Climate Risk Mapping Tool: Colette's Story

Introduction:

This interview is a combination of Colette's responses to a 2023 extreme heat survey and 2024 follow-up conversation to better understand her experiences with extreme heat and poor air quality.

Colette has lived in an all-electric powered single-family residence in Longmont for the past 15 years.

What is your experience with heat and wildfire during the summer?

The past five years have been hotter. It can be very difficult to sleep especially if there are wildfires and I have to close up all of the windows in the house for the evening. I have asthma and can easily tell when the air quality is bad.

How has heat impacted your ability to go outside?

Walking outside in the summer can be difficult if I am unable to find shade as extreme temperatures can be very dangerous for me. In the winter I can walk to the King Soopers on North Main but cannot in the summer. I've had to buy a treadmill so I can exercise inside on hot days.

Do you think that people who live on your street and in your neighborhood are more or less able to cope with extreme heat compared to the rest of Longmont?

I live on a small block of 11 houses with mostly older neighbors. I see them outside either earlier or later in the day during the summer compared to younger folks who are active throughout the day. On hot days, the sidewalks are empty until evening.

Which of the following neighborhood-scale cooling solutions do you think would be effective?

More trees and shade structures would be helpful, especially at the dog park. Providing home cooling support would be helpful because my A/C is no longer working and the cost to repair it is too high.

Anything else that you'd like to share?

I am concerned if all-electric powered homes becomes a code requirement that it will put a strain on the electric grid and impact reliability. I'm also concerned about battery end of life and recycling those batteries. I have also had several mature trees die because of stress related heat.