

Colorado Climate Network

supporting local programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2009

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Mayors Hickenlooper, Hutchinson Announce New Climate Network

Denver, Colorado – Mayors John Hickenlooper of Denver and Doug Hutchinson of Fort Collins today announced the launch of the Colorado Climate Network, a new group to support programs by local governments to address climate change.

The 12 founding members of the network are the Colorado Municipal League (CML), the Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST), the City and County of Denver, the City of Aurora, Boulder County, the City of Fort Collins, the City of Boulder, Pitkin County, the City of Aspen, the Town of Breckenridge, the Town of Frisco, and the Town of Dillon. The network will be administered by the [Rocky Mountain Climate Organization](#) (RMCO).

Several local governments in Colorado have adopted local programs to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases and to prepare for the changes coming with an altered climate, and many more local governments are interested in doing so. The purpose of the network is to support those programs, in large part by helping local officials learn from one another.

“We can’t reduce greenhouse gas emissions without smart, effective action by the state’s cities and counties,” said Mayor Hickenlooper. “This new network will help local governments with existing climate programs improve their efforts, and help other local governments start new climate protection efforts.”

Mayor Hutchinson said, “The local climate program directors have a significant opportunity to work together collaboratively, rather than isolated from each other. This new network is designed to encourage partnerships, networking and sharing lessons learned among participants.”

"We are delighted to be a part of the Climate Action Network. Energy conservation and sustainability are areas where municipal officials lead by example every day, and the network is a great opportunity to help us continue to do just that," said Sam Mamet, executive director of CML, a statewide association of 262 cities and towns.

“CAST is very excited to see the launch of the Colorado Climate Network. Many ski towns are at the forefront of climate action and sustainability and view the network as a way to share their experiences and to learn from other communities,” added Paul Strong, that association’s executive director. CAST, in addition to being a member of the network, is a financial sponsor of it.

The network is an outgrowth of the recommendations made in October 2007 by a blue-ribbon Climate Action Panel, convened by RMCO, for state and local actions to reduce and address climate change in Colorado. The network will help achieve the panel's central recommendation for local action, that cities and counties adopt comprehensive climate-protection programs. Within a month of the panel's report, Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., adopted as official state policy the panel's recommended goals that statewide emissions of heat-trapping pollutants be reduced 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, compared to 2005 levels.

More information on the network is available at www.coclimatenetwork.org. Local governments interested in joining the network should contact Suzanne Farver at RMCO, at farver@rockymountainclimate.org or 970-379-1217.

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