

6/6/2022

RESOLUTION NO. M-_____

A RESOLUTION declaring climate action as a City priority and adopting municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas reduction goals; directing the City Manager to formulate a Climate Action Plan to achieve those goals; and providing agency-wide guidance on the incorporation of climate action into plans, programs, policies, and budgets.

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver is committed to combating climate change through evolving municipal operations, strategic infrastructure investments that transform our economy, addressing the inequitable impacts of climate change on historically marginalized communities, and supporting community-based climate leadership to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040; and

WHEREAS, impacts of climate change are already being experienced by Vancouver residents and business owners in the form of extreme weather events, such as increased wildfires and the 2021 heat dome event, and scientists project those impacts to only grow more severe and far-reaching in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, low-income residents, community members of color, indigenous people, senior citizens, houseless individuals, persons with health concerns, young people, and other traditionally marginalized communities disproportionately suffer detriment to their health and quality of life from climate-related impacts and risk; and

WHEREAS, changing climate threatens the special ecosystems, habitats, natural systems, and native species of our local environment; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated¹ that human-caused emissions are the greatest driver of the climate change we are experiencing today, that we need to limit the average global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels² to prevent the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, and that we as a species need to pursue all strategies to achieve a rapid drop in carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, local governments have a core responsibility for upholding public health, safety, and welfare, mitigating and preparing for disasters, protecting and preserving natural systems, and supporting economic development; and

WHEREAS, Council acknowledges that making strategic and needed investments in local infrastructure—before regulations or the market force us to adapt—will allow the City to develop and support new green industries and job opportunities locally to serve the needs of the community, the region, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Council recognizes that young people will inherit the legacy of the climate actions that we take today and deserve a voice in shaping those actions;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. The City acknowledges that human-caused climate impacts threaten the future of our community and natural ecosystems, as well as those of our region, state, nation, and

¹ IPCC, 2018: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. In Press.

² The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C uses the reference period 1850–1900 to represent pre-industrial temperature.

the world, and the City Council hereby declares that efforts to mitigate local contributions to climate change and develop adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts are a citywide priority.

Section 2. The City Council hereby sets forth the following goals: an overall Climate Action goal of an 80% reduction in 2007 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by municipal operations by 2025; an 80% reduction in 2007 GHG emissions by the Vancouver community by 2030; and the achievement of carbon neutrality by both municipal operations and the Vancouver community by 2040.

Section 3. The Council directs the City Manager to complete a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2022 to develop a list of the highest impact, systemic strategies in the areas of buildings and energy use, land use, transportation, natural systems, solid waste, water, and wastewater, and government operations, to shift Vancouver toward carbon neutrality and increased community resilience.

Section 4. To demonstrate the City's commitment to addressing the goals of this climate priority resolution, to jumpstart GHG emissions reductions from municipal sources, and to lay the groundwork for the implementation of the full CAP, the City Council adopts the Early Action Package (EAP) consisting of 13 climate actions which have broad support across the community and are within the City's purview to implement; a copy of the EAP is attached hereto as Attachment "A" and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 5. The City shall monitor progress towards its climate goals by conducting regular updates of its GHG inventory every four years and using the updated GHG inventory to re-assess the CAP for opportunities to maximize emission reductions, improve equitable outcomes, evaluate new technologies, leverage new funding opportunities, or achieve other community

benefits; this proscribed timeline of regular updates to both its GHG inventory and CAP does not prevent the City, in the interim period between updates of the GHG inventory and CAP, to explore and pursue actions that advance climate goals but which are not currently and explicitly defined in the CAP; and the City will work with community partners to evaluate shared progress, refining strategies through a transparent, collaborative process.

Section 6. The City, in the context of the overall biennial budget and financial policies, will identify sustainable funding mechanisms for climate actions, including but not limited to building energy efficiency investments, developing low-carbon transportation systems, building green infrastructure, and providing community education and workforce development programs.

Section 7. The City commits to equity and social justice playing an integral role in the initial CAP development and will work collaboratively with the community to ensure that the CAP is equitably implemented and responsive to environmental justice concerns. The City further commits to providing meaningful opportunities for involvement in the implementation of the CAP, particularly involving communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change and young people who will inherit the legacy of our climate action.

Section 8. The City will support the development of climate leaders within the community by fostering opportunities for young people and those from the most vulnerable communities to guide the equitable implementation of the CAP, and to propose, shape, and implement new climate change solutions of their own.

Section 9. The City, in the context of an overall economic development strategy, will seek to develop a green economy and create a local base of living-wage jobs by proactively adopting new technology, fostering a regulatory environment conducive to renewable energy generation and distribution facilities, attracting and maintaining low-carbon and carbon-neutral

industries, and supporting job training and apprenticeship programs to provide a just transition for the workforce into the next generation of jobs in sustainable manufacturing, construction, operations maintenance, research, and engineering.

Section 10. The City shall integrate climate action into foundational, long-range planning efforts, such as the Comprehensive Plan and all of its elements and the Strategic Plan, to ensure that all conversations about the future of Vancouver reflect, and support these climate goals; and shall consider alignment with and support of these climate goals in selecting preferred alternatives for large-scale infrastructure projects and developments, and in the context of overall community objectives shall use City investments to advance approaches that achieve significant, long-term GHG reductions.

Section 11. The City Council directs the City Manager to consider this climate priority resolution in managing across all departments within the context of overall community priorities with shared seriousness, responsibility, and urgency for action; to develop and adopt policies and budgetary actions that support the City's stated climate goals; to address climate action in the development of all plans, programs, projects, and initiatives; to identify and prioritize strategies that advance the City's stated climate goals; to specify how new or updated programs, services, projects, and plans will be grounded in climate change mitigation and resilience; and to demonstrate departmental contributions to advancing the City's stated climate goals.

Section 12. Findings. The findings set forth above, as well as the Early Action Package, which is incorporated herein by reference, are adopted as findings supporting the action of the City Council in adopting this resolution.

INTRODUCED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Vancouver City
Council this ___ day of June, 2022.

Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Jonathan Young, City Attorney