

Fort Collins Sustainable Energy Policy and Practices

The next step: *Energy Grade Disclosures in Advertising*

Fort Collins is in a good position to become a leader in sustainable energy. We have a Climate Action Plan that proposes a green house gas reduction goal of 80% by 2030 and includes viable action steps developed with the help of the world-renowned Rocky Mountain Institute. We have a City owned utility governed by “We The People”. And most importantly we have a forward-looking community that is focused on creating the best Fort Collins possible.

CforSE has been working to bring these factors together to accomplish tangible results that move Fort Collins in a more sustainable direction. Most recently our work has resulted in the adoption of an On-Bill Financing program: Fort Collins Utilities will pay for efficiency remodels to your home or business, which gets paid back through the savings that are accrued. This means that you can get free energy remodels (renters starting 2016)! For details call: **970-412-6295** or email **fred@cforse.org**

The On Bill Financing is very important to provide landlords the resources to pay for remodels. Landlords who don't occupy the building or pay the energy bill don't see the direct benefit of energy efficiency and so have little incentive to go through the effort of remodeling. If prospective tenants know how efficient buildings are, then they can compare buildings and factor efficiency into their rental decision. The only way to know the efficiency of a building is to do an audit (costs \$60) and disclose the results to potential renters/buyers.

CforSE is proposing that all building sale or lease advertising in Fort Collins include the following statement:

"A building with an energy grade of 'A' is as efficient as it can be and will have lower monthly energy bills relative to a similar building with a grade of 'F'. This building has an energy grade of ____."

Any building that has not had an audit will receive a grade of "F".

The more discriminating renter or buyer will look for a better energy grade, thus providing a market incentive for landlords/sellers to go through the effort of using the On Bill Financing and making the building energy efficient.

In addition to helping individuals save money and live in better housing, this will create jobs for efficiency contractors and keep money circulating in our community. Building efficiency is key to accomplishing our climate action goals. According to the Rocky Mountain Institute, in their Fort Collins report, by 2030 we can “REDUCE ENERGY USE IN BUILDINGS BY 31% COMPARED TO BUSINESS AS USUAL, SAVING THE COMMUNITY \$140 MILLION.” That's a pretty good reason to support energy efficiency even if you don't live in a house that needs efficiency remodels!

Community for Sustainable Energy
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