the Governance meeting, the main mechanism for ensuring the survival of the recommendations must be the comprehensive plan.

- Does this approach work for you all?
 - Council Member Peck: Yes but we should know who the committees are and the chair of the committees. They should incorporate residents and councilors.
 - Council Member Waters: It makes sense to ask the Sustainability Advisory Board to oversee implementation and to provide advice and counsel to the Council regarding budgeting and ultimate accountability. I do have a negative reaction to use of the word “governance” in this context. The Council is responsible for policy development and budget approval. These, in my mind, are governance responsibilities. These are also different from oversight of implementation of projects for which budgets are approved.
 - Council Member Martin: The Sustainability Advisory Board can monitor the list of projects that made it onto the comp plan because of the CATF, and be responsible for collecting information on them, compiling a history of the projects as they are considered by the appropriate departments for executing them, and finding ways to keep the public informed of progress on the Recommendations. But actual elaboration and execution projects that grow out of the CATF must be owned and operated by the city departments that own them, whether it's LPC, PWNR, or HHS. The Sustainability Board or the Sustainability Department can't treat this massive undertaking as a single project. It must become part of the general operation and evolution of the City of Longmont. I believe it is more practical for the departments running the projects to make reports TO the Sustainability Advisory Board, who would compile them into a report to Council. The reports should be made by the staff at points which are logical to the progress of each project, with the SAB compiling a timeline and presenting the most recent status of each project.
- Do you have any additional thoughts or questions on the governance of Climate Action Task Force recommendations?
 - Council Member Peck: The CATF should not be disbanded. This is the group that came together and have worked together. The committee reports should go to the CATF as well as City Council. We need more than one City Council member on the task force.
 - Council Member Waters: If you continue using the term “governance” of the Climate Action Task Force recommendations rather than oversight of implementation and evaluation, I will likely have more to say at some point.
 - Council Member Martin: It's not project management. It's history in the making. Governance isn't really the right word. The SAB is not a governing body, it's an advisory one. It may present recommendations to Council along with its report.

CLIMATE ACTION REPORTING

The Climate Emergency Resolution notes that once the initial report is completed, that quarterly reports will be provided.

- Council Member Martin: How is this reporting different than what the SAB does? Isn't Sustainability just another staff department that works some, but not all, of the efforts of the city to reduce GHG emissions, conserve fuels and other resources, and the like?

- Does that frequency make sense for you?
 - Council Member Peck: Yes with the understanding that the CATF is still involved and the reports go to that group as well.
 - Council Member Waters: Quarterly reports work for me.
 - Council Member Martin: I would like to modify it to be Semi-Annually, because as things stand there is often little progress to report on the sustainability plan The Sustainability Plan tracks far too many small items. A semi-annual report of major progress would be a better use of everyone's time.

Formatting of report: I already provide quarterly reports on the progress of the implementation of strategies in the Sustainability Plan, and many of the Climate Action Task Force recommendations are strategies already identified within the Sustainability Plan.

- Should we could incorporate Climate Action Task Force recommendations into that existing reporting process? OR
 - Council Member Martin: Many new projects and programs will be created as a result of the adoption of the CATF Recommendations. Some will become the responsibility of the Sustainability Department, but not all of them. It would be impractical for the Sustainability Department to acquire authority over a large number of programs just because they came out of the CATF originally.
- Do you prefer a different format for reporting on Climate Action Task Force recommendations?
 - Council Member Peck: This should be a separate report
 - Council Member Waters: It makes sense to include reports on Climate Action recommendations progress as part of your regular quarterly reports as an additional section to the report.
 - Council Member Martin: If the Sustainability Advisory Board really has the "governance" role, then the Sustainability Department should not have any different responsibilities w/r/t the SAB than any other staff department for the programs it implements. Nor should it have any special authority over CATF programs that are implemented by other departments such as LPC.

