



Mayoral & City Council 2023 Election Questionnaire

Dear Candidate,

We are the Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & the Environment and seek to learn your ideas specific to our mission of educating the public & policy makers of the harms of Oil & Gas (O&G) development. We ask that you please provide your responses by October 5th, so that we may share them with our member list and other interested voters. We may or may not choose to endorse a candidate. Thank you for taking the time to address these important public health & safety issues. **(If you feel a simple yes or no response is insufficient to answer any question, we encourage you to add your comments and ideas.)**

SB19-181 substantially revised Colorado's law governing (O&G) development establishing a clear priority of protecting public health, safety, the environment and wildlife resources. SB19-181 also enabled significant local government authority for regulating O&G development with a number of local governments having undertaken & established local regulations that increase protections of public health, safety, the environment and wildlife resources beyond what the State of Colorado feels is protective enough.

1. The City of Fort Collins is currently undergoing a rewrite of its O&G regulations with the next segment to be discussed & written being the operational standards. Operational standards include important regulations encompassing leak detection & repair (LDAR), air quality monitoring, financial assurance, water usage and Fort Collins & Larimer County's joint O&G inspection program.
 - a. What ideas do you have for these operational standards that would be an improvement and more protective of public health & safety?
While talking with people who were educated in this area, one thing I heard over and over again was that O&G companies should be required to capture the residue gases that often are allowed to escape into our atmosphere and continue to create more dangers to all of us. Also, while it is important to improve our rules, it is imperative that our rules which are designed to protect our public health & safety be enforced.
 - b. Do you support having a collaborative City and Larimer County inspection and enforcement team that conducts regular inspection and monitoring of O&G facilities, with the ability to fine and penalize non-compliant O&G operators for violations at their facilities?
 - i. Should local taxpayers or O&G operators pay for these inspections?

I believe that O&G operators should pay for these inspections, but I also believe that if *only* the O&G operators pay, there will be a tendency for the inspections to be bogus. If taxpayers contribute—even if only a small percentage—to these inspections, I think the O&G operators will have to be more transparent and obligated to be sure that any problems found during inspections be addressed.

- c. Full cost bonding requires O&G operators to post financial assurance equal to the costs of plugging, abandoning and reclaiming the O&G site once activities have been completed. Do you support full cost bonding requirements for all new O&G facilities?
Yes
 - d. Do you support monitoring and measuring actual water usage by O&G facilities, rather than relying on estimates provided by operators? **Yes**
 - i. Do you support water provisions in the City’s regulations so that O&G operators are strongly encouraged or required to recycle & reuse their produced water?
Yes, but I would prefer that they be *required* to recycle and reuse their produced water.
2. The American Lung Association consistently gives Fort Collins an F-grade regarding air quality with the most recent 2023 report (link below) listing us as having the 15th worst air quality of over 200 American cities. Fort Collins has been moving down the most polluted list with more & more dangerous air quality. NCAR’s FRAPPÉ study found conclusively that O&G emissions are the major driver of unhealthy air quality in the northern Front Range area.
<https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/most-polluted-cities>
- a. Do you support 24/7 air quality monitoring and real-time data reporting at O&G sites and facilities within the City’s jurisdiction including the growth management area, to be paid for by the O&G operator?
Yes, but again, I believe that other stakeholders besides the O&G companies should be involved in this monitoring. If they only monitor themselves, I’m fairly certain that we will end up with very different reports than if other entities are involved.
 - b. Do you support 24/7 air quality monitoring and real-time data reporting including signature O&G pollutants for addressing regional air pollution affecting Fort Collins?
Yes, and beyond reporting, there should be a time requirement in which the companies bring pollution levels to acceptable levels and not be allowed to continue operations until levels have been adequately reduced.
 - c. What other idea(s) do you have to address Fort Collins’s dangerous air quality?
We need to find better transportation options and different housing options that will actually help improve our air quality. Currently, it seems that there is a lot of talk but little actual action to address our air quality issues in and around Fort Collins.
3. Have you received or will you accept campaign contributions from companies whose primary business is the development of fossil fuels? **No**

4. What other idea(s) do you have that could improve environmental protections and sustainability in Fort Collins?
 - a. How would these lead to improvement(s) in public health, safety, and the lives of Fort Collins residents?

Some people I have spoken with have talked about the 30-by-30 plan, which aims to save 30% of our natural environments by 2030. It focuses on the biodiversity which is threatened by our current lifestyles, and seeks ways to ensure that we protect our biodiversity before more damage is done. I feel that this 30-by-30 plan is definitely something that needs to be considered in and around Fort Collins in order to improve our environmental protections and sustainability in Fort Collins--including urban natural environments.

5. What stewardship, environmental or sustainability practices have you implemented in your life that you feel others should consider enacting?
 - a. Why & what difference(s) has it/they made?

When I was in high school in the late 1970s, I chose not to drive as I had seen the terrible brown cloud over Denver that had been caused, in part, by our dependence on automobiles. When my friends asked how I would survive without a car, I replied that in Europe, Asia, and some coastal cities in the USA, many people were living without cars because there was ample public transit. I said that I imagined people in Colorado would figure out soon that this was something we needed to do. I had no idea that we would be in our current situation in 2023.

Based on my 5 years living and working in Japan, my 15 months living and working in Thailand, and my many conversations with people from large and small cities all over the world, I have been able to get a lot of ideas about how we might implement workable solutions to our transportation/sustainability practices.

Over the years, I have also learned how harmful our factory-farm focused animal agriculture is to our environment, and this was one reason why I decided to eat plant-based diet several years ago. I believe that small business people as well as large corporations see that our factory-farming models cannot be sustained, and this is why so many businesses are beginning to create and market non-animal-based food products.

Finally, over the past 3 ½ years, I have been a regular volunteer at Vindeket Foods, a local food-rescue non-profit organization aimed at keeping our good food out of the landfill and getting our foods that are no longer suitable for human consumption into the hands of local farmers. Too few people are aware that approximately 40% of the food that is produced for consumption in the USA ends up in our landfills, which is another big threat to our environment.

I don't expect everybody to give up their cars, eat only plant-based diets, or volunteer at/donate to Vindeket. However, if we are given more transportation and food options, I

hope that more people will find that these options make their lives easier and will choose to change the way they consume while also improving our natural environments.

6. Do you support Fort Collins in collaboration with other Front Range communities taking legal action against polluters responsible for emissions that harm Fort Collins & other Front Range communities' air quality and endanger public health & safety? **Yes**

Respectfully,

The Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & the Environment