



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – January 29, 2020 Agenda Item 3

Work Session

Additional Discussion of Proposed Resolution “2020 Climate Emergency Response Act – From Nuclear Free to Fossil Fuel Free to Build a Healthy and Livable Community for All”

Recommended Council Action

Consider and discuss this draft resolution that lays out what is needed to reduce greenhouse gases by 100% in Takoma Park and identifies elements that would need to be addressed by a series of ordinances and Code changes to be considered by the Council in the future.

Context with Key Issues

On January 22, Sustainability Manager Gina Mathias presented information on a proposed resolution focused on reducing fossil fuels in Takoma Park, particularly in buildings. Information for the January 29 discussion will be posted when available.

On March 13, 2019 City Council declared a climate emergency, recognizing that we are in an emergency state with devastating consequences for inaction. Trends for our region include more frequent and more severe weather events, continued increases in annual rainfall, and more frequent and prolonged stretches of extreme heat. These changes inflict substantial and catastrophic damage to our physical, social, and economic well-being. Takoma Park is taking the steps necessary to address this challenge locally by utilizing best practices. The City will also need to model new solutions in order to meet its goal of 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions city-wide by 2035.

In response to the climate emergency declaration, the Sustainability Manager was directed to:

- Accelerate an update of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan and greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for all sectors of the City;
- Identify the most aggressive local actions the City's authority and resources will allow, along with cost estimates and benefits of these actions; and
- Identify what steps the City can take to move rapidly toward net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, including near term implementation steps and achievable interim goals and dates.

The climate emergency declaration specifies a focus on dramatically improving efficiency of all our buildings (single family, multifamily, commercial and institutional), as well as a transition to renewable energy in electricity and heating/cooling.

The following recommendations provide the necessary agenda to reduce GHG 100%. They were developed through a robust community engagement process that included a webinar, public workshop, tabling at local events, online resident survey, and small group neighborhood meetings across the city; input from the City's Committee on the Environment; the work of the Cadmus Group; an extensive examination of leading policies around the country; participation in a national policy development collaboration cohort led by the Rocky Mountain Institute; expert advice and custom research reports; and information sharing through the Urban Sustainability Director's

Network. These recommendations are designed to coordinate with Montgomery County as they develop their climate actions. **The recommendations in the Resolution require Code changes and/or ordinances that would come before the City Council for consideration in the months and years ahead.**

Recognizing that once adopted by the Council through Code amendments or ordinances these recommended provisions are significant changes that will affect the entire community, the Resolution that lays out the overview for these changes will be:

- Presented on January 22
- Discussed again in work session on January 29
- The subject of a public hearing before the City Council on February 5
- Considered for adoption by the Council on February 12.

As the various implementing Code changes and ordinances are drafted over the coming years, each implementing action will involve public comment and Council consideration as well.

Council Priority

Environmentally Sustainable Community

Environmental Considerations

Greenhouse gas emissions, sustainability, energy efficiency

Fiscal Considerations

Fiscal impacts of climate change include declining economic resiliency; short and long term budget impacts of more frequent and more severe weather events; increased health costs due to climate change; lost economic productivity and tax revenue.

Direct and indirect budget implications are being estimated.

Establishment of a “Sustainability Assistance Reserve Fund” and allocation of funds for that reserve fund to assist in paying for sustainability improvements for low to moderate income home and business owners.

Actions taken to make Takoma Park more climate change resilient and energy efficient may encourage investment in Takoma Park. Actions taken to make homes and other buildings more energy efficient can lower utility costs for owners and renters.

Racial Equity Considerations

Communities most vulnerable to climate impacts tend to be the least prepared to manage and recover from the physical, economic, mental, and social devastation climate change can cause. Children, the elderly, indigenous peoples, and those with preexisting health conditions are especially vulnerable to climate disruptions such as flooding, dangerous heat, drought, and poor air quality. This is particularly true if they live in low-income communities, which often are exposed to multiple environmental hazards, yet are least likely to have resources or connections to address the cumulative impacts of environmental exposures that are worsened by climate change. (*American Journal of Public Health*)

Attachments and Links

- [Presentation from January 22, 2020 Work Session](#)
- Draft Resolution

1 Introduced by:
2

3 **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**
4

5 **RESOLUTION 2020-**
6

7 **2020 CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT**
8 **FROM NUCLEAR FREE TO FOSSIL FUEL FREE**
9 **TO BUILD A HEALTHY AND LIVABLE COMMUNITY FOR ALL**
10

11 WHEREAS, the City of Takoma has been a Nuclear Free Zone since 1983; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the City declared a Climate Emergency on March 13, 2019 via Resolution 2019-
14 15; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the City adopted the goal of 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by
17 2035; and
18

