

PREPARING FOR THE “NEW NORMAL” DROUGHT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND OUR WATER FUTURE



Mayor Suzanne Jones
City of Boulder, Colorado

WaterNow Alliance
Annual Summit
APRIL 20-21, BOULDER, CO



2002 Drought
Colorado Statewide

Flooding
September 2013
Boulder, CO



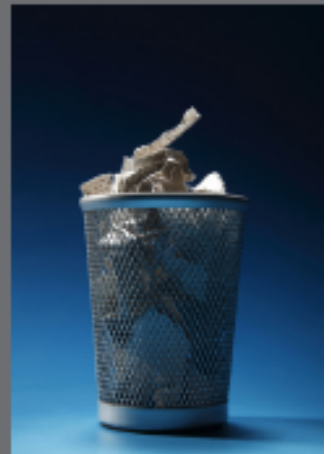


Cold Springs Fire
West of Boulder, CO
July 2016



BOULDER'S CLIMATE COMMITMENT

Rising to the climate challenge, powering a vibrant future.



Climate Action At a Glance—Our Goals

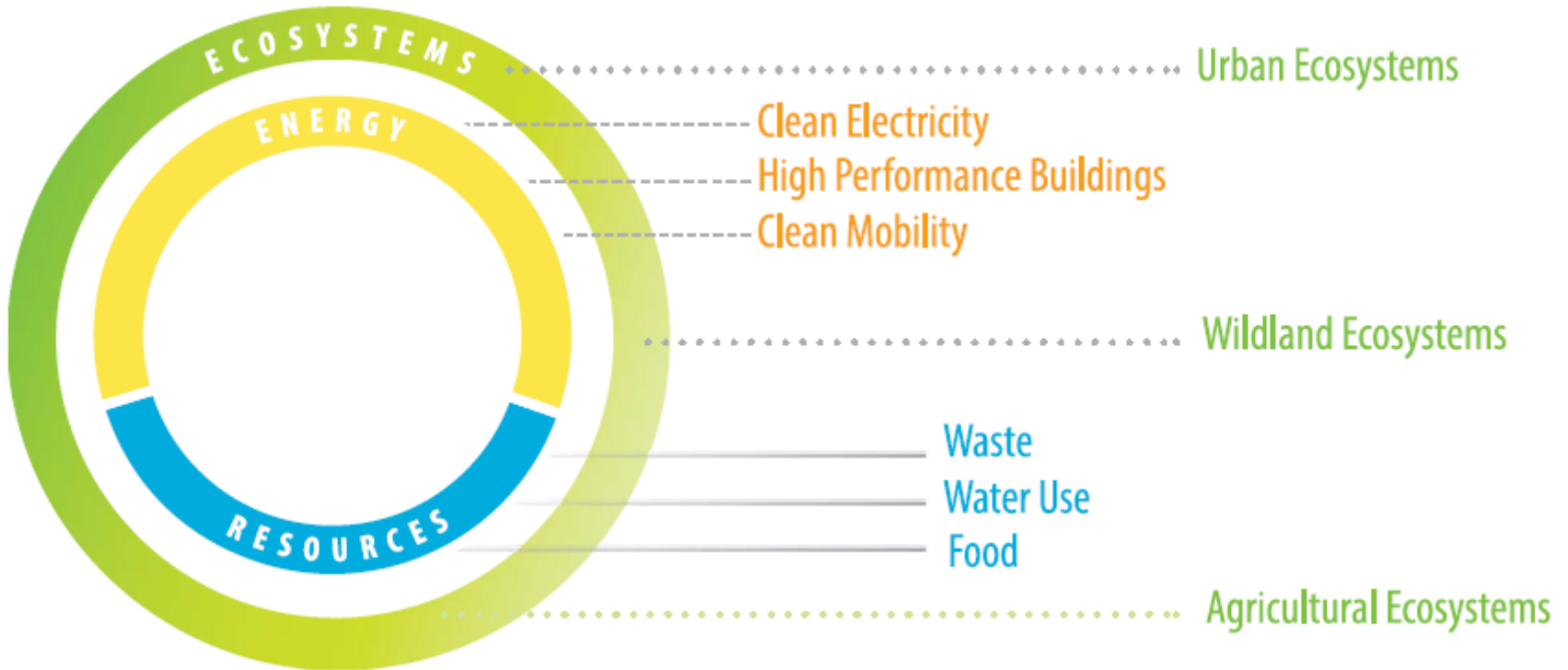
A photograph showing two construction workers in white hard hats and safety vests working on a large array of solar panels. The panels are mounted on a roof, and the background features a clear blue sky with scattered clouds and a mountain range.

