

## Section 5: Conclusion

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The need for Denver to adopt a plan of action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is clear and urgent. We now understand Denver's challenges and what steps lead to a more sustainable future. By implementing the recommendations outlined in this report, Denver can achieve a 10 percent reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2012. However, with its growing population, Denver's absolute emissions will continue to rise along with the mounting risks of climate change. Thus, this Greenprint Council recommends that more aggressive approaches be adopted to achieve a 25 percent absolute reduction in emissions by 2020. The need is imperative and the opportunities are abundant.

A century ago, visionary leadership created a legacy, the roots of which have made Denver the great city it is today. It will once again take visionary leadership coupled with courageous action and an engaged citizenry to ensure that this great city survives and prospers. The threat of global warming cannot be finessed. It may be tomorrow's threat, but the time for action is today. Together, our community can make a decisive difference.

We have envisioned a pathway to a future that is not only necessary, but also practical, possible, and beneficial. As other cities both nationally and internationally have demonstrated, we **can** reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the Transportation, Residential, and Commercial/Industrial sectors through a dynamic combination of incentives, mandates, and voluntary outreach. We **can** reduce energy consumption without sacrificing our standard of living. We **can** promote new and clean businesses that provide high-quality jobs. We **can** improve our health, well-being, and quality of life. We **can** eliminate the need for additional coal-fired power plants. We **know** what to do and now we **must** engage the public in getting it done. Our future depends on it.



### Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFV	alternative-fueled vehicle
CFL	compact fluorescent lamp
CH <sub>4</sub>	methane
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
DDP	Downtown Denver Partnership
DIA	Denver International Airport
DRCOG	Denver Regional Council of Governments
DSM	Demand Side Management
GPC	Greenprint Council
GPD	Greenprint Denver
GWh	Gigawatt hour
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
kBtu/sq ft	thousand British thermal units per square foot
kWh	kilowatt hour
mtCO <sub>2</sub> e	metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
NO <sub>x</sub>	nitrogen oxides
SUV	sport utility vehicle
therm	unit of heat energy equal to 100,000 British thermal units
VMT	vehicle miles traveled

### Secondary Strategies

The Greenprint Council also recommends the adoption of the following initiatives, which have a smaller individual impact on Denver's greenhouse gas reduction goals but are worth pursuing for their potential long-term impact on markets and individual behavior.

- **City Facilitation of Market Mechanisms in the Buildings Sector** — Various City policies to facilitate the purchase of energy-efficient appliances and the purchase of solar/renewable technologies resulting in lowered energy demand. Policies could include:
  - Replacement of very old refrigerators in low-income neighborhoods — Replacement of pre-1993 refrigerators with current Energy Star models saves approximately 1,000 kWh per household annually (this policy has been successfully initiated in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Indiana).
  - Community-wide replacement of older refrigerators — Replacement of pre-2001 refrigerators with current Energy Star models saves approximately 400 kWh per household annually.
  - Rebates for New Energy Star Appliance Purchases
  - Rebates for Solar/Renewable Technologies (photovoltaics, solar hot water heaters, geothermal heat pumps, etc.)

Percent to goal: 2 percent (refrigerator program alone is greater than 1 percent)

- **Recycling of Demolition Debris** — City policy would require that at least 50 percent of demolition debris that can be recycled be removed by a contractor prior to final land-clearing activities at a demolition site.

Percent to goal: ~1 percent



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