CLIMATE ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTION

- Are there any Climate Action Task Force recommendations that Council does not support pursuing?
 - Council Member Peck:
 - We should pursue all of them. However I don't agree with some of the timelines or the how some of the recommendations are carried out. Perhaps it is the wording in the CATF. i.e., the design and implementation of a local bus service should be a couple of years before pay-to-park. Getting to downtown and other shopping areas needs to be figured out before we start charging drivers to park.
 - The wording in the charging station comments is too vague and can be misunderstood. To say that the city should install at least 20 charging stations is misleading. The owners of the parking lots, garages or land should put in or contract with a company to pay for the charging stations. LDDA should be

- responsible for downtown charging area (not in the street parking areas) and Boulder County should put the stations in their Coffman St. garage.
 - The LDC should be amended to have the charging stations as one of the options for green build on the SES.
- Council Member Waters: The Council did not discuss any specific recommendations. There is no way I can answer this question without additional study and discussion.

The next phase of implementation would ideally be to complete prioritization of Climate Action Task Force recommendations through dialogue and interaction with advisory boards as discussed, as well as the broader public through the community engagement process, and then conduct further planning and analysis to better understand the full fiscal and equity impacts of implementation.

- Council Member Peck: There are several projects that are already underway:
 - Opt out on composting needs to be recognized. CATF has the timeline as 2025. I believe we can move that up a couple of years.
 - Advance Longmont 2.0 (LEDP) has been meeting for about a year (until COVID) discussing shuttles, first and last mile transportation, etc. I'm not sure we need another group for this.
 - Council needs to discuss which areas should be put in our land development code as well as incentives for building green.
 - Electrification needs to be looked at seriously. From our discussion at the CC meeting, I think equity is subjective. I agree we need a better discussion of this topic.
- Is Council supportive of that approach being the next phase of implementation?
 - Council Member Peck: Yes, as long as we have council's consensus on the implementation when it is presented.
 - Council Member Waters: I will be supportive of this approach.
 - Council Member Martin: **No.** We have already had enough public engagement on the plan as a whole. It was made through public engagement in open meetings, after all. Get the recommendations of the Advisory Boards, and then let the Council decide, as above, as to which Recommendations should be handed to staff to become part of the city's comprehensive plan. As each project growing out of the plan is taken up, appropriate public engagement will happen at that time.
- Does Council support staff to continue work with the Just Transition Plan Committee as we move into implementation, and utilize their recommendations as an equity lens for climate action?
 - Council Member Peck: I'm not sure the Just Transition Plan Committee is who we should be working with. It is my understanding that this committee works with displaced employees due to climate change to find them employment. Council needs a robust education program to prepare O&G workers to transition to renewable energy jobs. For example, Partner with FRCC or the community college in Ft. Collins through their welding program to get a degree to prepare for the evolution to renewables. We could pick up the cost of their tuition and books if they work in the renewable energy field for a specified number of years. Maybe this is being done already. We need big ideas that really move the needle.

- Council Member Waters: I don't have concerns about ongoing use of the Just Transition Committee to advise you, Lisa. I have questions and concerns about how the Just Transition Committee was created, appointed, and entrusted with status comparable to the Climate Action Taskforce. Other than the two Just Transition Committee members involved in the Tuesday evening Council presentation, I have no idea as to who serves on this committee, their credentials, their occupations. If you want me to view them as comparable to the Climate Action Committee or the Sustainability Advisory Board, you still have some work to do. I raised questions about the Just Transition Committee earlier that were either ignored or disregarded. I may be an outlier, but were I in your role, I would want Council members with a deeper understanding of the What, Who, and How of the Just Transition Committee.
- Council Member Martin: The Equity Lens should be incorporated into city processes as appropriate. For example, the Council has already noted that social equity is not properly considered by the Priority Based Budgeting process. That's a good place to start.

FINAL QUESTIONS/THOUGHTS

- Council Member Peck:
 - Thank you for all your work. This is a good first step.
 - There are too many committees involved in this process. It's impossible to keep them all straight and figure out what they do. My experience with committees is that they all have their own and different agendas.
 - I would like to be able to discuss this with other council members. It seems that Councilwoman Martin has been the only council voice in this process.
 - After the input from boards and commissions, I would like a time when we can look at their comments, hear what the other councilors have to say and actually do a deep dive into how we move forward.
- Council Member Martin: Yes. We are supposed to be wrapping up this process and turning the recommendations into the normal work of the city. The CATF and JTPC are ad-hoc constructs with less long-term legitimacy and power than Advisory Boards. We should not be institutionalizing them. The timeline in the Climate Emergency Resolution is already almost at an end.