



Decarbonization Resolution

City of Tacoma | Environmental Services Department
City Council Study Session
April 13, 2021



Overview



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Background & Relevant Policy



- **2008 Climate Action Plan**
A report by the Green Ribbon Taskforce outlining strategies for achieving carbon reduction goals.
- **Resolution No. 37361**
Authorizing creation of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission and Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability. The Commission's purpose is to bring citizen accountability, transparency, and vigilance to the long-term implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
- **Resolution No. 40409**
A resolution relating to the reality of climate change, and declaring that these threats, while long-term, require immediate actions to minimize harm to current and future generations and therefore constitutes a public emergency; and expressing the City Council's support of initiatives that mitigate the impact. ³

Summary of Resolution



1. Directs staff to eliminate fossil fuels from City-owned facilities and major renovations constructed after January 1, 2022 where feasible. As projects are developed staff will evaluate the technical and financial feasibility of fossil free heating and cooling for the facility.
2. Directs staff to conduct an inventory of City-owned facilities using fossil fuels and evaluate the feasibility of converting them to low carbon fuels by 2030. The study to be completed by January 1, 2023 if funding is approved in the 2021 mid-biennial budget adjustment.
3. Staff is directed to conduct a plan to retrofit City-owned parking facilities and buildings with Electric Vehicle chargers by 2030. Zero-emission, low emission or non-motorized vehicles will be prioritized in new vehicle purchases. The Plan to be completed by January 1, 2023 if funding is approved in the 2021 mid-biennial budget adjustment. ⁴

Summary of Resolution (cont.)



4. Directs the City to encourage other local entities such as the County, school districts, and major institutions to join in this step to invest in clean energy assets by adopting similar policies.
5. Directs City Manager to complete an impact assessment of requiring non-fossil fuel sourced heating, lighting, and power in new commercial and residential development in the City. The assessment will include stakeholder involvement, and look at potential opportunities and challenges related to:
 - Public health and safety
 - Economic costs and savings
 - Technical feasibility
 - Legal implications
 - Labor and workforce
 - Operations
 - Housing affordability
 - Equity

The assessment to be completed by January 1, 2023 if funding is approved in the 2021 mid-biennial budget adjustment.

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Costs



- Three items have fiscal impact in the proposal:

Facility Inventory – Section 2 ~\$40,000

EV Charging Plan – Section 3 ~\$40,000

Impact Assessment – Section 5 ~\$50,000

Total **~\$130,000**

- Items are proposed to be funded through a combination of a mid-biennial budget request and a Council Contingency Fund request.
- The resolution does not allocate funds for future projects. Funding and feasibility will be determined in normal budgeting processes.

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Resolution Timeline



October 26, 2020:

- Sustainable Tacoma Commission sends letter outlining and requesting Decarbonization Resolution

November, 2020 – February, 2021:

- Resolution is developed and reviewed with stakeholders and city departments

March 10, 2021:

- Informational briefing provided to Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee

April 20, 2021:

- Proposed date to bring resolution to full council for consideration

October 2021:

- Request funding for plans and studies called for in the resolution

January 1, 2022:

- Requirements for new City facilities and renovations go into effect - studies and plan begin (if funded)

January 1, 2023:

- Studies are completed

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Questions



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