Climate Framework and Laws
Governor Hickenlooper’s Executive Order D 2017-015 “Supporting Colorado’s Clean Energy Transition” commits the state to climate action by setting the following goals: (1) reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by more than 26% from 2005 levels by 2025; (2) reduce CO₂ emissions from the electricity sector by 25% by 2025 and 35% by 2030 from 2012 levels; and (3) achieve electricity savings of two percent of total electricity sales per year by 2020.

Energy
Colorado has the nation’s first voter-passed Renewable Energy Standard, which requires investor owned-utilities to generate 30% of their electricity from renewable energy by 2020. The bipartisan 2010 Clean Air Clean Jobs Act requires investor-owned utilities to retire, retrofit, or repower certain coal plants and replace them with facilities fueled by natural gas or low/non-emitting energy sources. This act to date has led to the retirement of almost 750 megawatts of coal power generation capacity and an estimated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of approximately seven million short tons.

Energy Efficiency
The ACRE3 Program provides financial and technical assistance and education to help agricultural producers and processors develop and implement renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in three focus areas: agricultural hydropower, energy efficiency, and renewable heating and cooling. This is complemented by the Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program, which is projected to reach over 200 producers in the next two years and achieve over 5,250 megawatt hours of electricity savings and 524,000 gallons of water savings annually.

Transportation
Governor Hickenlooper’s Executive Order B 2018-006 “Maintaining Progress on Clean Vehicles” instructs the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to develop a rule (to be proposed in summer of 2018) to establish a state low emissions vehicle (LEV) program, which incorporates the requirements of California’s LEV Program. Colorado’s Alternative Fuel Vehicle Tax Credits, which offer $5000 credit for a light passenger vehicle, will expire in 2022.

Resilience
An updated version of the Colorado Climate Plan was released in January 2018 that provides a roadmap of strategies and recommendations state agencies can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase adaptation and resilience, and identify priority actions.

Climate Finance
The Energy Savings for Schools Program secures grants to help Colorado public schools finance projects to achieve energy and water savings, and since 2016 has led to seven million gallons of water savings, three million kilowatt hours of electrical savings, and 190,800 therms of gas savings. 20 counties have opted into Colorado C-PACE, which offers commercial property owners a unique way to finance 100% of energy and water improvements to their properties. The state also serves thousands of homes per year through the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program.

Short-Lived Climate Pollutants
The Air Pollution Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health is conducting a stakeholder process to develop a system of tracking and reducing greenhouse gas emissions state and will make available a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Tracking Rule by the end of summer 2018.

Natural and Working Lands
The Colorado Water Plan seeks to achieve 400,000 acre-feet of conservation savings by 2050, and the Water Plan Grant Fund will allocate $7 million in FY 2018.