



RESOLUTION NO.

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS BEALE
2 AND WALKER

3 A RESOLUTION relating to reducing the City's municipal carbon footprint by
4 restricting the use of natural gas and new fossil fuel for existing City
5 buildings and future City capital investments, encouraging other local
jurisdictions to do the same, and assessing impacts for imposing the
same restrictions on new commercial and residential construction.

6 WHEREAS the 11th UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
7 Change ("IPCC") report from October 2018 states that we have only until 2030 to
8 limit devastating global warming and avoid a climate catastrophe, and

9 WHEREAS globally and locally, Black, Indigenous, and people of color
10 communities and low-income communities are most vulnerable to the financial and
11 human health stresses or shocks resulting from climate damage, and are
12 disproportionately impacted, and
13

14 WHEREAS the climate crisis poses an imminent, existential threat to all life
15 on Earth that demands timely action at the scale and speed necessary to mitigate
16 harm to all people, including the residents of the City of Tacoma, and
17

18 WHEREAS, in December 2019, the City declared a Climate Emergency
19 through Resolution No. 40509, which articulates the aspirational goal of "seeking a
20 path to making City operations carbon-neutral by 2050," and requested the City
21 Manager identify and propose sustainable funding mechanisms for actions
22 described in the Environmental Action Plan, including building electrification, and
23

24 WHEREAS the City's 2016 Greenhouse Gas Inventory identifies combined
25 emissions from the City's municipal buildings and fleet contribute approximately
26



1 28 percent of overall municipal emissions, and we know that we cannot meet our
2 municipal and community carbon reduction goals without tackling clean
3 transportation and clean buildings as we move forward, and

4 WHEREAS, in Washington State, homes and buildings are the single fastest
5 growing source of carbon pollution, up 50 percent since 1990, and now account for
6 27 percent of Washington's carbon emissions, and

7 WHEREAS Tacoma Public Utilities provides customers in Tacoma plentiful,
8 non-fossil fuel generated, and comparatively affordable electricity for powering its
9 municipal operations, maintenance, and growth, along with all of its community-
10 wide electricity needs, and

12 WHEREAS the City has the opportunity to lead by example to make
13 decisive, transformative, and sustainable changes in its municipal energy
14 consumption, and can significantly lower the City's greenhouse gas emissions and
15 overall carbon impact, and

17 WHEREAS investments that make it easier and safer for people to ride the
18 bus, walk, bike, and roll often have the added benefit of not only reducing carbon
19 emissions, but improving affordable access to jobs, education and services,
20 reducing stormwater pollution and local air pollution, improving physical activity, and
21 supporting local, living wage construction and operation jobs, and

23 WHEREAS the City encourages the use of non-motorized travel to and from
24 City facilities, including a Commute Trip Reduction program for employees, and
25 through the use of investments of safe biking and walking infrastructure around City
26



1 buildings, parking for bicycles or other shared mobility services, transit passes for
2 employees, and comfortable and ADA-compliant sidewalks around all facilities, and

3 WHEREAS the City supports a legislative agenda that advances
4 decarbonization through increased electrification of energy use, and

5 WHEREAS the City already follows state law, RCW 43.19.648 and
6 Chapter 194-29 WAC, which requires clean vehicles and fuels and describes
7 "practicable use of electricity and biofuels to fuel local government vehicles,
8 vessels, and construction equipment," and

9 WHEREAS planning for clean energy in City assets represents a sound
10 investment of the City's resources into long-term infrastructure that is in line with its
11 carbon reduction goals, and

12 WHEREAS vulnerable, underrepresented, and historically oppressed
13 communities in the City, including low-income communities and those with
14 pre-existing medical conditions, along with Black, Indigenous, and people of color
15 communities are disproportionately harmed by indoor pollution (including from gas
16 stoves) and outdoor air pollution, and have less access to healthcare and resources
17 to mitigate this impact; Now Therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

19 Section 1. That the City Manager is directed to require all new City-owned
20 buildings and major renovations of existing City buildings within the City of Tacoma
21 to exclude natural gas and other fossil fuel energy sources for heating, lighting, and
22 power, and use low carbon fuels such as biodiesel, renewable diesel, renewable
23 natural gas, electrolytic hydrogen, and electricity or other electricity derived fuels



generated from sustainable and renewable resources; except where exemptions
1 are necessary due to reliability and resiliency of resources, technical or cost
2 infeasibility. This policy will become effective January 1, 2022.
3

4 Section 2. That the City Manager is directed to inventory City-owned facilities
5 within the City of Tacoma that use fossil fuels and evaluate the feasibility of
6 retrofitting existing buildings to low-emission sources by 2030. This inventory and
7 evaluation will make use of existing reports and data to prepare recommendations
8 regarding feasibility and life-cycle costs. The report will be completed by January 1,
9 2023, and a presentation will be made to the Infrastructure, Planning and
10 Sustainability ("IPS") Committee.
11

12 Section 3. That the City Manager is directed to develop a plan to retrofit
13 each City-owned parking facility and building within the City of Tacoma with electric
14 vehicle ("EV") charging stations by 2030. This plan will be completed by January 1,
15 2023, and a report will be made to the IPS Committee. Zero-emission,
16 low-emission, or non-motorized vehicles will be prioritized in all new vehicle
17 purchases whenever:
18

- 19 A. Suitable equipment exists for the duty;
- 20 B. Gross vehicle weight is less than 19,501 pounds (Class 5 vehicles and
21 lower). The necessity and type of exemptions will be reviewed in
conjunction with updates to the Environmental Action Plan;
- 22 C. Life Cycle Cost Analysis shows the premium at less than 10 percent; and
- 23 D. Suitable EV-charging or other infrastructure to recharge or fuel
24 equipment is in place, or anticipated to be, preferably at the equipment's
assigned stationary location.

25 Consideration of the addition of EV charging equipment at such stationary
26 locations will be considered in decision-making.



1 Section 4. That the City will encourage other local entities, such as the
2 County, school districts, and major institutions, to join it in this step to invest in clean
3 energy assets by adopting similar policies.

4 Section 5. That the City Manager is directed to complete an impact
5 assessment of requiring non-fossil fuel sourced heating, lighting, and power in new
6 commercial and residential development in the City, and will report back to the
7 IPS Committee by January 1, 2023, with findings, including stakeholder
8 involvement, that will look at potential opportunities and challenges related to:

- 9 ○ Public health and safety;
- 10 ○ Economic costs and savings;
- 11 ○ Technical feasibility;
- 12 ○ Legal implications;
- 13 ○ Labor and workforce;
- 14 ○ Operations;
- 15 ○ Housing affordability; and
- 16 ○ Equity.

17 Adopted _____

20 _____
21 Attest:
22
23 _____
24 City Clerk

25
26 Approved as to form:

Chief Deputy City Attorney