

6/6/2022

**RESOLUTION NO. M-4171**

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

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WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated<sup>1</sup> 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 levels<sup>2</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

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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

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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

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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 6th day of June, 2022.

DocuSigned by:

*Anne McEneny-Ogle*

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Anne McEneny-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

*Natasha Ramras*

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Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

DocuSigned by:

*Jonathan Young*

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Jonathan Young, City Attorney

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## Attachment A

### City of Vancouver Climate Action Plan

#### Early Action Package

The City of Vancouver is developing a Climate Action Plan, with plans to begin implementation in 2022-2023. To date, public, stakeholder, and staff input and best practices and current research in climate planning have been used to develop a menu of the most impactful, systemic strategies to shift Vancouver toward carbon neutrality and increased community resilience.

The engagement to date, along with a review of current City plans and programs, Washington state policy, and best practices of peer cities, suggested early actions that the City could implement now to jumpstart progress toward a more sustainable future. These actions were previewed at the July 26, 2021 City Council meeting.

Early actions were determined using the following criteria:

- ▶ Necessary changes to come into alignment with Washington State building, energy, and other sustainability-related standards.
- ▶ Lays a foundation for future implementation.
- ▶ Balances necessary changes and foundational action with actions that result in near-term (i.e., next 1-2 years) emissions reductions.
- ▶ No engagement is needed *or* we have already heard strong community and stakeholder support.
- ▶ A focus on municipal actions to demonstrate City leadership.
- ▶ Fits local context.
- ▶ Key opportunities presented by the most recent state legislative session.

The following sources to develop early actions:

- ▶ City of Vancouver staff feedback.
- ▶ Stakeholder feedback from community roundtables (e.g., Clark PUD, Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE), Northwest Natural (NWN), League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)).
- ▶ Washington policies related to climate change and sustainability.
- ▶ Climate action plans from peer cities (e.g., Redmond (WA), Everett (WA), and Providence (RI)).

## Summary of Early Actions

The table below summarizes the 13 actions recommended for early adoption and implementation by the City of Vancouver. The following pages provide additional detail on the actions.

Early Implementation Actions	Department Lead
<b>Buildings &amp; Energy</b>	
1. Develop a comprehensive green building policy for City-owned and occupied buildings and the private sector that is consistent with or exceeds state standards.	Community Development
2. Expand energy and water conservation retrofits and operational improvements to all municipal buildings and operations, beginning with retrofits that staff have already identified as feasible and promising investments.	General Facilities
3. Work with Clark PUD and other renewable energy providers to transition to 100% renewable energy for electricity use in municipal buildings, starting in 2022.	General Facilities
4. Work with affordable housing partners, Clark PUD, and NWN to subsidize home energy efficiency and weatherization retrofits for affordable housing units and housing that serves low-and fixed-income populations.	Economic Prosperity and Housing
<b>Transportation &amp; Land Use</b>	
5. Partner with Clark PUD, C-TRAN, and Waste Connections to expand electric buses and electric contracted waste collection vehicles, prioritizing implementation in communities overburdened by local air pollution and with higher rates of asthma and other respiratory ailments.	Financial and Management Services – Procurement, Community Development
6. Develop and implement a City fleet EV charging infrastructure program.	Fleet
7. Introduce a policy to replace City fleet vehicles with electric at the time of replacement, where applicable and feasible. Where electric replacements are not available, seek opportunities to use lower carbon intensity ‘step-down’ fuels.	Fleet

Early Implementation Actions (continued)	Department Lead
<b>Solid Waste</b>	
8. Develop and enforce a City of Vancouver environmentally preferable purchasing policy (EPP).	Financial and Management Services - Procurement
9. Require food waste composting and glass and co-mingled recycling at all City buildings and for all municipal operations.	Public Works – Solid Waste
<b>Water &amp; Wastewater</b>	
10. Develop a solids management and resource recovery plan for wastewater facilities to generate renewable energy and beneficial materials.	Public Works - Wastewater
<b>Governance</b>	
11. Release a climate priority declaration.	City Manager's Office
12. Build critical staff capacity to support CAP development and implementation.	City Manager's Office
13. Establish a municipal energy fund to create a self-sustaining source of funds for investing in municipal projects related to energy efficiency improvements, on-site energy generation, and other municipal projects specified in the Climate Action Plan.	General Facilities

