Our Mission

350 Colorado is working locally to help build the global grassroots movement to solve the climate crisis and transition to a sustainable future.

JOIN US HERE IN COLORADO!
WE ARE AN UNSTOPPABLE MOVEMENT OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE, WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A FOSSIL-FREE FUTURE POWERED BY 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY.

From floods to fires, Colorado is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. We have the solutions to solve this crisis, but need your help to overpower fossil fuel interests.
Climate changed - Hurricane Katrina, 2005
No place is safe from the climate crisis:

Colorado: wildfires, floods, droughts, pine-beetle epidemic, decreased snowpack, record temps…

*Fourmile Canyon Fire 2010

September, 2013 Flood

Photos courtesy of Daily Camera
The 20 worst wildfires in CO have occurred since 2000.

Cameron Peak Fire becomes largest wildfire in Colorado history, growing more than 20,000 acres in a day

For first time in 8 years, 100% of Colorado is under drought or abnormally dry conditions

Federal designation is consistent with wider transformation of Southwest amid climate change
CO2, Methane and Other Greenhouse Gases Trap Heat & Raise the Global Temperature

Temperature follows CO2 concentrations throughout history (ice core data)

Years ago: 600,000 500,000 400,000 300,000 200,000 100,000 0

Parts per Million CO2

CO2 in PPM

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE

Where we'll be mid-century if we keep this up

- May, 2021: 419 ppm
- March, 2015: 400 ppm

EARLY 1900S

LAST ICE AGE

2050: 550 ppm? More?

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE

CO2 in PPM

WE'RE HERE
WE NEED TO GET BELOW: 350 ppm

CO2 in the atmosphere (Annual Average)

CO2, Methane and Other Greenhouse Gases

years ago

Parts per Million CO2

CO2 in PPM

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE

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GLOBAL TEMPERATURE

CO2 in PPM

WE'RE HERE
WE NEED TO GET BELOW: 350 ppm

CO2 in the atmosphere (Annual Average)
GHGs will continue to accumulate in the atmosphere and global temps increase as long as more fossil fuels are produced and burned.

The Carbon ‘Bathtub’ and its Components

**Sources of Carbon = “Faucet”**
- Fossil fuel combustion
- Deforestation

**Sinks of Carbon = “Drain”**
- Land uptake
- Ocean uptake

Right now, size of “faucet” is much larger than “drain.”

As global temperature increases, size of “drain” decreases.
The Dec. ‘15 climate deal in Paris included an agreement to limit global warming to 1.5-2 degrees C.

Oil Change International’s “The Sky’s Limit” report in Sept. 2016 said to stay below 2 degrees C, no new fossil fuels could be brought online and no more than 80% of fossil fuels currently under development or production could be burned.
IPCC Technical Summary 2018: Net neutral GHG emissions by ~2037 needed for a 66% chance of keeping global temperatures below 1.5°C (Now, analyses say 100% reduction by 2037 needed for 1.5°C & to return to 350ppm by ~2100)
Glasgow COP 26 Underway: We are NOT on track for 1.5-2C and Must Close the Emissions Gap

Climate change: UN emissions gap report a 'thundering wake-up call'

By Matt McGrath
Environment correspondent

26 October | Comments

UNEP and Stockholme Institute Production Gap Report found that countries of the world plan on producing 120% more fossil fuels by 2030 than can be burned if we want to limit warming to 1.5 degrees celsius.

That means that unrestrained fossil fuel production puts us at risk of locking in double the amount of warming that the Paris Agreement establishes as a goal.

The window to limit warming to 1.5C is fast closing, and we must rapidly reduce fossil fuel production if we’re to have a chance at reaching this target.
To Address the Emissions Gap, We Must Address Fossil Fuel Production Gap. We Must Rapidly Reduce Production to Limit Global Temp Rise to 1.5C.

Climate change, like nuclear weapons, is a major global threat. Bold and immediate action is needed to address the climate emergency.

The main cause of the climate emergency is fossil fuels. According to the latest IPCC report, coal, oil and gas are responsible for 86% of all carbon dioxide emissions in the past decade.

