

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;
- Propose actions that integrate with other City Council priority goals, such as housing affordability and racial equity;
- Offer methods that consider equity, affordability, and access for all members of our community, especially renters and low income and energy-burdened residents;
 - Include a transparent and inclusive public process to gather public input, increase community engagement, and ensure that community members and local businesses have opportunities to participate;
 - Examine leading policies around the country and build on them to propose nation-leading policies for our community; 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

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

WHEREAS, while moving forward with aggressive action to reduce carbon emissions will have near-term impacts and financial costs for our residents and community, not moving forward will have more significant longer-term negative costs and impacts; and

WHEREAS, climate change is already inflicting harm and will continue to negatively impact our community by way of increased severity of storms, flooding, extreme temperatures, and damage to our physical, social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, this damage, such as an increase in stormwater runoff and extreme weather, will continue to worsen without rapid and significant action by all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, communities, neighborhoods and residents most vulnerable to climate impacts tend to be the least prepared to manage and recover, and our youth in particular will see the long-term results of a dramatically changing climate; and

WHEREAS, Takoma Park strives to be a leader in responding to the challenges of climate change and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through local policies and actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park will continue to move aggressively toward net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2035, as our resources and authorities allow, by adopting a climate action framework of priority strategies and potential policy changes for consideration in the areas of buildings, transportation, renewables, fossil-free energy and other appropriate actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park calls on, and will continue to advocate for, more aggressive action on climate change mitigation and adaptation at the County, State and Federal levels, and will pursue specific legislation to advance these goals, such as Community Choice Energy and Low and Middle-Income Housing Energy Performance Targets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City will coordinate its climate strategies and actions with Montgomery County’s existing and proposed actions to the extent feasible, and identify and advocate for county zoning and building code changes that would support City and County responses to the climate emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City will work with other jurisdictions and through regional organizations such as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to identify opportunities for collaboration, develop partnerships, and advocate for more aggressive climate actions, as well as share actions Takoma Park is taking and support the efforts of such regional organizations to develop similar plans and measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City will develop mechanisms to establish a Sustainability Assistance Fund in its FY2021 Budget to start creating a source of funding for programs to provide financial assistance to eligible residents and businesses, as they work to fight climate change and adapt to its impacts, and advocating for funds from County, State, Federal and other grant sources; and

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

- a) exploring implementation options for specific strategies;
- b) identifying relevant legal authorities;
- c) developing estimated emissions impacts and co-benefits;
- d) developing cost information for the City and for affected residents and businesses across the range of income levels and business types, as well as City budget implications;
- e) identifying options for technical or financial incentives or assistance, exemptions or alternate pathways to address the costs to affected residents and businesses, as well as grants and other sources of funding for city programs;
- f) building on the outreach and collaboration done to date, implementing a robust community engagement process that includes collaboration [and outreach](#) with key stakeholders, including but not limited to local businesses, landlords, renters, communities of color, immigrants, seniors and others on fixed incomes, homeowners, and other groups of residents;
- g) proposing actions that integrate with other City Council priority goals and programs, such as housing affordability, racial equity, economic development, public space, urban forest management, parking management, and safe streets;
- h) applying a racial equity lens to consideration and implementation of potential priority strategies;
- i) considering potential changes and trends in technology and the renewable energy sector; and
- j) taking into consideration climate change projections and actual changes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT City staff will prepare implementation options for priority strategies and information on factors for Council consideration, for short term proposed

actions by September 2020, as feasible, along with a suggested timetable for considering proposed actions with medium and longer-term time frames; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff will at least biannually provide to Council a status report with an update on development of proposed strategies, and key metrics and participation rates to evaluate the implementation of approved proposals; and

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

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

- continuing the City's commitment to tree protection and plantings, for both climate mitigation and resilience, as expressed in Tree Ordinance amendments and the resolution on urban forest policies and tree canopy principles;
- improved stormwater management for both public space and stormwater flows on and between private properties;
- efforts identified in the Public Space Management Plan process that also address adaptation and mitigation;
- greenhouse gas capture and sequestration;
- supporting community-led adaptation and mitigation efforts, as feasible; and
- strengthened emergency preparedness plans and activities, including potential human health risks from extreme heat and other weather conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City climate action framework includes the following priority strategies to be considered by the Council, along with other components that may potentially be added to the list of priority strategies, with an initial emphasis on more immediate actions that achieve significant GHG reductions by 2025:

Section 1. Buildings.

- a. Rating (benchmarking) the energy use of all feasible buildings within the City limits by dates to be determined, using nationally established tools, based on the following categories:
 - i. multifamily residential buildings with 20 or more units, in coordination with any County program;
 - ii. non-residential buildings with 1,000 square feet or more, with recommendations for buildings 1,000-10,000 sf, 10,000 sf and over;
 - iii. all homes, with recommendations for single family homes and rental units, and the role if any of point of sale requirements for energy ratings.

