

1 Introduced by: Councilmember Dyballa
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4 **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

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6 **RESOLUTION 2020-6**

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8 **2020 CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FRAMEWORK**
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12 WHEREAS, recent reports from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the
13 National Climate Assessment have made clear that we are in a global climate
14 emergency, by documenting the extent, speed, and acceleration of global climate
15 change and planetary warming, and their dramatic effects on our Earth; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park declared a Climate Emergency on March 13, 2019 via
18 Resolution 2019-15; and
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20 WHEREAS, the City has acknowledged and supported the County's aspirational goal of 100%
21 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, and has committed to move our
22 community rapidly toward net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the City's greenhouse gas emissions inventory identified residential and
25 commercial buildings and transportation as the two largest contributing sources in
26 Takoma Park; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the City Council, via its Climate Emergency Declaration Resolution, directed staff
29 to identify the most aggressive local actions its authority and resources will allow,
30 including short and long-term steps the City can take to move rapidly toward net
31 zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, along with estimated costs and benefits
32 of these actions, and that such steps should:
33

- 34 ▪ Focus on dramatically improving efficiency of all our buildings (single
35 family, multifamily, commercial and institutional);
- 36 ▪ Prepare for a transition to renewably generated energy in electricity and
37 heating/cooling, and new construction and renovation;
38 Propose actions that integrate with other City Council priority goals, such
39 as housing affordability and racial equity;
- 40 ▪ Offer methods that consider equity, affordability, and access for all
41 members of our community, especially renters and low income and
42 energy-burdened residents;
- 43 ▪ Include a transparent and inclusive public process to gather public input,
44 increase community engagement, and ensure that community members
45 and local businesses have opportunities to participate;

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

51

52 WHEREAS, in the past year, the city worked with a consultant to identify and evaluate

53 strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and conducted a public

54 engagement process including a resident survey, a public workshop, focus groups,

55 and other outreach events; and

56

57 WHEREAS, city staff have prepared a proposed framework of recommended priority strategies

58 for Council consideration, along with a supplemental detailed matrix for each

59 potential strategy that was originally proposed, with a proposed implementation

60 timeline, greenhouse gas emissions impacts, estimated costs, program

61 considerations, co-benefits, and 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.

83

84 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of Takoma Park will continue to

85 move aggressively to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, as our resources and

86 authorities allow, by adopting a climate action framework of priority strategies and potential

87 policy changes for Council consideration in the areas of buildings, transportation, renewables,

88 fossil fuel-free 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

100
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 will seek and advocate for funds from County,
111 State, 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 and outreach with key
127 stakeholders, including but not limited to local businesses, landlords, renters,
128 communities of color, immigrants, seniors and others on fixed incomes, homeowners,
129 residents with disabilities, and other groups 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, such as energy efficiency ratings for buildings, by September 2020, with a target of
142 Council considering a proposed policy and structure regarding energy efficiency ratings for
143 buildings by December 2020, as feasible, along with a suggested timetable and updates for
144 considering proposed actions with medium and longer-term time frames; and
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146 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** staff will at least biannually provide to Council a status
147 report with an update on development of proposed strategies, and key metrics and participation
148 rates to evaluate the implementation of approved proposals; and
149

150 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** before adopting any individual ordinance or policy, the
151 City will consider potential disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations and identify
152 mechanisms to assist those residents or businesses who may need help, through technical
153 assistance, loan or grant programs or other financial assistance; and
154

155 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City will continue to work on, and explore
156 additional options for, priority local actions or strategies aimed at increasing the community's
157 ability to adapt and be resilient to climate change, through such steps as the following:
158

- 159 ▪ continuing the City's commitment to protection and healthy growth of the urban
160 forest and tree canopy, for both climate mitigation and resilience, as part of the City's
161 efforts to amend the Tree Ordinance and establish urban forest policies and tree
162 canopy goals and principles;
- 163 ▪ improved stormwater management for both public space and stormwater flows on and
164 between private properties;
- 165 ▪ efforts identified in the Public Space Management Plan process that also address
166 adaptation and mitigation;
- 167 ▪ greenhouse gas capture and sequestration;
- 168 ▪ supporting community-led adaptation and mitigation efforts, as feasible; and
- 169 ▪ strengthened emergency preparedness plans and activities, including potential human
170 health risks from extreme heat and other weather conditions; and
171

172 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City climate action framework includes the
173 following priority strategies and potential policy changes to be considered by the Council, along
174 with other components that may potentially be added to the list of such priority strategies and
175 policies, with an initial emphasis on more immediate actions that achieve significant greenhouse
176 gas reductions by 2025:
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178 **Section 1. Buildings.**

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180 a. Rating (benchmarking) the energy use of all feasible buildings within the City limits over the
181 next decade by dates to be determined, using nationally established tools, based on the
182 following categories:

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

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

187 iii. all homes, with recommendations for single family homes and rental units, and the
188 role if any of point of sale requirements for energy ratings.

