



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Human Rights Commission

Recommendation Number: 20200127-003i: Recommendation for The City of Austin to Adopt A Climate
Emergency Plan

WHEREAS, the threat of climate change is a threat to multiple Human Rights as listed in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, such as: 3rd Right to Life, 14th The Right to Seek a Safe Place to Live, 20th The Right to Public Assembly, 22nd Social Security, 25th Food and Shelter for All, 28th A Fair and Free World; and,

WHEREAS, the culture of Austin is one of environmental protection and progressivism; and,

WHEREAS, climate change is “one of the greatest threats to human rights of our generation” according to the United Nations Report on “Climate Change and Human Rights”; and,

WHEREAS, climate change is outpacing predictions at an alarming rate; and,

WHEREAS, we have no other choice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Human Rights Commission for the City of Austin demands the Austin City Council to allocate funds and explore any and all available means to implement a 10 Year Emergency Climate Plan that includes full divestment and worker transition for the city’s 50% stake in a coal-powered plant and the two natural gas-powered plants by the year 2025, to invest in appropriate renewable replacements, tremendous investment in urban agriculture, immediate freeze on purchasing any gasoline, diesel, or natural gas-powered vehicles, a reduction over time of the city’s petroleum-based vehicle fleet, implement solutions to combat heat island effect, and massive and extensive investment and expansion of the city’s purple pipe water system.

Date of Approval: January 27, 2020

Record of the vote: 6-0; Commissioner White motion, Commissioner Santana second. Voting in favor were Chair Davis, Vice Chair Caballero, Commissioner Garry Brown, Commissioner Santana, Commissioner Weigel, and Commissioner White. Commissioner Breckenridge, Commissioner Jamarr Brown, Commissioner Casas, Commissioner Griffith, and Commissioner Museitif were absent.

Attest: Jonathan Babiak

Jonathan Babiak

Staff Liaison, Human Rights Commission