

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, climate change represents an existential threat to the City of Austin, the nation, and the planet; and

WHEREAS, to meet the threat level of the climate emergency and its effects on the community, the City must act urgently and expediently; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Austin has experienced an increasing number of shocks in the form of natural- and human-driven disasters, as well as stresses that affect everyday vulnerabilities in the local community; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2019, the Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 20190808-078 declaring a climate emergency in the City and calling to accelerate the timeline for achieving the City's climate goals; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2021, Council approved the Austin Climate Equity Plan that provided 74 strategies to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Climate Equity Plan also established environmental justice goals to prioritize low-income communities and communities of color to remedy disproportionate harm; and

WHEREAS, concurrent with the Austin Climate Equity Plan, Council passed Resolution No. 20210930-110 prioritizing its implementation, requesting Code amendments and budget recommendations, and establishing a public dashboard and quarterly progress updates; and

22 **WHEREAS**, according to the last quarterly update in August 2022, only
23 three of 74 strategies are complete, and many strategies require substantial
24 investment to achieve; and

25 **WHEREAS**, by resolution, directed analysis or approved plans, the Council
26 has previously directed the City Manager to take specific steps to advance Austin's
27 climate change, sustainability, and resilience goals, including Water Forward, the
28 Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, the Watershed Protection Strategic Plan, the Green
29 Infrastructure Strengths and Gaps Assessment, the Austin Resource Recovery
30 Comprehensive Plan, One Austin: Resilience Framework for Action, and the
31 Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the programs and goals set forth in the City's plans would
33 collectively make Austin more environmentally sustainable and develop the
34 community resilience to adapt and address vulnerabilities to rapid climate change;
35 and

36 **WHEREAS**, reducing electricity demand not only lowers greenhouse gas
37 emissions, but also improves the reliability of the grid; and

38 **WHEREAS**, having local matching funds allows the City of Austin to
39 maximize resources available under The Inflation Reduction Act, The
40 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and other federal programs; and

41 **WHEREAS**, capital investments or program expenditures can be funded as
42 a part of utility base rate calculations, general fund budgeting, general obligation
43 debt financing, or a combination of sources; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

47 The City of Austin re-affirms its commitment to the target of net-zero
48 community-wide emissions by 2040, as outlined in the 2021 Austin Climate Equity
49 Plan, and to act with the urgency required to achieve this goal.

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

51 The City Manager is directed to solicit community input and prepare options
52 and associated costs of capital improvements or programs that would reduce
53 carbon emissions, decrease water usage, advance the sustainability of City
54 operations, and improve community resiliency.

55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED:**

56 The City Manager is further directed to post a public hearing of the Joint
57 Sustainability Committee (Committee) in March and/or April 2024 to gather input
58 from the public and the Committee is requested to submit any recommendations
59 for investments to Council for consideration by May 1, 2024.

60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

61 The City Manager is further directed to review whether recommendations
62 for investment from the Committee to address local causes of climate change,
63 enhance the sustainability of City operations, and improve community resiliency to
64 the impacts of extreme weather can be funded through utility base rates, general
65 fund expenditures, and/or general obligation bonds to be approved at a future
66 election, which may include a November 2024 bond election.

69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

70 In addition to any proposals put forth by the Joint Sustainability Committee,
71 the City Manager is directed to analyze the investments needed to fulfill the
72 following adopted plans:

- 73 - Austin Climate Equity Plan
- 74 - Water Forward
- 75 - Watershed Protection Strategic Plan
- 76 - One Austin: The Climate Resilience Action Plan
- 77 - Austin Strategic Mobility Plan
- 78 - Austin Resource Recovery Comprehensive Plan
- 79 - Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan

80 This analysis should identify which investments have the option of being
81 funded through utility base rates, general fund expenditures, or general obligation
82 bonds. The analysis should also identify options for fulfilling either all or specific
83 elements of these plans before their current target date.

84 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

85 The City Council sets a public hearing on May 16, 2024, to consider
86 direction to the City Manager regarding the development of an environmental
87 investment plan to address climate change, sustainability of City operations, and
88 community resiliency.

89
90 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2024 **ATTEST:** _____

91 Myrna Rios
92 City Clerk