



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: James G. Parvey, P.E., LEED AP, OEPS
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution - Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Strategy – November 30, 2021
DATE: November 4, 2021

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution adopting the 2030 Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Strategy which outlines a pathway to reach the City’s carbon reduction goals, prepare our City and community for intensifying climate impacts, and prioritize actions that provide co-benefits leading to a better Tacoma for all.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Council Members Beale, Hunter, and Walker

BACKGROUND:

This Department’s recommendation is based on: The commitments outlined in the December 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution (Resolution No. 40509). That resolution calls for the City to develop a plan with actions that outline a pathway to reaching the City’s carbon reduction goals by 2050 through a just transition to a carbon-neutral economy and to accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts.

This Climate Action Plan follows on the 2008 Climate Action Plan and the 2016 Environmental Action Plan, and it is evident the pace and scale of action needed is greater than ever.

These Plans describe a pathway for Tacoma to reach its target of net-zero emissions by 2050 and prepare for increasing risks due to climate change. These complimentary Plans describe the importance of taking transformative climate action now, our people-first approach centering equity and anti-racism, Tacoma’s climate action progress, climate strategies to guide us through 2030, and critical actions through 2024 to start us on our path.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

A yearlong community engagement process occurred, with three phases of engagement. Overall, we reached almost 900 community members and dozens of partner organizations. A strong emphasis in our engagement focused efforts on quality interactions with frontline community members, those that are underrepresented, underserved, or made vulnerable to the first and worst impacts of climate change. In the draft Plan, we include actions to address top priorities and barriers, but also frame the actions to be more “people-centered”. Additionally, detailed engagement reports are included in the Plan Appendix.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

It is the intent of these Plans to both better protect frontline community members from increasing climate impacts, and also ensure access to future economic opportunities that will arise from a low carbon future. Each action was reviewed for potential equity impacts and those that could most directly reduce disparities are noted. Additionally, many output measures are disaggregated to monitor impact in low and very low opportunity neighborhoods identified by Tacoma’s Equity Index. These are just plans though, and careful and purposeful implementation will be needed to ensure any negative consequences are minimized.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

Increase the availability of industry-specific education programs to support identified growth sectors.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Representation at public meetings will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community

Livability: *Equity Index Score: High Opportunity*

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other types of air and water pollution, provide education and resources to the community to assist in coping with heatwaves and/or poor air quality due to wildfire smoke or other causes, and develop strategies to make the city more resilient in the face of climate change.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

The Climate Action Plans and Climate Adaptation Study present actions that can achieve many of the important goals of reducing the greenhouse emissions and adapting to the impending changes to our climate. They do so in a manner that provides numerous co-benefits and addresses Council priorities. Many of the actions are directly related to the above 2025 goals, such as new green job and training support, prioritizing frontline communities in climate work, and increasing active transportation opportunities and healthy and safe affordable housing.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Not approve Plans	More Council flexibility	Priority actions to address climate change not established. Lack of public accountability and trust.
2. Only approve parts of Plans	More Council flexibility	All actions identified are high priority and necessary to achieve goals.



EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

The Climate Action Plan includes performance measures and a reporting system to track the progress of the actions called for in the Plan. These reporting mechanisms were developed and used in Environmental Action Plan and will be used and expanded upon. These include annual tracking and reporting of progress on actions and indicator targets with regular updates at Council Study Sessions and IPS Committee Meetings.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend immediate adoption of the Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Strategy. Implementation of actions is urgent and economically favorable.

FISCAL IMPACT:

While there is no direct fiscal impact with adoption of these Plans, many of the actions described in the Plans will require future financial resources for implementation.

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

N/A

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

No existing resources and staffing are available to implement Plan actions. Future biennium funding requests from Departments should include action implementation requests.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

The plan presents rough estimates of damages to the City of not taking action on items in the plan.

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

NO

Action presented in the plan will go through the City's regular budgeting process. So that the fiscal decisions can be made in context with the City's finances and environmental conditions at the time.

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

NO

Adopting these Plans does not commit the City to increasing the City's FTE count, although implementing all actions in the next few years would.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Climate Action Plan
- Climate Action Plan Appendices
- Climate Adaptation Strategy