

Colorado Climate Network

supporting local programs

Announcing the Colorado Climate Network

May 2009

On May 25, 2009, the Mayor of Denver, the Mayor of Fort Collins, and the executive directors of the Colorado Municipal League (CML) and the Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST) [announced](#) a new [Colorado Climate Network](#) to support local climate programs in Colorado. The founding members of the Network are CML, CAST, and ten local governments: Denver, Aurora, Boulder County, Fort Collins, Boulder, Pitkin County, Aspen, Breckenridge, Frisco, and Dillon. The Rocky Mountain Climate Organization, which administers the Network, is now inviting additional local governments and allied organizations to sign up as Network members.

The **mission** of the Network is to support efforts by local governments and allied organizations in Colorado to reduce heat-trapping gases and to adapt to climate change – whether those efforts are styled as climate, sustainability, energy, or adaptation programs. The Network will assist members with established local programs and those just getting their programs underway. To add value to and not overlap with other organizations that also support local governments, the Network will have a particular focus on local actions unique to climate programs, such as:

- Local goals for reducing greenhouse gases and programs to reach those goals
- Inventories and monitoring of local greenhouse gas emissions
- Reductions in emissions of all greenhouse gases, not just carbon dioxide from fossil fuels
- All types of programs to reduce greenhouse gases – for example, management of land use and traffic, reduction in solid waste, and preservation of open space to maintain natural carbon “sinks,” in addition to energy efficiency and clean energy
- Public education on climate change and its local impacts
- Adaptation to climate change and its impacts

The Network will work cooperatively with other organizations serving local governments. The Colorado Municipal League and the Colorado Association of Ski Towns have officially endorsed the Network.

The Network’s principal services are the **information** and opportunities for **interaction** it offers to its members. Initial services to be offered by the Network in 2009 include:

- An informative **website**, www.coclimatenetwork.org.
- Opportunities through a members-only portion of that website for representatives of Network members to **communicate with one another** about their local programs, so they can share information, ask and answer questions of one another, and learn of other local programs and activities.
- Information about **grants and other funding opportunities** for local programs. An example is this [Network Update](#) summarizing the elements of the recently enacted federal stimulus legislation that will provide billions of dollars to local climate and energy programs. As federal and state agencies begin to take steps to implement this legislation, the Network will provide timely, detailed information to its members on opportunities for grants and strategies for getting them.
- Information about **state and federal** actions relevant to local climate actions.

- A **library of resource materials**, including a comprehensive and detailed database of local climate programs in Colorado and other states.

The services provided by the Network will grow over time. It is currently expected that the Network’s additional services will soon include:

- Conferences, workshops, webinars, and other opportunities for personal interaction among and education of Network members, through conferences, workshops, meetings, web conferences, teleconferences, and other opportunities for members to personally and directly interact with, learn from, and exchange information with one another.
- Assistance in forming and implementing **regional collaborative efforts** among local programs.
- **Individualized program assistance** in implementing local programs.
- A regular **newsletter** for Network members and interested others.
- **Training materials and programs** for officials and staffs of Network members.

Members of the Network will include any general-purpose local government in Colorado wishing to join. Members will also include any nonprofit or for-profit organization that is allied with a local government in cooperative action on climate, is nominated for membership by such a local government, and is approved by the Network Steering Committee.

The Network is guided by a [Steering Committee](#) of representatives of members and administered by the [Rocky Mountain Climate Organization](#). RMCO provides organizational, informational, administrative, outreach, and fundraising services for the Network. Local governments that are partners with RMCO (of which there now are 15, among RMCO’s [35 current partners](#)) may be Network members without any additional payment. Others becoming Network members are encouraged to become RMCO partners, providing them with [broader benefits](#) than just membership in the Network and helping to sustain RMCO’s core operations, without which the Network will not be possible. However, local governments and approved allied organizations may also join the Network without becoming an RMCO partner by paying annual Network dues according to the same schedule of dues as for a RMCO partnership:

<u>Organization size</u>	<u>Core Member</u>	<u>Regular Member</u>	<u>Basic Member</u>
More than 250 employees	\$4,000/year	\$2,000/year	\$1,000/year
250 or fewer employees	\$2,000/year	\$1,000/year	\$500/year

Additional funds will also be needed, and contributions will be sought, for the operation of the Network. The Colorado Association of Ski Towns is the first sponsor of the Network. The Rocky Mountain Climate Organization is a 501(c)(3) organization, so contributions are tax-deductible.

Local governments in Colorado and allied organizations interested in becoming members of the Network or having questions about it should contact Suzanne Farver, Director of Outreach of the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization, at farver@rockymountainclimate.org or 970-370-1217.