80% COMMUNITY EMISSIONS REDUCTION BY 2050

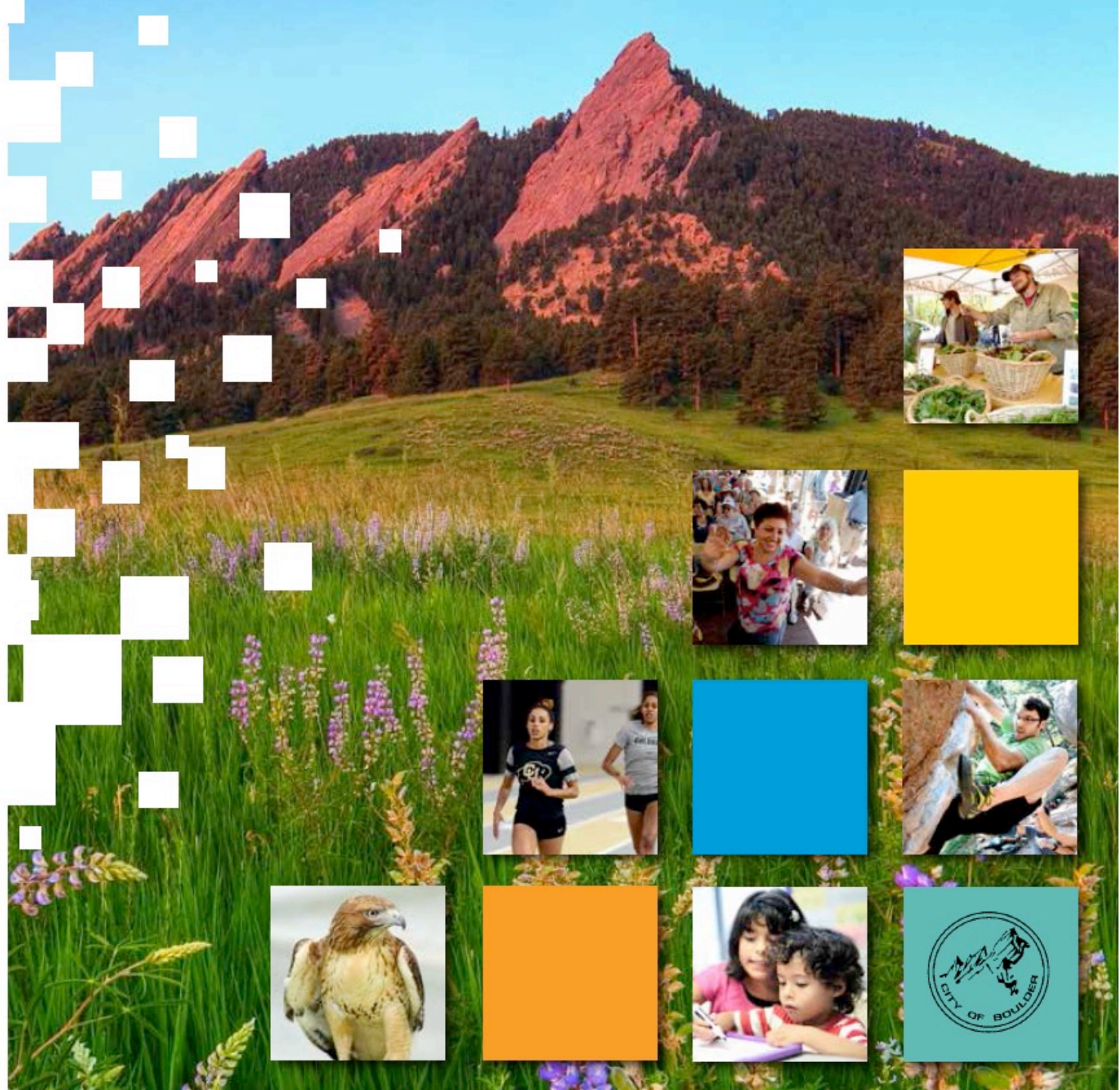
100% COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2030

80% CITY EMISSIONS REDUCTION BY 2030

Climate Action At a Glance—What We're Doing



CITY OF BOULDER RESILIENCE STRATEGY



PIONEERED BY THE
ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

100



RESILIENT

CITIES

Action 3.2 Foster Climate Readiness

Build climate preparedness capacity across the city organization.

