



TO: Mayor Woodards and City Council
FROM: Ryan Mello
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Climate Resolution – December 10, 2019
DATE: November 5, 2019

SUMMARY:

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 impacts of climate change.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.
- Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

Climate change will impact almost every aspect of life, from health effects to food production to infrastructure preservation and many other. By engaging early and vigorously to mitigate and adapt to climate change much of the worst damage can be managed or avoided. Reduction of harm is the most prudent approach for avoiding and minimizing the worst impacts of climate change.

BACKGROUND:

In 2008, the City recognized the threat of climate change and created a Climate Action Plan to begin the long process of addressing the consequences presented by global climate change. Despite the adopted policies of the City of Tacoma, additional actions are needed to advance the necessary progress regarding actions on climate change. In April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by adopting the Paris Agreement, and working to limit warming to no more than 1.5°C. The United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018 warned that it would not be possible to meet the 1.5°C goal unless global carbon levels were reduced 45 percent below 2010 levels by 2030, requiring an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 11 years. As these realities have been recognized it has become apparent that if we are to mitigate and adapt to the harms of climate change we must mobilize our efforts in recognition of the emergency that climate change poses.

ISSUE:

Global temperatures having increased approximately 1.1°C above late 19th century levels demonstrating that climate change is causing damage to the Earth as experienced by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, homelessness, species extinctions, food and potable water shortages, droughts, and extreme weather. Unchecked climate change will bring evermore drastic decline to the health and prosperity of future generations, particularly for the most vulnerable communities. The longer we delay taking definitive action to reduce carbon pollution the greater the threat posed by climate change to current and future generations and the more costly it will be to protect and maintain our community from the impacts of climate change. For the City to transition to a climate-safe future requires the need to



fully mobilize the community. To do otherwise will place us in a reactive mode exposing our community to the worst effects of climate change.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City can continue on the present course exposing our community to greater harm from unmitigated impacts of climate change. The alternative is to take a more proactive approach and accelerate our efforts to mitigate climate change to avoid some of the worst harms.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption of the Climate Emergency Resolution to reduce the worst harms of climate change and prepare the community to best respond to the challenges faced in the future



FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

| FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME * | COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER) | COST ELEMENT | TOTAL AMOUNT |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Fund 1185_OEPS – Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability | 620200 | 5310100 | \$225,000 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | | | \$225,000 |

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

| FUNDING SOURCE | COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER) | COST ELEMENT | TOTAL AMOUNT |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Fund 1185_OEPS – Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability | 620200 | 6311000 | \$175,000 |
| Fund 0010 - General Fund | Various | Various | \$50,000 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | | | \$225,000 |

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$50,000

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED?

Of the total estimated cost of \$225,000, \$175,000 is already budgeted within the Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability budget for the Environmental Action Plan, which will address the cost of items in Section 2 of the resolution. The remaining items have an estimated cost of \$50,000 and that amount is not currently budgeted. The \$50,000 would fund two items: 1) \$40,000 for data tracking under Section 3 and 2) \$10,000 for department director training under Section 6.

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.

A budget modification would be needed or other funding sources will be redirected to cover the unbudgeted \$50,000.