

12/05/2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION adopting the Climate Action Framework as the City of Vancouver’s framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas reduction goals, and directing the City Manager to put resources toward its implementation.

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 community members 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 people community members of color, indigenous people, senior citizens, individuals experiencing homelessness, persons with health concerns, young people, and other traditionally marginalized communities disproportionately suffer detrimental effects 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; and

WHEREAS, Council on June 6, 2022, adopted a Climate Priority Resolution, thus adopting the following leading-edge greenhouse gas reduction goals (relative to the benchmark year of 2007):

- an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by municipal operations by 2025;
- an 80% reduction in GHG emissions by the Vancouver community by 2030; and
- carbon neutrality by both municipal operations and the Vancouver community by 2040.

WHEREAS, the intent of the Climate Action Framework is to provide policy direction on

the work necessary to move towards the achievement of the goals established by the Climate Priority Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. The Council hereby adopts the Climate Action Framework and directs the City Manager to put resources towards its implementation.

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.

INTRODUCED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Vancouver City Council this 5th day of December 2022.

Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Jonathan Young, City Attorney