

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4

2  
3

4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

- 0
- 1
- 2

3  
4  
5

6  
7  
8

901

2  
3  
4

community-wide emissions sets the city up for a greener, healthier, and safer community; and

**WHEREAS**, Austin City Council has previously directed the City Manager to take specific steps to advance Austin’s climate change, sustainability, and resilience goals, including Water Forward, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, and Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, in August 2019 the Austin City Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 20190808-78, declaring a climate emergency in the City of Austin and calling for an acceleration of the timeline for achieving the City’s climate goals; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20190808-78 also included direction to the City Manager to provide clarity on leadership responsibilities for climate goals within the organizational structure of the City Manager’s Office; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 Climate Equity Plan includes a number of recommendations that may be implemented and/or launched in the short term, and the imperative to act means we cannot wait for the next budget cycle to make investments that further advance the strategies outlined therein; and

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Sustainability Committee, the Office of Sustainability, and the Equity Office worked collaboratively to assemble a diverse team of Austin community members and an equitable process for engaging the community to develop the 2021 Climate Equity Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 Climate Equity Plan was created by a collaboration of 120 community members and 24 City staff, with additional community input

provided by over 50 interviews conducted by 24 climate ambassadors and over 250 attendees at five community workshops; and

**WHEREAS**, low-income communities and communities of color in Austin and around the world are the most impacted by extreme weather and pollution despite having contributed least to the drivers of climate change and pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 Climate Equity Plan has determined climate change cannot be solved without racial equity; and

**WHEREAS**, low-income communities and communities of color must be prioritized to receive the disproportionate benefits of the transition to a pollution-free society to remedy disproportionate harm done historically and presently; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals and strategies in the 2021 Climate Equity Plan were evaluated to ensure it would lower greenhouse gas emissions while addressing racial equity; and

**WHEREAS**, successful implementation of the 2021 Austin Climate Equity Plan will depend on focused attention from the City Council and other City leadership, adequate funding, guidance from community advisory bodies, and continued engagement with the broader Austin community; **NOW,**

**THEREFORE,**

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

The Austin City Council affirms its commitment to the new and more aggressive timeline to achieve net-zero community-wide emissions of 2040 outlined within the 2021 Climate Equity Plan.

70 In adopting the 2021 Climate Equity Plan, the City Council recognizes that  
71 how the City of Austin achieves net zero emissions will have a direct impact on the  
72 lives of its residents, and therefore directs the City Manager to use the strategies  
73 and goals outlined in the 2021 Climate Plan to achieve a just transition that  
74 addresses the disproportionate impacts of the climate emergency on low-income  
75 communities and communities of color as we meet our emission goals.

76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

77 The City Manager is directed to identify and clearly define leadership  
78 responsibilities over the implementation of the 2021 Climate Equity Plan, and  
79 more generally over the climate emergency and sustainability efforts of the City  
80 government, and return to Council with this information by November 1, 2021.

81 Furthermore, the City Manager is directed to provide at least quarterly  
82 updates on the implementation of the 2021 Climate Equity Plan to the City Council  
83 during regular work sessions. Updates should include progress on City's own goals  
84 as well as community-wide efforts, and report back on regional collaboration  
85 activities.

86 The City Manager is additionally directed to return with an update to the  
87 Climate Equity Plan within the next five years.

88 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

89 In the interest of acting with expediency and treating the climate emergency  
90 with the urgency it requires, the City Manager is directed to:

91 identify recommendations included in the 2021 Climate Equity Plan  
92 that may be brought forward as a midyear budget amendment and present  
93 such recommendations to Council by March 1, 2022 or sooner;

94 identify recommendations and strategies that do not require a budget  
95 amendment and that can be launched by departments in the near term and/or  
96 at the regional or five-county scale, and report to Council on the progress  
97 and timeline of implementing such recommendations at the first quarterly  
98 update; and

99 bring forward a list of proposed investments that would advance the  
100 city's sustainability and climate goals and further the implementation of the  
101 2021 Climate Equity Plan in advance of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget  
102 process. Within the Fiscal Year 2023 budget process and all future budgets,  
103 the City Manager is directed to identify specifically investments related to  
104 supporting the city's greenhouse gas reduction efforts to achieve net-zero  
105 goals.

106 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

107 The City Manager is directed to identify and prioritize the strategies and  
108 action items within the 2021 Climate Equity Plan that support multiple plan goals  
109 and recommendations, have a large impact on emissions reduction, address racial  
110 inequities and environmental injustices, are directly beneficial to the local Austin  
111 community, and take an innovative approach to one or more of the plan's  
112 overarching strategies:

- 113 • Green Jobs and Entrepreneurship
- 114 • Prioritize Local Community Initiatives

- Regional Collaboration
- Local Carbon Reduction Projects, Carbon Dioxide Removal, and Carbon Offsets

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is further directed to:

- identify potential pilot project opportunities for City of Austin departments and operations to support or incorporate local potential carbon reduction removal projects;
- pursue strategies for further electrifying Austin's airport parking infrastructure and Airline Ground Service Equipment, and develop a stakeholder plan to reduce the airport's operational emissions;
- and evaluate and pursue equitable natural gas reduction strategies and opportunities as outlined on page 50 of the plan.

The City Manager is directed to build on the city's existing green jobs programs and leverage the City's workforce development efforts to advance the Climate Equity Plan's equitable green jobs and entrepreneurship goals.

The City Manager is directed to advocate for and monitor climate-related federal legislation (such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Build Back Better Act) and pursue opportunities to assist in the city's climate efforts within legislation that passes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to create a public-facing, accessible dashboard, webpage, or similar mechanism to provide up-to-date information on the methods

and metrics on the City's progress in implementing the 2021 Climate Equity Plan and net-zero goals overall. The information presented should include aspects of other City plans (such as the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and the Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan) that have an impact on reducing community-wide emissions and achieving equity through climate action.

The City Manager is further directed to provide regular accessible public engagement opportunities regarding the implementation of the climate plan, and to evaluate extending the Climate Ambassador program to incorporate the implementation stage of the 2021 Climate Equity Plan.

The City Council additionally supports updating bylaws for the Joint Sustainability Committee to add additional members to the committee from the Austin community, appointed by City Council. The City Council recognizes and appreciates the role of the Joint Sustainability Committee in advancing the City's climate goals.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk