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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort Collins Seeks Community Input on Draft Climate Action Plan

4 November 2008 (Fort Collins, CO). Fort Collins residents and businesses are invited to attend a public open house and provide input on the City's Draft Climate Action Plan on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, from 5 to 7 pm at the Northside Aztlan Community Center, 112 E. Willow. Light refreshments will be available.

Citizens will have an opportunity to hear from guest speaker Stephen Saunders, president, Rocky Mountain Climate Organization, share insights on the importance of climate change and why community involvement is crucial. An overview of the Draft Climate Action Plan will be presented by Lucinda Smith, senior environmental planner, Natural Resources Department.

The program will include a summary of the types of strategies under consideration in the draft Plan that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, be beneficial to the local economy and provide multiple other benefits to the community. The strategies also offer ways for all sectors of the community to actively participate in climate protection activities.

Upon completion of the presentation, individuals will be able to ask questions, speak with members of City staff and provide feedback at the open house or online. Comments received online by November 21, 2008, will be shared with City Council.

"The implementation of the strategies needed to help us achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions will be challenging," says Lucinda Smith. "In June City Council reaffirmed the City's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint by adopting a goal of 20% reduction in community-wide emissions below 2005 levels by 2020 and 80% below 2005 levels by 2050. We look forward to sharing how the proposed strategies support other local community goals such as economic development and hearing ideas that individuals and businesses may like to share on developing a new 'Community Climate Challenge,'" she says. The Community Climate Challenge is a proposed action to engage citizens in actions to reduce their own carbon footprint.

Open house participants will also have an opportunity to review information on the proposed new Energy Policy, recycling strategies under evaluation, background on the City's Climate Wise Program, the Colorado Carbon Fund, the recently adopted Fort Collins Bicycle Plan and the process to develop the Transit Strategic Plan.

For a copy of the open house agenda, to read the Draft Climate Action Plan or submit your comments online, visit <http://fcgov.com/climateprotection> . You may also call the Natural Resources Department at 970-221-6600.

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