

LARIMER COUNTY | BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 1190, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522-1190, 970.498.5700, Larimer.gov

Environmental and Science Advisory Board MINUTES

Date: December 9, 2025

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Carter Lake Conference Room, 200 West Oak St., Fort Collins, Colorado

Contact: Heidi Pruess, pruesshb@co.larimer.co.us, 970-498-7138

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Rodger Ames – Vice-Chair	X	John Kefalas *	X	
Tasha Carr	X	Heidi Pruess ‡	X	
Anna Cloud - Chair	X			
Jeremy Cooper	V			
Leo Grassens	X			
Matthew Haag	X			
Azmal Hossan	X			
Kathryn Inman	X			
Joe Izaguirre III	X			
Michael Lee Jones	X			
Jared McGlothlin				
Nicole Poncelet-Johnson				
Cathelyne Powers				
Timothy Skolds [§]	V			
Nathan Teich	V			
Chris Wood				

X = present; v= present virtually; * = Commissioner Liaison; ‡ = ESAB Liaison; § = Climate and Sustainability Program; †=Youth.

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

- **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – None.
- **Introduction of members, staff and guests**



- **Commissioner's Update –**

- The Board of County Commissioner (BCC) December 11, 2025 meeting includes the 2026 Budget Adoption and is a public meeting at 10am.
- BCC worksession on December 8, 2025 included an update of the process for creating and adopting the Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) Policy that is scheduled to be adopted in June 2026. ESAB feedback on the draft policy statement would be appreciated and this document will be provided to the ESAB together with the current CC4CA policy and related current Larimer County Environmental Stewardship policy). The second portion of this worksession included an update of the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations, EV fleet, and employee commuting over the past year with one highlight of an employee e-Waste drive event held in November 2025.
- BCC Admin Matters on December 9, 2025 meeting recognized an American Public Works Association (APWA) award to Facilities for Fleet Services / Road and Bridge campus for the best Large Community Structure with one of the many criteria including evaluation of sustainability of the structure (sustainability components included: radiant floor heating, daylighting, energy efficiency, EV charging stations and the facility is designed to be solar ready for the future).
- BCC Admin Matter on Dec 9, 2025 also included the approval of the acquisition for Parish Ranch Conservation area open space 83 acres that connects to the existing Red-Tail Ridge open space and is in collaboration with Boulder County. A map of the open spaces is available on the website (also see celebrations of 30 years tax).
- BCC Approved, on Dec 17, 2025 a 2 MW (1041)(14 acres) solar array in Berthoud called the USS Welch Solar Facility. Additional conditions of approval for this 1041 application regarded noise concerns for the adjacent equestrian center. During the November 19, 2025 meeting, the Planning Commission approved Legislative Code Amendments regarding criteria for EV charging station permitting for large plaza stations and water efficient/water wise landscaping for new and redevelopment projects.

- **Approval of Minutes –** Michael Jones motioned to approve the November 2025 minutes and Tasha Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Updates and Round Table**

- none

- **Discussion Items**

- **Debrief on the November Working Session -**

- Air Quality group - Regional air quality studies are ongoing (air toxics and ozone precursor origins). Larimer County historically did not have monitoring for VOCs and NOx that make ozone but ESAB recommendations to increase monitoring was approved with partnership of CSU and City of Fort Collins for this study. The group focused on summarizing this previous work and adding recent efforts in a one-page document for discussion at January worksession. CSU studies will have presentation updates in March. Recommendations could be included on the one-pager following the CSU presentation.

- Other than monitoring is there any other activity happening? The studies and modeling will likely have recommendations for priority sources, for which actions could be further identified, particularly at the State level. At natural gas well sites, capturing emission leaks and other technologies could be solutions to explore further. The non-attainment area NACs restrictions are helping to project impact of technology solutions but area sources (like O&G) are hard to capture effectiveness on non-attainment vs point source solutions.
 - 1041 group - Additions to 1041 were discussed: data centers (including light and noise), smart growth, transit feasibility, etc. (see November notes). Requested planning staff provide further guidance at the January worksession. Data center projects being considered by Xcel, Black Hills, etc. in combined energy source activities (solar+wind+data center+...) with a time pressure. Nuclear is also now coming to the forefront for consideration in WY now. Have other States included 1041 criteria for data centers? This is a question the group could research and drop research into the [ESAB shared drive](#). State legislation regarding data centers will likely be proposed during the spring 2026 session so was added as another topic to monitor.
 - The carbon capture/sequestration group did not meet during the November worksession as the champions were not present. This topic will be discussed during the January worksession.
 - Policy updating from the CC4CA policy to the Larimer County Environmental Stewardship Policy will be included as a new topic at the June/July worksession.
- Climate Smart Future Ready update- A presentation was provided to give a broad update on the progress of the Climate Smart Future Ready initiative. The 2025-2026 report will be finalized by the end of Q1 2026 and a more detailed update can be provided to the ESAB at that time. Federal changes have had a dampening effect on some of the action teams and over the long-term may have more impacts as funding is modified. ESAB members and organizations are invited to stay engaged or become engaged in the work of action teams and can contact Heidi directly for more dialogue on this matter. Greenhouse gas inventory updates, results of return on investment studies, and updated dashboard metrics will be brought before the ESAB in the future as these items do not have another specific action team providing feedback on those topics.
 - Officer Elections and Appreciation -
 - Tasha interested in Chair; Leo willing to be Vice-Chair - A motion to appoint Tasha Carr as Chair and Leo Grassens as Vice-Chair for the 2026 calendar year was made by Matthew Haag, Kathryn Inman seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.
 - **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – The January meeting will consist of a workshop to continue dialogue regarding workplan topics.
 - **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.