

# Climate Adaptations and Futures Webinar Series: Actionable Climate Action Planning

## *What is Climate Action Planning?*

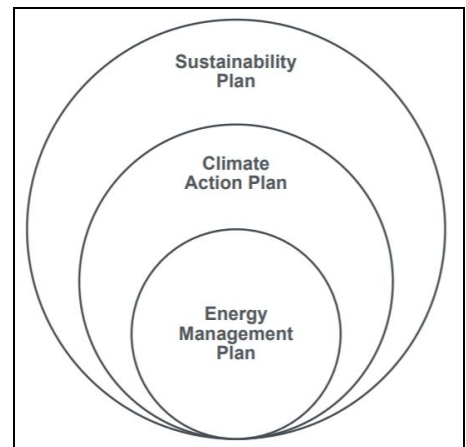
*A CAP is a detailed and strategic framework for measuring, planning, and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (i.e., “climate mitigation”) and related climatic impacts (i.e., “climate adaptation”).*

## State Resources for Climate Planning:

- Energy Impact Assistance Grants (EIAF) Administrative Grants can be used for CAP planning in your jurisdiction! They require a 50/50 match and there is an ongoing application cycle (i.e., apply anytime). Find out more and apply [here](#) or reach out to your [DOLA Regional Manager](#) to talk about the process.
- See who of your Colorado peers have completed a climate-related plan [here](#).
- Various Colorado plans provide vision, guidance, and actionable steps for mitigating and adapting to climate change here in Colorado, which will be posted on the forthcoming [State Climate Website](#). Some of these plans include:
  - [2020 Colorado Resiliency Framework](#)
  - [Colorado Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap](#)
  - [Colorado Just Transition Action Plan](#)
  - [2018 - 2023 Colorado Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
  - [Colorado Electric Vehicle Plan](#)
  - [2020 Colorado Forest Action Plan](#)
  - [Colorado River Availability Study](#) and the [Colorado Water Plan](#)

## Why & How to Create a Climate Action Plan

As the image to the right indicates, a Sustainability Plan is broader than a CAP and can include non-climate-related topics such as waste management and other conservation-related topics relevant to the region. An Energy Management Plan is more specific than a CAP, focusing only on energy sources and uses (climate mitigation) and not on climate adaptation. An “integrated Climate Action Plan” considers both mitigation and adaptation. All plans may touch on equity issues in different ways. Which plan is right for your community depends on your local context and interests.



Communities have different reasons for carrying out a CAP, with major benefits including:

1. Reduce risk to people, property, and profits as climate change impacts increase
2. Protecting nature and ecosystems

This webinar (and others) are available at:  
<https://www.coresiliency.com/webinars>

3. Developing coalitions
4. Accessing funding and other resources
5. Demonstrating leadership
6. Creating economic opportunities

There are a lot of resources available to local governments and it's advisable to not be overwhelmed and keep it simple. Notable resources, especially for Colorado communities, include:

- [ICLEI](#) hosts a “Learn/Do Cohort” for communities creating CAPs, as well as tools that are available to ICLEI members. For example, the [ClearPath software](#) is used for completing greenhouse gas inventories, forecasts, CAPS.
- [Mountain Towns 2030](#) is a coalition of mountain cities, towns, and counties and their constituents that are working towards reducing their emissions to net-zero by the hopeful year of 2030.
- Colorado will be providing [AmeriCorps Climate Corps](#) placements within local governments in order to build capacity for local climate solutions.

## Case Study: Aspen, Colorado's CAP

- Aspen's reason for committing to climate action includes: (1) reducing risks and costs, (2) urgency including extreme weather patterns that Aspen is already experiencing, (3) improvements to the quality of life and economic benefits, and (4) supporting collective action.
- Aspen's most recent 2007 CAP evolved out of a 2004 Greenhouse Gas Inventory and a 2006 Vulnerability Assessment.
- The 2018 CAP goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, which they are on track to achieve even as their population has grown by 8% and their economy has grown by 38%.
- How did they create a plan?
  - Aspen combined quantitative (analysis and data modeling) and qualitative (public & stakeholder input) to produce a GHG reduction CAP & [Toolkit](#) and [progress tracking sheet](#). Their stakeholder input was both public input and the engagement of an Advisory Committee of >40 stakeholders that relate to the six sectors:
    - Energy Supply
    - Vehicles and Transportation
    - Residential Energy
    - Waste and Landfill
    - Commercial Energy
    - Aviation and Airport
  - Their resulting 46 Actions were tied to objectives, timeframes, partners, and other details in the format illustrated below:

GHG REDUCTION TOOLKIT: Commercial Energy				
OBJECTIVE	GHG REDUCTION POTENTIAL	CO-BENEFITS	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS
<b>Replace NG heating and appliances with electric and/or renewable systems</b>		Primary Co-Benefits: 		
<b>ACTIONS</b>				
Eliminate natural gas connections for all new commercial developments				
Integrate geothermal heat or ground heat to offset natural gas use				
Promote solar thermal for water heating				
Provide rebates and incentives to replace old or inefficient boilers with electric				
Encourage integration with air conditioning systems if future AC need is anticipated (e.g., dual ground/air-source heat pumps)				
<b>Enhance energy and resource efficiency in new commercial developments</b>		Primary Co-Benefits: 		
<b>ACTIONS</b>				
Strengthen building codes to promote energy and resource efficiency in new commercial developments				
Provide above-code incentives for new commercial developments				
Level of Potential GHG Reduction     Promotes Equity     Fosters Economic Sustainability     Improves Local Environmental Quality     Enhances Public Health & Safety     Builds Resilience				

- Insights & Lessons Learned from Aspen:
  - Implementation of the CAP is where the rubber meets the road
  - The CAP has helped to justify and contextualize many decisions within the City and has helped to bridge changing leadership over political terms.
  - It does not need to be complicated to get started; there doesn't need to be a lot of data and big ideas -- it can be grounded in
  - Future climate planning and implementation in Aspen will be integrated into the local master plan; pull in regional partners; prioritize equity; will focus on simpler, higher impact actions; and focuses on intersectional solutions (e.g., that touch on both mitigation and adaptation).