## *Buildings & Energy*

- 1. Develop a comprehensive green building policy for City-owned and occupied buildings and the private sector that is consistent with or exceeds state standards.** This policy applies to both new and existing City-owned buildings and new private-sector buildings. It should meet or exceed the standards in the state's Clean Buildings Act and municipal high-performance building standards. The City will use the policy development process to determine specific requirements and standards of the policy; in the meantime, an Interim Green Building Policy will apply. As another first step to implement this action, the City should identify City-owned buildings to participate in the Early Adopter Incentive Program, which provides a one-time incentive payment of \$0.85 per gross s.f. of floor area for certain large commercial and multi-family buildings that demonstrate early compliance with the Clean Buildings Act requirements.
- 2. Expand energy and water conservation retrofits and operational improvements to all municipal buildings and operations.** Begin with retrofits that staff have already identified as feasible and/or promising investments. These investments may cover streetlights, traffic signals, pump stations, or other infrastructure such as Tier 1 and Tier 2 buildings (which the City intends to retain long-term). Energy benchmarking should be included in the implementation of these initial retrofits, then expanded to a system-wide municipal energy benchmarking system to identify priority facilities for retrofitting and efficiency investments.
- 3. Work with Clark PUD and other renewable energy providers to transition to 100% renewable energy for electricity use in municipal buildings, starting in 2022.** This may include direct production of renewable energy from on-site generation and the purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs). Priority should be given to options that enable the City to either source its electricity directly from, or replaced in the power grid with, renewable, emissions-free resources.
- 4. Work with affordable housing providers, Clark PUD, and NWN to subsidize home energy efficiency and weatherization retrofits for affordable housing units and housing that serves low-and fixed-income populations.** Evaluate existing energy efficiency programs and work with community organizations that represent and serve overburdened communities to share information in culturally appropriate ways.

## *Transportation & Land Use*

- 5. Partner with CLARK PUD, C-TRAN, and Waste Connections to expand electric buses and electric contracted waste collection vehicles, prioritizing implementation in communities overburdened by local air pollution and with higher rates of asthma and other respiratory ailments.** The first step in this process is for the City to meet with Clark PUD, C-TRAN, and Waste Connections to identify opportunities and barriers within City limits that the City could address to streamline and/or expand implementation. The City would provide funding or other support to further expand these existing programs in overburdened communities. After successful implementation in communities overburdened by local air pollution and with higher rates of asthma and other respiratory ailments as well as other low-income communities and communities of color, the City should expand the program to the remainder of the community until all feasible and/or applicable vehicles have been electrified.

The expansion can be based on a prioritization study or other analysis.

6. **Develop and implement a fleet EV charging infrastructure program.** The City's Fleet Department, possibly with assistance from an expert consultant, will conduct an inventory and analysis of the City's current municipal fleet to identify priority vehicles to be electrified (e.g., passenger cars or heavy fuel consumers); select location(s) for charging infrastructure; determine necessary electrical infrastructure to support EV chargers and what type of charger(s) would be needed; and create an operations and maintenance program for the infrastructure. If possible, the City should look for opportunities to locate EV chargers in areas that are accessible to the City and general public, with a preference for areas of the community currently underserved with EV charging. Facilities staff suggested prioritizing fleet EV charging, then employee/public EV charging on City property. The City can require payment for charging to avoid issues around the gift of public funds. Clark PUD and Columbia-Willamette Clean Cities have grant programs that can assist with implementing this action.
7. **Introduce a policy to replace City fleet vehicles with electric at the time of replacement, where applicable and feasible. Where electric replacements are not available, seek opportunities to use lower carbon intensity 'step-down' fuels.** EV/hybrid replacements could be introduced once the EV charging infrastructure program is in place. Where electric or hybrid replacements are not yet feasible, which is likely the case for heavier-duty vehicles, seek opportunities to use lower carbon intensity 'step-down' fuels such as hydrogen, renewable diesel, and propane instead of traditional gas and diesel fuels. Short-term leases or other short-term arrangements may be prioritized where ZEVs are not available. This will provide time for viable alternatives to come to market and help ensure that long-term investment remains focused on vehicles with zero emissions. In Washington state, the Climate Commitment Act and Clean Fuel Standard both include programs to support expanded vehicle electrification.

