City of Fort Collins

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Weitkunat and City Councilmembers
FROM: Lucinda Smith, Environmental Services Dept. Director
THRU: Darin Atteberry, City Manager
Bruce Hendee, Chief Sustainability Officer
DATE: August 12, 2103
SUBJECT: Work Session Item #2 – Climate Action Planning (August 13, 2013)

Council Leadership raised two questions regarding the August 13, 2013 work session on climate action planning.

1. How has Boulder (what actions) reduced its GHG emissions by 26%?

This information was reported in error. The correct information is that Boulder's Community GHG emissions were reduced 2% below 2006 by 2009. The 2010 emissions showed an increase of 0.5% over 2006 levels. (Source: https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/2010-2011-community-guide-to-boulders-climate-action-plan-1-201305081156.pdf)

2. Provide information about factors that affect our GHG emissions data, (i.e. concrete/debris and landfill related)

The most significant sources of community GHG emissions during 2012 were from electricity usage (52%), ground transportation (23%), and natural gas (17%). Solid waste only contributed a small fraction (3.3%) of community emissions during 2012. As a result, annual changes in the local electricity emissions factor, which reflects the carbon intensity of electricity generation, have one of the most significant effects on annual community GHG emissions.

The weight of all solid waste from the community is one source of data for the community GHG inventory. During 2012, the Environmental Services Department upgraded the methodology for solid waste emissions consistent with the new 2012 ICLEI Community Protocol. These changes were applied consistently across all inventory years from 2005 through 2012.

The *Community Solid Waste Diversion Rate* is one of the key progress metrics that we report on annually, although it is not used to calculate the community greenhouse gas inventory. Starting in 2011, the City begin to report two waste diversion rates, one that includes industrial sources of solid waste that is sent to the landfill (e.g., from construction and demolition projects) and industrial recycled materials (including recycled concrete and asphalt), along with residential and commercial sources, because that was more consistent with state of Colorado reporting of diversion rates. The other method for calculating waste diversion rate does not include industrial sources of solid waste, and has now been renamed the *Non-Industrial Solid Waste Diversion Rate.*