Most of the city's climate risk is tied to larger scale changes in the global and regional climate, and the community's understanding of those impacts at the local scale is inconsistent. This is in part because of the complexities of Boulder's local topography, but also because the city currently uses a wide variety of models, methods and approaches to characterize potential "futures." In order to efficiently and effectively plan for Boulder's future climate impacts, **the city will systematize the use of climate information across all departments and city functions in a way that is scientifically robust yet retains appropriate flexibility.**



CLIMATE LEADERS PROGRAM

The City of Boulder will pilot a program to **train department leaders** from Human Resources and Finance to Utilities and Parks and Recreation, in the science of climate change so that everyday decisions across the organization can be informed by a consistent foundation of knowledge and understanding.

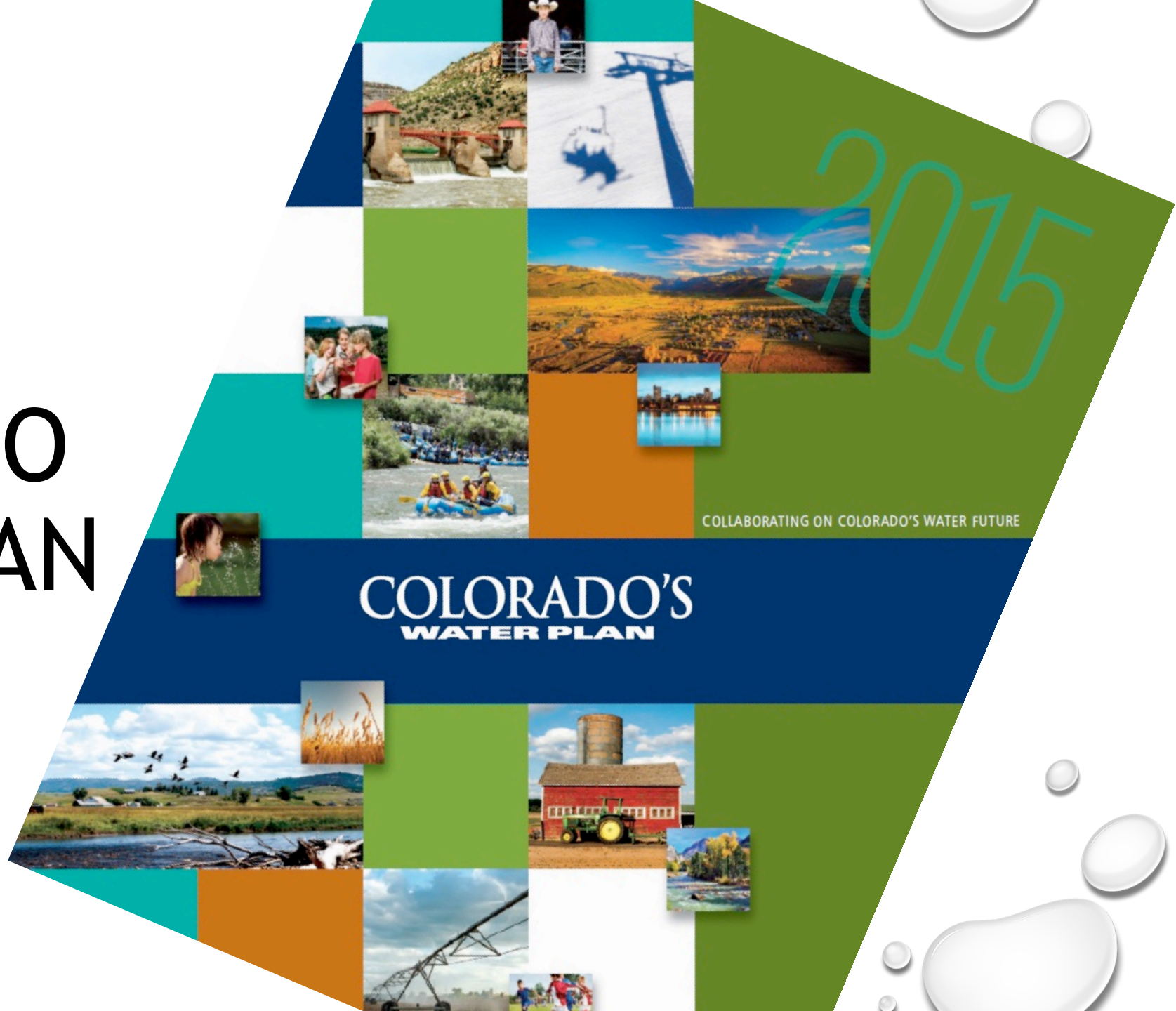
SCENARIO PLANNING

We must prepare to accommodate a much wider range of possible future environmental, social and economic conditions than in the past. Part of the solution is to design a scenario-based process for planning that allows us to test programs, actions and investments against different plausible potential future conditions and **prioritize actions that represent "no or low regrets" strategies.** "No or low regrets" strategies are those that are sound investments and adaptations regardless of the severity of future change.

