

Introduced by:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2020-**

**2020 CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FRAMEWORK:  
FROM NUCLEAR FREE TO FOSSIL FUEL FREE TO BUILD A HEALTHY AND  
LIVABLE COMMUNITY FOR ALL**

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;

- 47                   ▪ Examine leading policies around the country and build on them to propose
- 48                    nation-leading policies for our community; and
- 49                   ▪ Consider opportunities for reducing GHG emissions in the transportation
- 50                    sector through local initiatives and collaboration region-wide; and

51  
52 WHEREAS, in the past year, the city worked with a consultant to identify and evaluate  
53 strategies to reduce GHG emissions, and conducted a public engagement process  
54 including a resident survey, a public workshop, focus groups, and other outreach  
55 events; and

56  
57 WHEREAS, city staff have prepared a proposed framework of priority strategies for Council  
58 consideration, along with a supplemental detailed matrix for each potential  
59 strategy originally proposed, with a proposed implementation timeline, GHG  
60 emissions impacts, estimated costs, program considerations, co-benefits, and  
61 applicability to our community; and

62  
63 WHEREAS, while moving forward with aggressive action to reduce carbon emissions will  
64 have near-term impacts and financial costs for our residents and community, not  
65 moving forward will have more significant longer-term negative costs and  
66 impacts; and

67  
68 WHEREAS, climate change is already inflicting harm and will continue to negatively impact  
69 our community by way of increased severity of storms, flooding, extreme  
70 temperatures, and damage to our physical, social and economic well-being; and

71  
72 WHEREAS, this damage, such as an increase in stormwater runoff and extreme weather, will  
73 continue to worsen without rapid and significant action by all levels of  
74 government; and

75  
76 WHEREAS, communities, neighborhoods and residents most vulnerable to climate impacts  
77 tend to be the least prepared to manage and recover, and our youth in particular  
78 will see the long-term results of a dramatically changing climate; and

79  
80 WHEREAS, Takoma Park strives to be a leader in responding to the challenges of climate  
81 change and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through local policies and  
82 actions.

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

89  
90 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City of Takoma Park calls on, and will continue to  
91 advocate for, more aggressive action on climate change mitigation and adaptation at the County,  
92 State and Federal levels, and will pursue specific legislation to advance these goals, such as

93 Community Choice Energy and Low and Middle-Income Housing Energy Performance Targets;  
94 and

95  
96 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City will coordinate its climate strategies and  
97 actions with Montgomery County’s existing and proposed actions to the extent feasible, and  
98 identify and advocate for county zoning and building code changes that would support City and  
99 County responses to the climate emergency; and

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

106  
107 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City will develop mechanisms to establish a  
108 Sustainability Assistance Fund in its FY2021 Budget to start creating a source of funding for  
109 programs to provide financial assistance to eligible residents and businesses, as they work to  
110 fight climate change and adapt to its impacts, and advocating for funds from County, State,  
111 Federal and other grant sources; and

112  
113 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** in making determinations about any new policy or  
114 action to implement a priority strategy, staff will develop information on, and Council will take  
115 into account such factors as the following:

- 116  
117 a) exploring implementation options for specific strategies;  
118 b) identifying relevant legal authorities;  
119 c) developing estimated emissions impacts and co-benefits;  
120 d) developing cost information for the City and for affected residents and businesses  
121 across the range of income levels and business types, as well as City budget implications;  
122 e) identifying options for technical or financial incentives or assistance, exemptions or  
123 alternate pathways to address the costs to affected residents and businesses, as well as  
124 grants and other sources of funding for city programs;  
125 f) building on the outreach and collaboration done to date, implementing a robust  
126 community engagement process that includes collaboration with key stakeholders,  
127 including but not limited to local businesses, landlords, renters, communities of color,  
128 immigrants, seniors and others on fixed incomes, homeowners, and other groups  
129 of residents;  
130 g) proposing actions that integrate with other City Council priority goals and programs,  
131 such as housing affordability, racial equity, economic development, public space, urban  
132 forest management, parking management, and safe streets;  
133 h) applying a racial equity lens to consideration and implementation of potential priority  
134 strategies;  
135 i) considering potential changes and trends in technology and the renewable energy  
136 sector; and  
137 j) taking into consideration climate change projections and actual changes; and  
138

139 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** City staff will prepare implementation options for  
140 priority strategies and information on factors for Council consideration, for short term proposed  
141 actions by September 2020, as feasible, along with a suggested timetable for considering  
142 proposed actions with medium and longer-term time frames; and

143  
144 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** staff will at least biannually provide to Council a status  
145 report with an update on development of proposed strategies, and key metrics and participation  
146 rates to evaluate the implementation of approved proposals; and

147  
148 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** before adopting any individual ordinance or policy, the  
149 City will address potential disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations and identify  
150 mechanisms to assist those residents or businesses who may need help, through technical  
151 assistance, loan or grant programs or other financial assistance; and

152  
153 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City will explore options for priority local actions  
154 aimed at increasing the community’s ability to adapt and be resilient to climate change, through  
155 such steps as the following:

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- 157       ▪ continuing the City’s commitment to tree protection and plantings, for both climate  
158       mitigation and resilience, as expressed in Tree Ordinance amendments and the  
159       resolution on urban forest policies and tree canopy principles;
  - 160       ▪ improved stormwater management for both public space and stormwater flows on and  
161       between private properties;
  - 162       ▪ efforts identified in the Public Space Management Plan process that also address  
163       adaptation and mitigation;
  - 164       ▪ greenhouse gas capture and sequestration;
  - 165       ▪ supporting community-led adaptation and mitigation efforts, as feasible; and
  - 166       ▪ strengthened emergency preparedness plans and activities, including potential human  
167       health risks from extreme heat and other weather conditions; and
- 168