189

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

193

194 c. Establishing minimum energy efficiency standards or scores for all feasible buildings within
195 the City in the next decade, by dates to be determined, to bring the least efficient buildings up
196 to the average, using national established tools:

197 i. multifamily buildings with 20 units or more;

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

200 iii. single-family homes and rental units.

201

202 d. Policy changes to the City's Facade Advisory Board and advocacy for County and Takoma
203 Park Historic District rules and guidelines to encourage more energy efficient and
204 renewably powered buildings.

205

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

209

210 **Section 2. Transportation.**

211

212 a. Identify new transportation strategies and prioritize the below actions and others suggested,
213 with a focus on de-carbonizing transportation in Takoma Park, implementing changes in
214 transportation infrastructure, reducing use of personal vehicles, and encouraging alternative
215 modes of transportation as well as improved walkability and bikeability, through a robust
216 community discussion on policies and strategies and/or possible collaboration with an
217 outside consultant.

218

219 b. Facilitating greater use of zero-emission vehicles by measures such as:

220 i. amending the city right-of-way permit process to allow installation of curbside
221 charging equipment;

- 222 ii. in all multifamily residential buildings with parking lots over a certain size, installing
223 accessible outlets for vehicle charging by a certain date to be determined, and
224 requiring installation of such outlets in new multifamily construction; and
225 iii. adopting a policy of purchasing or leasing zero-emission vehicles for the city fleet.
226
- 227 c. Reducing the use of single-occupancy vehicles in general, and non-zero-emission vehicles in
228 particular, through a variety of measures including:
 - 229 i. seeking opportunities to pilot innovations focused on zero-emission city fleet
230 vehicles, transit vehicles such as shuttles, and micro-mobility devices to reduce
231 vehicle trips and improve connections to transit hubs, shopping, and public buildings
232 such as the Community Center and Recreation Center;
 - 233 ii. developing outreach and incentive programs such as community challenges, ride-and-
234 drive events for zero-emission vehicles, and transit-focused initiatives;
 - 235 iii. adopting parking changes that encourage use of transit and zero-emission vehicles;
 - 236 iv. exploring regular car-free zones or car-free days;
 - 237 v. increasing the number of bus shelters in the city;
 - 238 vi. implementing the Montgomery County Bikeways Plan within the city; and
239 vii. adopting a Complete Streets and/or Vision Zero or similar policy.
240
- 241 d. Collaborating, partnering and advocating with other jurisdictions and providers such as Ride
242 On, WMATA and the State for transportation infrastructure change; improved, affordable,
243 and accessible transit; and joint efforts to transition to electric transit, including expansions
244 and improvements to transit routes serving Takoma Park and beyond; new reduced-fee or
245 free options; and advocacy for Ride On to develop plans to quickly transition to all zero-
246 emission vehicles.
247

248 **Section 3. Renewable Energy.**
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- 250 a. City advocacy for State legislative authority to establish a 100% renewable electricity
251 community choice aggregation program through Montgomery County, potentially by the
252 City alone, or with one or more other municipalities or entities.
253
- 254 b. Policies and strategies that continue, expand and coordinate existing solar energy programs
255 within the City such as solar co-ops.
256
- 257 c. Changes to City procurement policy for consideration of replacing gas heating and hot water
258 equipment with renewable energy-supplied appliances whenever the equipment needs
259 replacing, up to a certain higher initial price.
260

261 **Section 4. Toward a Fossil Fuel-Free Community.**
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- 263 a. Policies to eliminate the use of fossil fuel-based leaf blowers and other lawn care equipment
264 by a date to be determined, taking into account changing technology for electric-powered
265 equipment, alignment with District of Columbia requirements, and commercial and
266 residential use.

- 267 b. Sustainable investment and banking policies and practices, including phasing out the use of
268 financial funds or institutions that support or benefit from the fossil fuel industries, as
269 feasible.
- 270 c. Providing for food and other compostable waste collection for composting for all single
271 family, multifamily and commercial properties, as sufficient capacity becomes available.
- 272 d. Long-term policies to dramatically reduce fossil fuel use for space and water heating based
273 on the natural replacement cycle of equipment, to advocate for prohibiting fossil fuel-based
274 equipment in new construction and renovations through County building requirements, and
275 to become a fossil fuel-free community by 2045, assuming that technologies and policies at
276 the county, state, and federal levels of government make renewably produced energy readily
277 available.

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279 Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland this 4th day of March, 2020.

280

281 Attest:

282

283

284 Jessie Carpenter, CMC

285 City Clerk