

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2020-

CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

WHEREAS, recent reports from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the National Climate Assessment have made clear that we are in a global climate emergency, by documenting the extent, speed, and acceleration of global climate change and planetary warming, and their dramatic effects on our Earth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park declared a Climate Emergency on March 13, 2019 via Resolution 2019-15; and

WHEREAS, the City has acknowledged and supported the County’s aspirational goal of 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, and seeks to move our community rapidly toward net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035; and

WHEREAS, the City’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory identified residential and commercial buildings and transportation as the two largest contributing sources in Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, via its Climate Emergency Declaration Resolution, directed staff to identify the most aggressive local actions its authority and resources will allow, including short and long-term steps the City can take to move rapidly toward net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, along with estimated costs and benefits of these actions, and that such steps should:

- Focus on dramatically improving efficiency of all our buildings (single family, multifamily, commercial and institutional);
- Prepare for a transition to renewably generated energy in electricity and heating/cooling, and new construction and renovation, through local action and region-wide collaboration; and
- Consider opportunities for reducing GHG emissions in the transportation sector through local initiatives and collaboration region-wide; and

WHEREAS, in the past year, the city worked with a consultant to identify and evaluate strategies to reduce GHG emissions, and conducted a public engagement process including a resident survey, a public workshop, focus groups, and other outreach events; and

46 WHEREAS, city staff have now prepared a framework of priority strategies for Council
47 consideration, along with a detailed matrix for each potential strategy with a
48 proposed implementation timeline, GHG emissions impacts, estimated costs,
49 program considerations, co-benefits, and applicability to our community; and
50

51 WHEREAS, while moving forward with aggressive action to reduce carbon emissions will
52 have near-term impacts and financial costs for our residents and community, not
53 moving forward will have more significant longer-term negative costs and
54 impacts; and
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56 WHEREAS, climate change is already inflicting harm and will continue to negatively impact
57 our community by way of increased severity of storms, flooding, extreme
58 temperatures, and damage to our physical, social and economic well-being; and
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60 WHEREAS, this damage, such as an increase in stormwater runoff and extreme weather, will
61 continue to worsen without rapid and significant action by all levels of
62 government; and
63

64 WHEREAS, communities, neighborhoods and residents most vulnerable to climate impacts
65 tend to be the least prepared to manage and recover, and our youth in particular
66 will see the long-term results of a dramatically changing climate; and
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68 WHEREAS, Takoma Park strives to be a leader in responding to the challenges of climate
69 change and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through local policies and
70 actions.
71

72 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of Takoma Park will continue to
73 move aggressively toward net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2035, as our resources
74 and authorities allow, by adopting a climate action framework of priority strategies and potential
75 policy changes for consideration in the areas of buildings, transportation, renewables, fossil-free
76 energy and other appropriate actions; and
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78 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City of Takoma Park calls on, and will continue to
79 advocate for, more aggressive action on climate change mitigation and adaptation at the County,
80 State and Federal levels, and will pursue specific legislation to advance these goals, such as
81 Community Choice Energy and Low and Middle-Income Housing Energy Performance Targets;
82 and
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84 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City will coordinate its climate strategies and
85 actions with Montgomery County's existing and proposed actions to the extent feasible, and
86 identify and advocate for county zoning and building code changes that would support City and
87 County responses to the climate emergency; and
88

89 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City will develop mechanisms to establish a
90 Sustainability Assistance Fund in its FY2021 Budget to start creating a source of funding for
91 programs to provide financial assistance to eligible residents and businesses, as they work to

92 fight climate change and adapt to its impacts, and advocating for funds from County, State,
93 Federal and other grant sources; and

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95 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** in making determinations about any new policy or
96 action to implement a priority strategy, staff will develop and Council will take into account such
97 factors as the following:

- 98
99 a) exploring implementation options for specific strategies;
100 b) identifying relevant legal authorities;
101 c) developing estimated emissions impacts and co-benefits, and cost information for the
102 City and for affected residents and businesses across the range of income levels and
103 business types, as well as budget implications;
104 d) identifying options for technical or financial incentives or assistance, exemptions or
105 alternate pathways to address the costs to affected residents and businesses, as well as
106 grants and other sources of funding for city programs;
107 e) building on the outreach and collaboration done to date, implementing a robust
108 community engagement process that includes collaboration with key stakeholders,
109 including but not limited to local businesses, landlords, renters, communities of color,
110 immigrants, and other groups of residents;
111 f) proposing actions that integrate with other City Council priority goals and programs,
112 such as housing affordability, racial equity, economic development, public space, urban
113 forest management, and safe streets;
114 g) considering potential changes and trends in technology and the renewable energy
115 sector; and
116 h) taking into consideration climate change projections and actual changes; and

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118 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** City staff will prepare implementation options for
119 priority strategies and information on factors for Council consideration, for short term proposed
120 actions by July/September 2020, along with a suggested timetable for considering medium and
121 longer-term proposed actions; and

