

CSFR Engagement Results

In September 2023, the Climate Smart Future Ready project team attended several events throughout Larimer County to gather feedback from the community on the initiative. Supplementary to the in-person engagement, the CSFR project team promoted an online survey with the same prompts regarding the public's concern over any equity impacts of the CSFR initiative. The goals were to:

- **Inform** and update the community on the progress of CSFR. Provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities, and/or solutions.
- **Consult** with the community on each action's unintended consequences or concerns. Obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decisions.
- **Provide an alternative format** for individuals who feel more comfortable responding to written, online questions or who need more time to think through their answers.

At each of the events, the project team set up three poster boards, one for each CSFR plan focus area. Each board listed strategies developed for each focus area by the CSFR Working Groups. Individuals who approached the boards received several question prompts designed to explore the top equity concerns identified by the Working Groups: affordability, urban-rural divide, accessibility, quality of life, and disproportionate climate impact. Individuals were invited to give their input or share ideas on the strategies and their potential impact on the community, then categorize their comments by equity concern.

Individuals accessed the equity questionnaire through the CSFR project's Social Pinpoint webpage or through a QR code printed on the poster boards.

ENGAGEMENT NUMBERS

The following shows the participation numbers at the events tabled by the team.

Event	Participation
Larimer County Farmers Market	30+
Loveland Farmers Market	10
YES Engagement	7
CSU Student Engagement Feedback	12
Youth Climate Action Summit	10

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Total	70+
Online Survey	26

NOTABLE QUESTIONS

- How will this plan work in conjunction with the Fort Collins plan?
- How will the land use code being proposed affect this?
- Are there any measures in the upcoming ballot that relate to these strategies?

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KEY THEMES

The following table includes information on the topics on which participants were most interested and their feedback on what they most wanted to see done through the CSFR plan.

Focus Area	Topics	Feedback
Built Environment, Circular Economy, and Business & Jobs	Development	Promote high-density, mixed-use development. Implement policies and regulations for developers. Ensure that housing stays affordable for everyone. Concerns around cost to implement efficiency technologies, especially the impact on rent. Tension between renters and landlords with building upgrades. Desire for tax incentives and rebates. People recognize the benefits of weatherizing homes/buildings.
	Waste	Free recycling and composting. People recognize the GHG reductions and other co-benefits (health, air quality, land use required to construct landfills) of reducing landfilled waste. Urban-rural divide is present in people's beliefs about the problems around waste management. Rural communities are recognized as doing better with composting. Affordability, availability, and convenience is a big concern with recycling and composting.
Mobility of	Mobility	Multimodal transportation and its safety are important for people. They like being

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People, Goods, and Services		able to walk and/or bike places for enjoyment purposes and to reduce the need to drive. More open spaces and trails that connect communities. Protected and more separated bike lanes. People acknowledge that a rural-urban divide exists in active transportation infrastructure and accessibility. People understand the major health benefits to increasing active transportation.
	Transit	Improve public transportation services to make them more frequent and reliable, otherwise, people will not use them. People recognize the many benefits of mode switching from cars to public transit, from fewer accidents to reduced emissions to improved access to healthcare, jobs, and education. People perceive expanding transit as very expensive and more of an urban strategy, although some see benefits to regional train service.
	EV Transition	Concerns about ability/equity for rural communities and renters to access EVs, or otherwise, the cost to retrofit/install EVCS. • Skepticism around the benefit of e-bikes/e-scooters for rural. People recognize the health and GHG benefits of reduced reliance on oil and gas. Questions around whether the grid can accommodate EV transition.
Natural Environment,	Water	Reduce unnecessary water usage. Split on the role of agriculture: whether to continue supporting it regardless or force agricultural water users to pay more.

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Water, and Agriculture		Promote xeriscaping. Regulate watering times. Reduce bluegrass turf lawns in new development. People recognize the importance of balancing water use for long-term community sustainability, health, ecosystems, etc.
	Agriculture	Protect agricultural lands and farmers. Promote more community gardens and use local agriculture at Poudre Valley District Schools. People recognize the benefits of local agriculture to community health, sustainability, resilience, especially for low income communities in food deserts. GHG benefits from reduced transportation miles, more organic and restorative agriculture methods. Better soil health.
	Fire Management	Concerns around the cost to upgrade infrastructure and to manage for fire risk proactively, but in recognition of the importance of strategy.
Broad Implementation Strategies	Information Accessibility	Residents struggle to find the necessary and relevant information for different topics (e.g. rebates for solar panels). Having the information somewhere centralized and easy to navigate would make it easier for many.