

ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTER

Draft | Edited starting November 14, 2025

Name of Organization

Fort Collins Environmental Collective (FoCo ECo)

Purpose of This Charter

This charter is a living document intended to articulate the purpose, interests, and roles of the Fort Collins Environmental Collective (FoCo ECo). Additionally, this document describes the structure of the organization and its operating principles.

Mission

FoCo ECo was formed in response to a need for environmental advocacy in Fort Collins that is better informed, more inclusive, and more progressive than many existing groups. Specifically, this group will focus on advocacy that is informed by both sound science and sociopolitical context on topics like urban planning and land use, climate change, air and water quality, habitat value and natural areas, and environmental equity. We will look to provide leadership and organizing capacity at the local level to support progressive environmental policies through advocacy, education, political endorsement, and coordination with other progressive organizations.

Vision

We view Fort Collins as one living system in which city form, sustainable infrastructure, ecosystems, and social equity are designed together. Our vision is a regenerative, nature-positive city that cuts emissions, restores watersheds and habitat, and provides a high quality of life and access to nature for every resident without overburdening our shared natural resources. We envision a Fort Collins where residents are empowered to participate in local leadership and policy making to shape an abundant, inclusive, and resilient future in northern Colorado.

Values and Principles

- Wholistic environment
- Collaboration
- Transparency
- Systems thinking
- Evidence-based decisions
- Outcomes-oriented
- Environmental equity
- Inclusivity

Strategic Focus Areas

1. **Nature in the City and Habitat Protection:** Promote urban planning and land use patterns that provide habitat and access to nature in all neighborhoods, regardless of socioeconomic status, and that enable extensive ecological protection outside of urban cores including management decisions relating to the city's Natural Areas program. Seek opportunity to provide urban habitat for wildlife, and support activities such as native plant cover, pollinator gardens, bird collision mitigation, lights-out initiatives, and other such efforts.
2. **Climate-Smart Land Use:** Support gentle and strategic increases in urban density and transit-oriented development to enable walkability and bikeability, reduce sprawl, reduce GHG emissions, and reduce municipal water use. Support efforts to create green space and agricultural areas within city limits that can reduce impervious surface, increase carbon sequestration, and create a more favorable urban microclimate.
3. **Riverscape Health and Water Quality:** Restore Poudre River habitats and water quality by maintaining baseflows, promoting watershed scale restoration, and partnering with watershed organizations to promote their work. Advocate for sustainable and responsible use of local water resources under increasing regional climate challenges.
4. **Environmental Equity and Inclusivity:** Address affordability-related exclusivity in the Fort Collins community through aforementioned *Climate-smart Land Use* policies and improve environmental equity through urban forestry, Nature in the City, equitable air quality programs, and environmental hazard mitigation.
5. **Civic Engagement and Capacity Building:** Provide training and education on civic processes and programs to train the next generation of environmental advocates to provide leadership in local government and environmental organizations in Northern Colorado.
6. **Coalition Building and Public Education:** Strengthen progressive advocacy in Fort Collins by partnering with local advocacy organizations to organize events, provide public education, and advocate for progressive policy positions. Work to build a broad, informed coalition that can be leveraged around key issues as needed, and foster a sense of community among members.

Organizational Roles

- Organize and contribute to **advocacy campaigns** related to ballot measures, council decisions, and broader policies identified by our group or advanced by coalition partners.

- **Endorse** candidates and positions on ballot measures in the City of Fort Collins, Larimer County, and State of Colorado, where policies or candidates related to Strategic Focus Areas of FoCo ECo.
- Provide **public education** on environmental issues through meetings, public events, newsletters, social media posts, and other outlets as appropriate..
- **Build capacity** for younger progressive leaders to effectively advocate on local issues by advocating to City Council, joining local Boards and Commissions, and providing leadership for coalition partners.
- Build **collaborative relationships** with City programs (Environmental Services, Natural Areas, etc.), community organizations (Indivisible NOCO, YIMBY, etc.), academic and research specialists, local political leaders (Council, County Commissioners, etc.)
- Emphasize **coalition building** with other progressive organizations to more effectively advocate on cross-cutting issues in Fort Collins.

Participation

Participation in Fort Collins Environmental Collective will be open to anyone interested in attending meetings, events, and supporting policy advocacy efforts around focal issues. Group agenda and priorities will be set and coordinated by a Steering Committee of core individuals who regularly attend most group meetings and events, and dedicate additional time to advancing specific projects/products and providing organizational leadership.

Membership on the Steering Committee will initially be determined by time investment, interest level, and alignment with group values. Individuals will be appointed informally and for an indefinite period. As the group expands in the future, these may become elected or appointed positions. Additional roles and positions to advance specific projects, or aspects of group activities may be created and assigned as needed. We will also consider forming an advisory board of community leaders to inform our priorities and strategies.

Decision-Making

The Steering Committee will decide which issues the group will focus on and engage with, and will guide meeting agendas, event planning, partnerships, and invited speakers. In the event that the Steering Committee is not in unanimous agreement on a decision, the issue will be put to a vote with the outcome determined by simple majority. At times, bigger decisions — especially those that are highly visible, have far-reaching consequences, or are central to the group's purpose and mission — may be brought to the broader group. In such cases, regularly attending members will vote, with decisions determined by a simple majority of those present.

Meetings and Communication

- Meeting frequency:
 - Monthly “All Hands Meetings”
 - Ad hoc task-specific meetings
 - Semi-monthly social gatherings
- Communication tools:
 - Slack
 - [Google Drive](#)
 - Google Meet (recurring meetings)
- Expectations:
 - Agendas shared in meeting notes prior to meeting
 - Meeting notes captured and maintained
 - Meeting announcements shared on Slack

Amendments

This charter will be reviewed annually by the Steering Committee and may be amended at any time deemed necessary. Proposed amendments that substantively affect the group’s Mission and purpose shall be put to regularly attending members for a vote determined by simple majority. Minor amendments, such as those that simply update language, improve clarity, or adjust administrative details, may be made by the Steering Committee without putting to membership for a vote.

Adoption

Date adopted: [Insert date]

Signed/approved by: [Names or “the founding members”]