122
123 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** before adopting any individual ordinance or policy, the
124 City will address potential disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations and identify
125 mechanisms to assist those residents or businesses who may need help, through technical
126 assistance, loan or grant programs or other financial assistance; and

127
128 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City will explore options for priority local actions
129 aimed at increasing the community's ability to adapt and be resilient to climate change, through
130 such steps as the following:

- 131 • continuing the City's commitment to tree protection and plantings as expressed in Tree
132 Ordinance amendments and the resolution on urban forest policies and tree canopy
133 principles;
134 • improved stormwater management for both the public space and stormwater flows on and
135 between private properties;
136 • efforts identified in the Public Space Management Plan process;
137 • greenhouse gas capture and sequestration; and

- 138 • strengthened emergency preparedness plans and activities.
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140 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a City climate action framework includes the following
141 priority strategies to be considered by the Council, along with other components that may
142 potentially be added to the list, with an initial emphasis on more immediate actions that achieve
143 significant GHG reductions by 2025:
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145 **Section 1. Buildings.**
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147 a. Rating (benchmarking) the energy use of all feasible buildings within the City limits by dates
148 to be determined, using nationally established tools, based on the following categories:

149 i. multifamily residential buildings with 20 or more units, in coordination with any
150 County program;

151 ii. non-residential buildings with 1,000 square feet or more, with recommendations for
152 buildings 1,000-10,000 sf, 10,000 sf and over;

153 iii. all homes, with recommendations for single family homes and rental units, and the
154 role if any of point of sale requirements.
155

156 b. Implementing energy efficient lighting upgrades, with specific guidelines, in rental units,
157 commercial and non-residential properties by dates to be determined, taking into consideration
158 technological changes that may occur over the next few years.
159

160 c. Establishing minimum energy efficiency standards or scores for all feasible buildings within
161 the City by dates to be determined, to bring the least efficient buildings up to the average, using
162 national established tools:

163 i. multifamily buildings with 20 units or more;

164 ii. non-residential buildings of 10,000 sf or more, with recommendations for smaller non-
165 residential buildings; and

166 iii. single-family homes and rental units.
167

168 d. Policy changes to the City’s Façade Advisory Board and advocacy for County and Takoma
169 Park Historic District rules and guidelines to encourage more energy efficient and renewably
170 powered buildings.
171

172 e. Coordination with and advocacy to the County on building codes and other methods to achieve
173 greater energy efficiency in new construction and significant renovations, including adoption of
174 green building standards.
175

176 **Section 2. Transportation.**
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178 a. Facilitating greater use of electric vehicles, by measures such as: amending the city right of
179 way permit process to allow installation of curbside EV equipment; installing, in all multifamily
180 residential buildings with parking lots over a certain size, accessible outlets for vehicle charging
181 by a certain date; and, adopting a policy of purchasing or leasing electric vehicles for the city
182 fleet.
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184 b. Measures to reduce the use of single-occupancy vehicles in general, and non-electric vehicles
185 in particular, through a variety of measures.

186
187 c. Developing comprehensive approaches through a community conversation about policies and
188 strategies to de-carbonize transportation in Takoma Park, implement changes in transportation
189 infrastructure, discourage use of personal vehicles, and encourage other modes of transportation
190 such as the addition of bus shelters, implementation of the Montgomery County Bikeways Plan
191 within the City, and any recommendations from the City’s Parking Task Force and other
192 strategies.

193
194 d. Collaboration, partnership and advocacy with other jurisdictions and organizations for
195 transportation infrastructure changes.

196
197 **Section 3. Renewable Energy.**

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199 a. City advocacy for State legislative authority to establish a 100% renewable electricity
200 community choice aggregation program through Montgomery County, potentially by the City
201 alone, or with one or more other municipalities or entities.

202
203 b. Policies and strategies that continue, expand and coordinate existing solar energy programs
204 within the City such as solar co-ops.

205
206 c. Changes to City procurement policy for consideration of replacing gas heating and hot water
207 equipment with electric appliances whenever the equipment needs replacing, up to a certain
208 higher initial price.

209
210 **Section 4. Toward a Fossil Free Community.**

211
212 a. Policies to eliminate the use of fossil fuel-based leaf blowers and other lawn care equipment
213 by a certain date, taking into account changing technology for electric-powered equipment,
214 alignment with District of Columbia requirements, and commercial and resident use.

215
216 b. Sustainable investment and banking policies and practices.

217
218 c. Providing for food waste collection for composting for all single family, multifamily and
219 commercial properties, as sufficient capacity becomes available.

220
221 d. Long-term policies to dramatically reduce fossil fuel use for space and water heating based on
222 the natural replacement cycle of equipment, to advocate for prohibiting fossil fuel-based
223 equipment in new construction and renovations through County building, and to move to a fossil
224 fuel-free community in the long term, assuming that technologies and policies make renewably
225 produced electricity readily available.

226
227
228 Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2020.