Phasing out fossil fuel production, and fast-tracking progress towards safer and more cost-effective alternatives, will require unprecedented international cooperation in three main areas – non-proliferation, global disarmament and a peaceful, just transition.
Colorado’s Emissions Gap:
HB19-1261 Set Meaningful Goals, but CO is Not On Track to Achieve Them

“Any way you look at EDF’s updated analysis, Colorado’s current trajectory falls significantly short of fulfilling its climate commitments, absent more ambitious policy action to reduce emissions.

Other analyses from other organizations and the state reach a consistent conclusion.

While projections vary based on assumptions that go into the analysis, the takeaway is the same: Colorado’s current policies are not enough to meet its quickly approaching deadlines in 2025 and 2030.” *

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Table 1: Net Emissions Gaps in Colorado, 2025

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Defense Fund A</td>
<td>123.8</td>
<td>91.6</td>
<td>117.4</td>
<td>25.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>(GHG Inventory baseline)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Defense Fund B</td>
<td>137.3</td>
<td>101.6</td>
<td>119.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Roadmap baseline)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO Roadmap (Reference Scenario)</td>
<td>137.3</td>
<td>101.6</td>
<td>132.8</td>
<td>31.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2019 Action Scenario)</td>
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<td>M.J. Bradley &amp; Associates</td>
<td>123.8</td>
<td>91.6</td>
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<td>NRDC/Sierra Club</td>
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*Source: EDF
Measuring the true impact of Colorado’s climate delay:
Minding the emissions gap (Part 2)
By Katie Schneer / Published: January 6, 2021

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1 Assumes Rhodium Group’s V-shaped economic recovery scenario. 2 Gross emissions adjusted to net emissions. 3 In these analyses, emissions are estimated using the IPCC Fifth Assessment’s 100-year Global Warming Potential (GWP) values instead of AR4 values. See here for full methodology.
Colorado’s Emissions Gap: It’s Much Worse Than You Thought
The 500 Pound Gorilla - CO’s Oil and Gas Exports

Comparing 2019 Emissions from Exported O&G to Total Statewide Emissions

Colorado’s unfettered oil and gas permitting would put us double the 1.5 degrees target

- Colorado is complicit in the global ‘production gap’ that puts us at risk of doubling the amount of warming required by 1.5 degrees celsius.
- Despite the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees celsius that our state’s foundational climate law HB19-1261 explicitly mentions, our state’s permitting policy is in stark contradiction with this goal.
- Our state has embraced a policy of unrestrained permitting for oil and gas operations. The COGCC hasn’t denied a single operating permit for oil and gas extraction.
- Between when Polis was elected and the end of August 2021, the COGCC has granted operating permits for 4,332 new wells.

1. Crude Oil Production: https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_crd_crpdn_adc_mbbl_a.htm
We Must Take Responsibility for Oil and Gas Produced in CO: The Life-cycle Emissions are a HUGE Overlooked Contributor to the Climate Crisis

Comparing 2019 Emissions from Exported O&G to Total Statewide Emissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source / Organization</th>
<th>Explanation of Figure</th>
<th>Volume of Emissions (MMT CO2e)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report, Air Pollution Control Division</td>
<td>Volume of emissions from the end use of Colorado’s oil and gas produced in 2019.</td>
<td>184.3 MMT CO2e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350 Colorado</td>
<td>Volume of emissions from the end use of Colorado’s oil and gas produced and exported in 2019</td>
<td>155.3 MMT CO2e</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report, Air Pollution Control Division</td>
<td>Volume of emissions from all “statewide” sources in 2019</td>
<td>127.8 MMT CO2e</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- This is a huge problem for the climate. The end-use emissions from the oil and gas produced in CO is larger than all other categories of emissions combined.
- This isn’t surprising - Colorado is the 5th largest producer of oil and the 7th largest producer of natural gas in the United States.
- While Colorado has pledged to reduce its consumption of fossil fuels, we’re charging full steam ahead with the production of fossil fuels that when combusted, are a larger source of emissions than all other sectors combined.
Environmental Justice Implications of Unrestrained Fossil Fuel Production

CO's policy of unrestrained permitting for oil and gas production is also a huge environmental justice problem, with the majority of the impacts of our continued reliance on fossil fuel production falling on low-income communities of color.