- b. Implementing energy efficient lighting upgrades, with specific guidelines, in rental units, commercial and non-residential properties by dates to be determined, taking into consideration technological changes that may occur over the next few years.
- c. Establishing minimum energy efficiency standards or scores for all feasible buildings within the City in the next decade, by dates to be determined, to bring the least efficient buildings up to the average, using national established tools:
 - i. multifamily buildings with 20 units or more;
 - ii. non-residential buildings of 10,000 sf or more, with recommendations for smaller non-residential buildings; and
 - iii. single-family homes and rental units.
- d. Policy changes to the City's Facade Advisory Board and advocacy for County and Takoma Park Historic District rules and guidelines to encourage more energy efficient and renewably powered buildings.
- e. Coordination with and advocacy to the County on building codes and other methods to achieve greater energy efficiency in new construction and significant renovations, including adoption of green building standards.

Section 2. Transportation.

- a. ~~Conducting a community conversation on policies and strategies that i~~ identify new transportation strategies and prioritizinge the below actions and others suggested, with a focus on de-carbonizing transportation in Takoma Park, implementing changes in transportation infrastructure, ~~reducing~~discouraging use of personal vehicles, and encouraging alternative ~~other~~ modes of transportation as well as improved walkability and bikeability, through a robust community discussion on policies and strategies and/or~~and to consider potential future possible~~ collaboration with an outside consultant.
- b. Facilitating greater use of zero-emission vehicles by measures such as:
 - i. amending the city right-of-way permit process to allow installation of curbside charging equipment;
 - ii. in all multifamily residential buildings with parking lots over a certain size, installing accessible outlets for vehicle charging by a certain date to be determined, and requiring installation of such outlets in new multifamily construction; and
 - iii. adopting a policy of purchasing or leasing zero-emission vehicles for the city fleet.
- c. Reducing the use of single-occupancy vehicles in general, and non-zero-emission vehicles in particular, through a variety of measures including:
 - i. seeking opportunities to pilot innovations focused on zero-emission city fleet vehicles, transit vehicles such as shuttles, and micro-mobility devices to reduce vehicle trips and improve connections to transit hubs, shopping, and public buildings such as the Community Center and Recreation Center;
 - ii. developing outreach and incentive programs such as community challenges, ride-and-drive events for zero-emission vehicles, and transit-focused initiatives;

- ~~iii.~~ adopting parking changes that encourage use of transit and zero-emission vehicles;
- ~~iii-iv.~~ ~~and~~ exploring regular car-free zones or car-free days;
- ~~iv-v.~~ increasing the number of bus shelters in the city;
- ~~v-vi.~~ implementing the Montgomery County Bikeways Plan within the city; and
- ~~vi-vii.~~ adopting a Complete Streets and/or Vision Zero or similar policy.

~~d.~~ d. Collaborating, partnering and advocating with other jurisdictions and providers such as Ride-On, WMATA and the Sstate for transportation infrastructure change; improved, affordable, and accessible transit; and joint efforts to transition to electric transit, including ~~exploring options to expansion and improvements to d the effectiveness of~~ transit routes servicing Takoma Park and beyond; ~~and~~ new reduced-fee or free options; ~~and~~ advocacy for RideOn to develop plans to quickly transition to all zero-emission vehicles.

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Section 3. Renewable Energy.

- a. City advocacy for State legislative authority to establish a 100% renewable electricity community choice aggregation program through Montgomery County, potentially by the City alone, or with one or more other municipalities or entities.
- b. Policies and strategies that continue, expand and coordinate existing solar energy programs within the City such as solar co-ops.
- c. Changes to City procurement policy for consideration of replacing gas heating and hot water equipment with renewable energy appliances whenever the equipment needs replacing, up to a certain higher initial price.

Section 4. Toward a Fossil Fuel Free Community.

- a. Policies to eliminate the use of fossil fuel-based leaf blowers and other lawn care equipment by a date to be determined, taking into account changing technology for electric-powered equipment, alignment with District of Columbia requirements, and commercial and resident use.
- b. Sustainable investment and banking policies and practices, including phasing out the use of financial funds or institutions that support or benefit from the fossil fuel industries.
- c. Providing for food waste collection for composting for all single family, multifamily and commercial properties, as sufficient capacity becomes available.
- d. Long-term policies to dramatically reduce fossil fuel use for space and water heating based on the natural replacement cycle of equipment, to advocate for prohibiting fossil fuel-based equipment in new construction and renovations through County building, and to move to a fossil fuel-free community by 2045, assuming that technologies and policies make renewably produced energy readily available.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2020.