

RESOLUTION NO. 20150604-048

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to protecting the long-term health and viability of our community through strategies designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution No. 20070215-023 that established the framework for the Austin Climate Protection Plan (ACPP), which includes five major goals and related supporting objectives to: (1) Make all City of Austin facilities, fleets, and operations carbon-neutral by 2020; (2) Make Austin Energy (AE) the leading utility for greenhouse gas reductions; (3) Implement the most energy efficient building codes and aggressively pursue energy efficiency retrofits; (4) Create a community-wide inventory of greenhouse gases, establish short- and long-term emission reduction targets, and a comprehensive plan for meeting those targets; and (5) Develop and implement a program to assist all citizens, businesses, organizations, and visitors in achieving carbon neutrality; and

WHEREAS, City Council recognizes that investments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions also have positive outcomes that extend beyond environmental benefits, which include enhancing social equity, maintaining an innovative and strong economy, and providing affordable options for Austin residents related to energy, transportation and waste; and

WHEREAS, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) is a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change, and the City of Austin is an "Innovator City" within C40; and

WHEREAS, City Council passed Resolution No. 20131121-60 that directed the City Manager to develop climate adaptation strategies as an important missing piece to the existing ACPP; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution 20140828-157 that set the vision for reducing CO₂ emissions from all city-controlled generation resources to zero by 2030, subject to the previously-adopted and reaffirmed affordability goals; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution No. 20140410-024 that established a goal of reaching net zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, recognizing that it is important and valuable for our city's climate protection effort to accomplish emissions reductions as soon as it is feasible; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20140410-024 directed the City Manager to review the goals and objectives of the 2007 ACPP and work with stakeholders to create an action plan, here referred to as the Austin Community Climate Plan (ACCP), for the following major sectors responsible for the community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in Austin, energy, transportation, and waste/industrial, in order to meet the new long-term goal established by Resolution No. 20140410-024; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20140410-024 directed the ACCP to include the following components:

- Measurable interim greenhouse gas reduction targets, starting with 2020 and periodic targets until 2050;
- When and how annual progress reports will occur; and

- How often to conduct comprehensive updates to the climate protection plan; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Sustainability and multiple City departments produced the draft 2015 ACCP, attached here as Exhibit A, the result of the work of fifty community volunteers meeting regularly over a seven-month period and Austin residents providing public input and feedback on the draft strategies and actions throughout the plan development process; and

WHEREAS, reaching the goal of NET-ZERO emissions by 2050 will take sustained effort, with all individuals, businesses, and organizations in the community playing a role; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council adopts the 2015 Austin Community Climate Plan (ACCP) to achieve the citywide NET-ZERO greenhouse gas emissions by the 2050 goal and a target path to get to NET-ZERO by 2050 including interim targets for 2020, 2030, and 2040 allowing for up to 10% of carbon offsets for all targets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to:

- Implement the recommendations from the executive summary of the ACCP within one year of the passage of this resolution;
- Identify and prioritize any resources needed to implement these recommendations and incorporate this information into the FY 2015-2016 budget allocations;

- Develop appropriate performance metrics for the relevant City departments to report progress to achieving the ACCP goals; and
- Provide semi-annual progress updates to City Council, with the first one occurring by September 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to create a Joint Sustainability Committee as recommended by the City of Austin Board and Commission Transition Task Force, consisting of members of the:

- 1) Environmental Board;
- 2) Electric Utility Commission;
- 3) Zero Waste Advisory Commission;
- 4) Urban Transportation Commission;
- 5) Water and Waste Water Commission;
- 6) Planning Commission;
- 7) Economic Prosperity Commission;
- 8) Community Development Commission,
- 9) Sustainable Food Policy Board;
- 10) Resource Management Commission, and
- 11) Parks and Recreation Board.

Each of the above identified boards and commissions shall select one member to serve on the Joint Sustainability Committee.

It is encouraged that these Committee members should also represent a broad diversity of community stakeholders including the following:

- 1) Large companies and employers;
- 2) Small businesses owners and non-profit leaders;
- 3) Renters;
- 4) Central city individuals and families; and
- 5) Suburban individuals and families.

If the Open Space, Environment and Sustainability Committee, or a comparable Council committee assigned the authority to review climate protection, determines that greater diversity of Joint Sustainability Committee members is needed to ensure adequate community stakeholder representation, the applicable Council committee may appoint three community stakeholders members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Joint Sustainability Committee shall:

- Review all city policies and procedures relevant to the ACCP, including the planning, implementation, community engagement, goal setting and progress monitoring;
- Promote close cooperation between the City Council, City departments, City boards, commissions, committees, and taskforces, and individuals, institutions, and agencies concerned with the

politics, procedures, and implementation of the ACCP with the goal of coordinating all similar activities within the City and the community in order to secure the greatest public benefits; and

- Forward to the City Manager all advisory material that the committee provides to the City Council, the Office of Sustainability, City departments or City boards, commissions, committees and taskforces.

The Joint Sustainability Committee may:

- Advise the City Council, the City Manager, the Office of Sustainability, City departments and City boards, commissions, committees and taskforces on policy matters related to the ACCP;
- Ask the City Manager for any information it deems to pertain to the ACCP;
- Make recommendations to the Open Space, Environment and Sustainability Committee before final council action on relevant policies or procedures; and
- Establish advisory groups or working groups as it deems necessary to pertain to the ACCP.

The Council directs the City Manager to provide staff support to the Joint Sustainability Committee. Council recommends that such support be provided by the Office of Sustainability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

On behalf of the City Council, the City Manager is authorized to complete the Memorandum of Understanding with C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group to continue the City of Austin's official participation with C40.

ADOPTED: June 4, 2015 ATTEST: Jannette S. Goodall
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk