



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

# Cool COLORADO

A Statewide Cool Cities Campaign



[www.coolcities.us](http://www.coolcities.us)

## COLORADO BECOMES COOL

**C**ool Cities is a campaign of the Sierra Club, created in 2005, with the goal of 2% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions per year by 2050. This campaign empowers city residents and local leaders to join and encourage their cities to implement smart energy solutions to save money and build a cleaner, safer future. Together we will solve global warming one city at a time.

To step up the fight against global warming, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club formed Cool Colorado with the goal of signing on every city and county in Colorado to become "cool".

## NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

Greenhouse gases are building up daily in our planet's atmosphere, which creates a blanket over the earth, trapping massive amounts of heat from the sun. Carbon dioxide, the most abundant greenhouse gas, is released into the air from our burning of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil. Transportation vehicles and power plants are the leading source of this noxious gas.

Burning fossil fuels – like oil, coal, and natural gas – to power our cars, homes, and businesses are causing global temperatures to rise. This heating of the earth poses a serious threat to our health, safety, economy, and environment.

To avoid catastrophe, scientists say that we must reduce our carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050 to prevent global temperatures from rising above 2°C over pre-industrial averages.

The great news is that we have the tools today to reduce global warming pollution, and cities and counties of all sizes are pursuing innovative energy solutions.

For more information on global warming, visit the Sierra Club website at [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch).



## ONE CITY AT A TIME

You can make curbing global warming real in your city too! The Rocky Mountain Chapter offers guidance, solutions, and support to communities throughout Colorado.

It all begins with concerned citizens and local leaders realizing they can have a positive effect on climate change. Your city can become "cool" when your local government signs onto the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, which strives to exceed the Kyoto Protocol goals. To help achieve this ambition, a city or county can set up a committee to advise the local government and educate residents on becoming more aware of the environment and making changes to stop excess carbon emissions.

## ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

The most successful Cool Cities are engaging the entire community to help meet the goals of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Local businesses, builders, faith groups, environmentalists, and labor unions are working together to make their cities more livable and vibrant while lowering energy bills, creating good jobs, and tackling a global problem.



## COOL CITIES IN COLORADO

Cool Cities across the nation have implemented programs such as 'green' government fleets, homeowner education for energy efficiency, and startup support for companies providing renewable energy. Here in Colorado we are already seeing major successes through our state.

### *Glenwood Springs*

Longtime Sierra Club volunteer activists Bob Millette and Maggie Pedersen started a Cool Cities campaign by holding private meetings with a few progressive community leaders, the mayor, and City Council members. After a presentation to the Glenwood Springs City Council, their efforts resulted in a Mayors' Agreement sign-on and a Citizens' Climate Action Commission. To achieve their new city-wide goals, City Council ordered a greenhouse gas inventory, energy audits of city facilities, and a multi-year action plan.

### *Boulder*

Former Boulder mayor Mark Ruzzin was one of the first mayors in the country to sign the Mayors' Agreement in 2005. Boulder City Council soon developed one of the most aggressive Climate Action Plans in the country, which includes baseline data and emissions reduction strategies for all sectors—commercial, industrial, residential, transportation, and solid waste.

### *Frisco*

Activist Karn Stregelmeyer says it took only a few council members, highly respected by other members of

## COOL CITIES

### TAKE ACTION!

#### STEPS TO BECOME A COOL CITY:

1. Join the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to reduce global warming pollution
2. Green your city's vehicle fleets with hybrid and other cleaner cars
3. Modernize city buildings with money-saving energy-efficiency technology
4. Invest in clean and safe renewable energy

the Frisco Town Council, to make the difference. She advises Sierra Club volunteers to emphasize cost savings even more than climate change benefits in discussing a Cool City plan.

Join the campaign to stop global warming. Help make your city cool!

## SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE:

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Check out other Cool Colorado cities at:  
[www.coolcities.us](http://www.coolcities.us)  
[www.rmc.sierraclub.org/coolcolorado](http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/coolcolorado)