By investing in the core capacity of city staff to understand climate science and impacts, and by developing flexible mechanisms to plan for a range of potential climate impacts, Boulder is creating the adaptive governance structures necessary to address the wide-ranging effects that climate change will have on all functions of government.



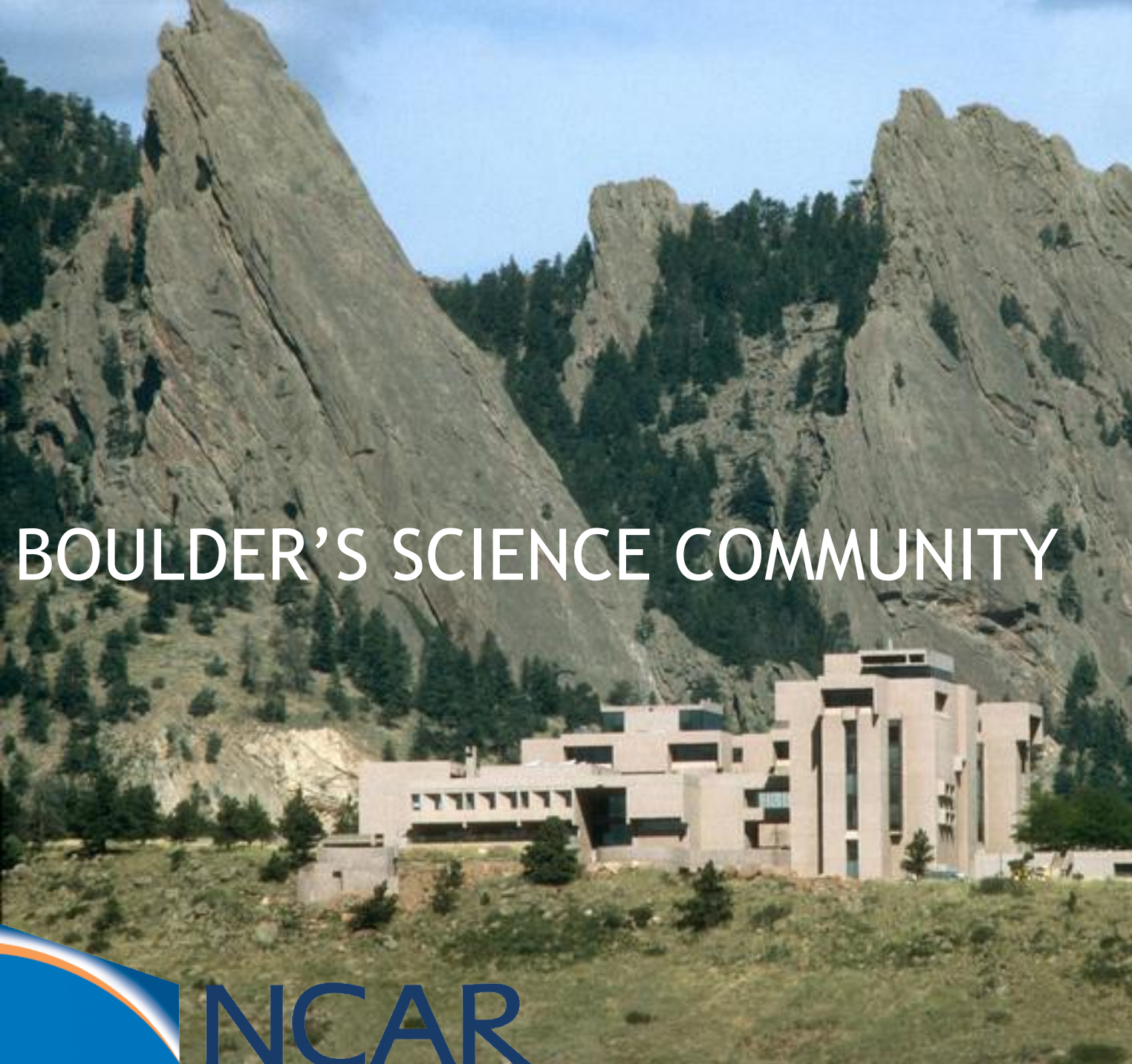
COLORADO WATER PLAN



2015

COLLABORATING ON COLORADO'S WATER FUTURE

COLORADO'S
WATER PLAN



BOULDER'S SCIENCE COMMUNITY

 NCAR

 NIST

BOULDER'S SCIENCE COMMUNITY