### *Solid Waste*

8. **Develop and enforce a City of Vancouver environmentally preferable purchasing policy (EPP).** At a minimum, the City's EPP should prioritize the purchasing of durable and repairable goods to reduce end-of-life emissions, prioritize green cleaners to improve indoor air quality, explore contracts and markets for recycled goods, include a preference for purchasing locally sourced materials, and support locally owned companies, especially those owned by women and people of color. The EPP may also include a requirement for conducting a life cycle analysis for goods and services to better capture the resources and emissions required to manufacture, package, and transport products. Early communication with policymakers and the community will ensure there is a collective understanding of what materials are accepted for recycling and composting in Vancouver's current system.
9. **Require food waste composting and glass and co-mingled recycling at all City buildings and for all municipal operations,** including specialized items such as e-waste, printer cartridges, scrap metal, batteries, block foam, and plastic film where handlers for these items are available. The first step is to discuss how to expand these services to all City buildings. This may include researching and expanding contracts and markets for recycled goods and end-of-life materials (e.g., Earth Friendly, Total Reclaim, EcoLights Northwest). Another option for an early step is outreach and education to City employees, such as the development of a City "green team" with representatives from each building and/or department or requiring waste and recycling education as part of new employee orientation.

## Water & Wastewater

10. **Develop a solids management and resource recovery plan for wastewater facilities to generate renewable energy and beneficial materials (i.e., biosolids or biochar for fertilizer).** Consistent with trends in wastewater treatment operations, this action combines increased energy efficiency and smart controls with renewable energy generation and the production of beneficial materials. It applies to new projects and upgrades of existing equipment for wastewater treatment. It is also recommended that the City's Public Works department coordinate the collection of applicable biosolids from other operations, such as food waste composting.

## Governance

11. **Release a climate priority resolution.** Following the City Council retreat in the spring of 2021, City Council named climate action as a key theme for near-term work. They also acknowledged the ongoing question of whether climate action sits within a single initiative or applies to multiple initiatives. This resolution would provide additional clarity and specificity on these topics. In addition to providing clarity and specificity, its purpose is to further empower City staff to make climate and sustainability a priority in their work and demonstrate the City's commitment to climate action to the community. The resolution would include a clear statement that climate change should be integrated and prioritized in all existing initiatives and direct key first steps to take in mainstreaming climate change in City processes, programs, and initiatives.
12. **Build critical staff capacity to support CAP development and implementation.** High-priority needs have begun to be met with the hiring of a senior policy analyst to serve as the CAP Lead, completing development of the CAP and leading implementation. A grant writer can support the need for expanded capacity to implement CAP actions. Once onboarded, the City will need to consider whether additional support such as a sustainability coordinator may be needed. Priority initial actions for these new hires include familiarizing with potential long-term funding sources for CAP implementation and conducting discussions with City departments to ensure staff have the necessary information and capacity to address climate change in their work. Results of these early actions could be used to develop a City staff climate education plan, inform the development of governance actions, and inform CAP implementation planning.
13. **Establish a municipal energy fund to create a self-sustaining source of funds for investing in municipal projects related to energy efficiency improvements, on-site energy generation, and other municipal projects specified in the Climate Action Plan.** This may include projects such as HVAC upgrades, solar panel installations, and electric vehicle charging stations at City facilities. Energy efficiency projects and on-site energy generation projects can lead to savings for City operations, which could be returned to the municipal energy fund for reinvestment into additional mitigation and adaptation actions. To begin work on this initiative/plan/goal, other funding sources could be considered as well to establish the fund. The City should prioritize projects that continually reduce operating costs and emissions.