Denver metro region has among the worst air quality in the nation: F-grade (ALA), in serious/severe nonattainment for federal ozone standards along the Front Range. On Aug. 7, 2021, Denver area suffered the worst air quality in the world.

40-50% of Front Range ozone precursors (VOCs) from oil and gas development.*

Colorado's low-income communities and communities of color are forced to bear the disproportionate burden of not only air and water pollution from fracking, but from many other industrial sources.

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* 'Source Signature of VOCs from Oil and Gas Operations in NE CO'
* 'Scientists Pinpoint Sources of Front Range Ozone'

Parents and educators at Greeley school petition governor to shut down nearby oil and gas wells

State health officials say emissions near Bella Romero Academy are below levels that cause health impacts

Parents and educators from the Bella Romero Academy in Greeley sent a petition to Gov. Jared Polis this week demanding the shutdown of oil and gas wells near the school that they say are exposing students to the cancer-causing chemical benzene.

The wells have been a subject of controversy, especially since an elevated benzene level was detected in the air near the academy's two campuses in 2019.

Two studies have come out since: One from climate-focused nonprofit organization 350 Colorado in February, which raised concerns about emissions, and another from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in June, which found emissions to be below levels that cause health impacts.
The Solution: A Just Transition Phase Out of Fossil Fuel Production by 2030

- That’s why 350 Colorado and over 60 allied organizations statewide are calling for a phase out of fossil fuel production in Colorado by 2030, combined with policies that ensure a just transition for workers and communities.
- A production phase out could be administered by instituting limits on permitting for new oil and gas development through the COGCC and the AQCC.
- We believe that these agencies have the legal authority to begin limiting permitting now and that legal challenges to limiting production would fail.
- Ultimately, this is what Colorado needs to do if we are to truly be a climate leader.
- By instituting limits on production, we would follow in the footsteps of states and countries that are truly doing what is required to limit warming to 1.5 degrees celsius, including New York, California, New Zealand, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Costa Rica etc.
- Often when we bring this idea to our elected and appointed officials, they say ‘we can’t possibly’ transition to an economy that isn’t dependent on fossil fuel production. It would be too difficult, too disruptive. But it’s far past time that we dispel this myth, which is destroying our chances of a liveable future climate on Earth.
- The truth is that we can transition off of a dependence on fossil fuel production and build a sustainable economy that takes care of everyone. Not only is this possible, but it’s necessary if we want to preserve life as we know it.
Colorado Can Be a Climate Leader:

- **Take responsibility for CO's massive exported oil and gas emissions** - set policy to reduce these emissions, because GHG emissions harm Coloradans and our global climate wherever they are ultimately burned.

- **Leadership is needed from the Polis Administration for a fossil fuel production phase out by 2030**, administered by instituting limits on permitting for new oil and gas development through the COGCC and the AQCC. (~10% reduction in permitting per year + closure of existing wells, starting with those within 2000’ of schools and homes)

- **Expand the Just Transition Office to support oil and gas workers.** This office, created by 2019 Legislation, currently only serves coal workers. A Deloitte study last fall found that 70% of the 107,000 oil & gas jobs lost nationwide between March and August 2020 may not return.

- **Secure funding for worker retraining programs**, such as to plug and remediate Colorado's 80K+ oil and gas wells, a growing number of which are orphaned and abandoned by bankruptcies, leaving CO taxpayers facing an $8.2B liability (according to Carbon Tracker).

- **Utilize federal funding, or institute a Climate Mitigation Fund** as part of the current Financial Assurance Rulemaking at the COGCC. Bonding of at least $280K per well to secure well closures is backed by data.

- **Assist the most impacted communities** - those that are most dependent on tax revenue from fossil fuel extraction and production and communities most directly impacted by the pollution.

Get involved! Join these efforts at **www.350colorado.org**!