19 WHEREAS, climate change is already inflicting, and will continue to inflict, substantial
20 damage to our physical, social and economic well-being; and
21

22 WHEREAS, this damage, such as an increase in stormwater runoff and extreme weather,
23 will continue to worsen without immediate significant action; and
24

25 WHEREAS, communities, neighborhoods and residents most vulnerable to climate impacts
26 tend to be the least prepared to manage and recover; and
27

28 WHEREAS, a greenhouse gas emissions inventory has identified residential and commercial
29 buildings as the largest contributing sources in Takoma Park; and
30

31 WHEREAS, Takoma Park strives to be a leader in responding to the challenges of climate
32 change and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through our many local policies
33 and actions; and
34

35 WHEREAS, City Council directed staff to identify the most aggressive local actions its
36 authority and resources will allow, along with cost estimates and benefits of these
37 actions; and
38

39 WHEREAS, City Council also directed staff to identify steps the City can take to move rapidly
40 toward net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, including near term
41 implementation steps and achievable interim goals and dates.
42

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park will create and adopt
44 the “2020 Climate Emergency Response Act – From Nuclear Free to Fossil Fuel Free to Build a
45 Healthy and Livable Community for All.”
46

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park calls on, and will continue to
2 advocate for, more aggressive action on climate change, mitigation and adaptation at the county,
3 state and federal levels, to move rapidly toward net zero greenhouse gas emissions, and will
4 coordinate city climate actions with Montgomery County’s existing and proposed actions to the
5 extent feasible; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the ordinances and policies required to implement the
8 following main components of an aggressive climate action plan shall be prepared for Council
9 consideration and action:

- 10
11 1. Requiring all non-residential buildings with 1,000 square feet or more to benchmark
12 using EnergyStar Portfolio Manager (or equivalent) no later than December 31, 2025.
13
- 14 2. Requiring the establishment of minimum energy efficiency standards for non-residential
15 buildings of 1,000 square feet or more December 31, 2025, with compliance no later than
16 December 31, 2029.
17
- 18 3. Requiring multifamily residential buildings with 20 or more units to benchmark energy
19 use using EnergyStar Portfolio Manager (or equivalent), no later than December 31,
20 2025.
21
- 22 4. Requiring the establishment of minimum energy efficiency standards for multifamily
23 residential properties over 20 units by December 31, 2025, with compliance no later than
24 December 31, 2029.
25
- 26 5. Requiring a Home Energy Score for all homes for sale, with phase-in to begin with new
27 real estate listings January 1, 2021
28
- 29 6. Requiring a Home Energy Score for all homes to be done no later than December 31,
30 2025.
31
- 32 7. Requiring the establishment of a minimum Home Energy Score for all homes December
33 31, 2025, with compliance no later than December 31, 2029.
34
- 35 8. Requiring all multifamily residential buildings with parking lots to install accessible
36 outlets for vehicle charging no later than December 31, 2022.
37
- 38 9. Amending the City Right of Way Permit process so as to allow for the installation of
39 curbside electric vehicle charging equipment.
40
- 41 10. Requiring LED upgrades, with specific guidelines, in all residential rental, commercial
42 and non-residential properties no later than December 31, 2022.
43
- 44 11. Fully implementing the Montgomery County Bikeways Plan within the City of Takoma
45 Park.
46

- 1 12. Increasing the number of bus shelters by 12 no later than December 31, 2022.
- 2
- 3 13. Preparing an ordinance requiring establishment of food waste collection for composting
- 4 for all single family, multifamily and commercial properties once sufficient capacity is
- 5 available.
- 6
- 7 14. Eliminating use of fossil fuel-based lawn care equipment no later than December 31,
- 8 2029.
- 9
- 10 15. Establishing a 100% renewable electricity community choice aggregation alone or with
- 11 another entity when Maryland HB 730, or equivalent, passes.
- 12
- 13 16. Eliminating all fossil fuels sales within the City of Takoma Park no later than December
- 14 31, 2045.
- 15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all components of the “2020 Climate Emergency Response
17 Act – From Nuclear Free to Fossil Fuel Free to Build a Healthy and Livable Community for All”
18 shall include appropriate equity considerations, alternative compliance pathways, and/or
19 exemptions; and

20
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT as individual components are being considered through Code
22 changes, Ordinances, Resolutions and other actions, the City Council will seek specific
23 implementation details and cost information; and

24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park will address local actions for
26 climate adaptation and resiliency, such as stormwater management, tree protection and plantings,
27 green space protection, reduction of the number of personal vehicles, and greenhouse gas capture
28 and sequestration, as our authority and resources will allow.

29
30 Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this _____ day of _____, 2020.

31
32 Attest:

33
34
35 Jessie Carpenter, CMC
36 City Clerk