Colorado advanced a number of transformative legislative efforts, including establishment of economy-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets of 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030, and 90% by 2050 below 2005 levels. Governor Polis also unveiled his administration’s Roadmap to 100% Renewable Energy by 2040 and Bold Climate Action outlining steps Colorado will take towards a clean energy future.

Climate Framework and Laws In May 2019, Governor Jared Polis signed new climate legislation into law, including the Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution (HB 19-1261), which set the state’s new GHG emissions-reduction targets. These actions advance the administration’s Roadmap to 100% Renewable Energy by 2040 and Bold Climate Action, which details the steps Colorado will take toward a clean energy future. Multiple state agencies are now initiating a study on how to achieve the climate goals set by HB 19-1261.

Power Generation Colorado has the nation’s first voter-passed renewable energy standard (RES), which requires investor-owned utilities to generate 30% of their electricity from renewable energy by 2020. In 2019, Governor Polis signed several pieces of legislation into law: the Community Solar Gardens Modernization Act, which expands the size of, and access to, community solar gardens; Sunset Public Utilities Commission (PUC), which aims to modernize the PUC through accounting for the social cost of carbon dioxide emissions, and establishing a pathway for the state’s largest utility to reduce emissions 80% by 2030; and Collect Long-Term Climate Change Data, requiring the Air Quality Control
Commission (AQCC) to collect and report on GHG emissions data and propose a first draft rule to begin to address the emissions by July 1, 2020. Just Transition from Coal-based Electrical Energy Economy (HB 19-1314) HB 19-1314 establishes a Just Transition Office tasked with delivering programming and funding to communities and workers impacted by a transition away from coal-fired electricity and to disproportionately impacted communities who have borne the costs of pollution.

**Energy Efficiency** Colorado’s energy efficiency resource standard is estimated to achieve 1.7% average incremental electric savings annually through 2028. In 2019, the state adopted appliance energy and water efficiency standards for new equipment sold in the state, which will be phased in over three years. The state’s updated Building Energy Codes requires local jurisdictions to adopt one of the three most-recent versions of the International Energy Conservation Code at a minimum when updating any other building code.

**Transportation** The Colorado Electric Vehicles Plan, released January 2018, sets a goal of 940,000 zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) on the road and 500 electric transit vehicles by 2030, laying out a strategy for building out Colorado’s electric vehicle (EV) fast-charging infrastructure and for leading by example through accelerating purchase of EVs for agency fleets. In November 2018, the state adopted low-emission vehicle standards for new light- and medium-duty vehicles. In August 2019, the AQCC approved state adoption of ZEV standards. Colorado has allocated approximately $14 million of Volkswagen Settlement funds to transit agencies to deploy electric buses and has awarded $10.3 million to build fast charging along five highway corridors. The state is now revising its Volkswagen Settlement fund plan to direct all remaining dollars to support zero-emission bus and truck adoption. The Charge Ahead Colorado program is on track to install 234 community-based EV charging stations by the end of the fiscal year. In 2019, the legislature passed five pieces of EV legislation, including the extension of EV tax credits through 2025, requiring utilities to develop plans to support widespread transportation electrification, and rulemaking authority for the state’s Department of Transportation (DOT) to design fees on transportation network companies to incentivize shared and electrified trips. The Colorado Energy Office is also conducting a feasibility study and stakeholder process to consider adoption of a low-carbon fuels standard.

**Resilience** The Colorado Resiliency and Recovery Office spearheads efforts to help communities increase resilience through implementation of the statewide Colorado Resiliency Framework, which guides Colorado’s ongoing support of local resilience planning and implementation efforts. Efforts include building resilience into disaster recovery, as well as taking proactive measures that minimize effects from changing conditions and threats. The January 2018 Colorado Climate Plan update provides a roadmap of specific strategies and recommendations state agencies can take to reduce GHG emissions and increase adaptation and resilience.

**Climate Finance** In December 2018, then-Governor John Hickenlooper joined the Colorado Energy Office and the Coalition for Green Capital to launch the Colorado Clean Energy Fund. In May 2019, Governor Polis signed House Bill 19-1272, which allows public housing authorities to participate in the state’s property-assessed clean energy (PACE) program, a way to finance clean energy projects.

**Short-Lived Climate Pollutants** Colorado was the first state to regulate methane emissions from oil and gas operations. In 2014, the AQCC approved regulatory updates that require infrared camera inspections or approved alternatives. The regulations reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by an estimated 64,000 tons annually. Colorado recently passed a comprehensive oil and gas reform package, Protect Public Welfare Oil and Gas Operations (SB 19-181), which directs the AQCC to promulgate rules to minimize emissions—including methane—from the oil and gas sector, and to require continuous emissions monitoring where feasible.

**Natural and Working Lands** The state’s Department of Agriculture is creating a state program to promote, coordinate, and monitor soil health activities and measure benefits for air quality, agricultural production, water quality and quantity, GHG reduction, watershed stability, and resistance to drought, as well as implementing a voluntary program that pays agricultural producers who demonstrate implementation of practices that offset corporate carbon emissions.