



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development  
**COPY:** Economic Development Committee  
**PRESENTER:** Pat Beard, Community and Economic Development  
**SUBJECT:** Green Economy Strategy  
**DATE:** April 11, 2023

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**  
Request for Resolution

**SUMMARY:**

The Community and Economic Development Department has completed a Green Economy Strategy and study following the City Council’s allocation of American Rescue and Recovery Act funds for this purpose. The Department is requesting that the Economic Development Committee forward the Strategy to the City Council for consideration of formal adoption. Ryan Donahue of Donahue Consulting will assist with the presentation.

**BACKGROUND:**

Prior to the Covid 19 pandemic, roughly four in ten Tacoma families with children were not economically self-sufficient. Leveraging the greening of the economy caused by federal, state, and local policy as well as ongoing significant federal and state funding can help transform the community’s economy for more emphasis on traded-sector business activity and provide opportunities for residents to achieve higher-paying jobs. An Advisory Committee consisting of environmental, port, tribal, planning, manufacturing, workforce, economic development, minority business, and utility professionals assisted CED in developing this Strategy and will continue to be involved in implementation through a broadly-based, diverse Leadership Hub model.

**ISSUE:**

The Green Economy Strategy targets clean energy, industrial symbiosis, and green manufacturing through six strategies as Tacoma’s best opportunities for short- and long-term economic transformation in the greening economy. A “Hub” of leaders will be convened to support implementation by both the City and external partners. The six strategies include:

- Innovate: Drive Product and Process Innovation in Mid-Sized Firms;
- Upskill: Create and Scale Adoption of Green Apprenticeship Programs in Mid-Sized Firms;
- Deploy: Use Infrastructure and Procurement as a Platform for Real-World Innovation;
- Retool: Help Small Contractors Anticipate and Respond to Demand for Green Products;
- Network: Build Networks to Allow Sustainability Professionals to Accelerate Business Change;
- and
- Attract: Leverage Logistics Capabilities to attract Circular Economy Businesses

**ALTERNATIVES:**

City Council adoption of the Strategy will identify it as a priority for staff action and will also bolster the City’s applications for relevant federal and state grants, and philanthropic support. An alternative is to not recommend the Strategy for City Council consideration.



Staff recommends that the Economic Development Committee forward the Green Economy Strategy to the City Council with a recommendation for adoption in support of implementation.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this Request for Resolution.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

City Council adoption of the Green Economy Strategy will prioritize these efforts in the CED workplan and bolster the efforts of the City to obtain external support from federal and state agencies and foundations focused on the objectives and goals of the Strategy. Staff recommends that the Economic Development Committee forward the Green Economy Strategy to the City Council with a recommendation for adoption in support of implementation.