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

173  
174 **Section 1. Buildings.**

- 175
- 176 a. Rating (benchmarking) the energy use of all feasible buildings within the City limits by dates  
177 to be determined, using nationally established tools, based on the following categories:
    - 178 i. multifamily residential buildings with 20 or more units, in coordination with any  
179 County program;
    - 180 ii. non-residential buildings with 1,000 square feet or more, with recommendations for  
181 buildings 1,000-10,000 sf, 10,000 sf and over;
    - 182 iii. all homes, with recommendations for single family homes and rental units, and the  
183 role if any of point of sale requirements for energy ratings.
- 184

- 185 b. Implementing energy efficient lighting upgrades, with specific guidelines, in rental units,  
186 commercial and non-residential properties by dates to be determined, taking into  
187 consideration technological changes that may occur over the next few years.  
188
- 189 c. Establishing minimum energy efficiency standards or scores for all feasible buildings within  
190 the City by dates to be determined, to bring the least efficient buildings up to the average,  
191 using national established tools:
  - 192 i. multifamily buildings with 20 units or more;
  - 193 ii. non-residential buildings of 10,000 sf or more, with recommendations for smaller  
194 non-residential buildings; and
  - 195 iii. single-family homes and rental units.
- 196
- 197 d. Policy changes to the City's Facade Advisory Board and advocacy for County and Takoma  
198 Park Historic District rules and guidelines to encourage more energy efficient and  
199 renewably powered buildings.  
200
- 201 e. Coordination with and advocacy to the County on building codes and other methods to  
202 achieve greater energy efficiency in new construction and significant renovations, including  
203 adoption of green building standards.  
204

205 **Section 2. Transportation.**  
206

- 207 a. Conducting a community conversation on policies and strategies that identify and prioritize  
208 the below actions and others suggested, with a focus on de-carbonizing transportation in  
209 Takoma Park, implementing changes in transportation infrastructure, discouraging use of  
210 personal vehicles, and encouraging other modes of transportation as well as improved  
211 walkability, and to consider potential future collaboration with an outside consultant.  
212
- 213 b. Facilitating greater use of zero-emission vehicles by measures such as:
  - 214 i. amending the city right-of-way permit process to allow installation of curbside  
215 charging equipment;
  - 216 ii. in all multifamily residential buildings with parking lots over a certain size, installing  
217 accessible outlets for vehicle charging by a certain date to be determined, and  
218 requiring installation of such outlets in new multifamily construction; and
  - 219 iii. adopting a policy of purchasing or leasing zero-emission vehicles for the city fleet.  
220
- 221 c. Reducing the use of single-occupancy vehicles in general, and non-zero-emission vehicles in  
222 particular, through a variety of measures including:
  - 223 i. seeking opportunities to pilot innovations focused on zero-emission city fleet  
224 vehicles, transit vehicles, and micro-mobility devices to reduce vehicle trips;
  - 225 ii. developing outreach and incentive programs such as community challenges, ride-and-  
226 drive events for zero-emission vehicles, and transit-focused initiatives;
  - 227 iii. adopting parking changes that encourage use of transit and zero-emission vehicles,  
228 and exploring regular car-free zones or car-free days;
  - 229 iv. increasing the number of bus shelters in the city;
  - 230 v. implementing the Montgomery County Bikeways Plan within the city; and

231 vi. adopting a Complete Streets and/or Vision Zero or similar policy.

- 232  
233 d. Collaborating, partnering and advocating with other jurisdictions and providers such as Ride  
234 On, WMATA and the state for transportation infrastructure change; improved, affordable,  
235 and accessible transit; and joint efforts to transition to electric transit, including exploring  
236 options to expand the effectiveness of transit routes and new reduced-fee or free options.  
237

238 **Section 3. Renewable Energy.**

- 239  
240 a. City advocacy for State legislative authority to establish a 100% renewable electricity  
241 community choice aggregation program through Montgomery County, potentially by the  
242 City alone, or with one or more other municipalities or entities.  
243  
244 b. Policies and strategies that continue, expand and coordinate existing solar energy programs  
245 within the City such as solar co-ops.  
246  
247 c. Changes to City procurement policy for consideration of replacing gas heating and hot water  
248 equipment with renewable energy appliances whenever the equipment needs replacing, up to  
249 a certain higher initial price.  
250

251 **Section 4. Toward a Fossil Fuel Free Community.**

- 252  
253 a. Policies to eliminate the use of fossil fuel-based leaf blowers and other lawn care equipment  
254 by a date to be determined, taking into account changing technology for electric-powered  
255 equipment, alignment with District of Columbia requirements, and commercial and resident  
256 use.  
257 b. Sustainable investment and banking policies and practices, including phasing out the use of  
258 financial funds or institutions that support or benefit from the fossil fuel industries.  
259 c. Providing for food waste collection for composting for all single family, multifamily and  
260 commercial properties, as sufficient capacity becomes available.  
261 d. Long-term policies to dramatically reduce fossil fuel use for space and water heating based  
262 on the natural replacement cycle of equipment, to advocate for prohibiting fossil fuel-based  
263 equipment in new construction and renovations through County building, and to move to a  
264 fossil fuel-free community by 2045, assuming that technologies and policies make renewably  
265 produced energy readily available.  
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267  
268 Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.