

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.

WHEREAS, in 1984 the City of Tacoma (hereafter "City") was placed on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's National Priority List of contaminated sites as one of the nation's most polluted cities; and

WHEREAS, the City recognized the clear threat posed to the community's long-term health and economic vitality by this pollution and so, courageously committed to cleaning up its highly polluted lands, waters, and air; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, in January 2015 the City of Tacoma committed, in the vision of the Tacoma 2025 Strategic Plan, to a high quality of life for all of its residents now and across future generations, described by access to healthy, affordable housing, sustainable transportation, a vibrant economy with a robust green jobs sector, a rich multicultural community, and thriving ecosystems and green spaces in an urban system developed through smart growth; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the city adopted an Environmental Action Plan outlining 67 actions to be taken by City government and the local community over a 5-year period to

become more environmentally sustainable and help respond to climate change and its many adverse impacts to the community and improve our overall environment; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Master Plan has adopted policies supporting electrification, mode shift, and, more explicitly, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the City Council adopted a new Comprehensive Plan, *One Tacoma*, which included new and strengthened goals and policies pertaining to the assessment of climate risks and pursuing measures to support adaptation, mitigation of climate causing greenhouse gas emissions, and the promotion of community resilience strategies; and

WHEREAS, despite the adopted policies of the City of Tacoma, additional actions are needed to advance the necessary progress regarding actions on climate change; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 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; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Tacoma City Council enacted interim regulations that temporarily prohibit new heavy industrial projects in the Port of Tacoma/Tacoma Tide

Flats subarea, and the temporary prohibition includes large fossil fuel projects such as refineries and large storage facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the City of Tacoma entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and the Port of Tacoma to develop new permanent regulations for the Port of Tacoma/Tacoma Tide Flats subarea with one of the stated goals of this process being environmental remediation and protection, and consideration of limitations on new or expanded large fossil fuel projects will be part of that work; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, unchecked climate change will bring evermore drastic decline to the health and prosperity of future generations, particularly for the most vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, Tacoma cherishes its youth, who are the key to our community's prosperity, and strives to engage them in decisions being made right now, including

through the establishment of the Mayor's Youth Commission, in an ultimate effort to empower them to follow their dreams and live prosperously; and

WHEREAS, City leaders have seen time and again that seemingly impossible challenges can be met when the will of the community is mobilized; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires "Climate Mobilization" across all of our society, including all levels of government and across all economic sectors including: agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and energy production at a speed and scale not seen since World War II to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions, to rapidly and safely drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, our community is blessed with Tacoma Power's 98% carbon-neutral and affordable electricity to light and heat our buildings and power our economy and transportation and provides us with leverage points to meet these extreme challenges; and

WHEREAS Tacoma Power is already committed to achieving the requirements in the Washington State Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), including one hundred percent carbon-neutral electricity by 2030 and one hundred percent carbon-free electricity by 2045; and

WHEREAS Tacoma Power is also committed to achieving the low income and vulnerable communities provisions required under CETA; and

WHEREAS, the City's 2016 Greenhouse Gas inventory identifies our use of fossil fuels for transportation such as commuting, commercial trucking, and other freight transport

as our largest component of carbon emissions comprising over 70% of Tacoma's overall community greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS Tacoma can be the catalyst and proving ground for widespread, economy-wide transformation to a clean energy economy through investment and development of clean, alternative fuel technology; and

WHEREAS, transition to a climate-safe future requires the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support, and recognizes that the residents of Tacoma, particularly frontline communities, and community organizations, including communities of faith, youth, organized labor, business, academic institutions, homeowners' associations, and environmental, economic, racial, gender, family and disability justice, indigenous, immigrant, and women's rights organizations and other such allies will be integral to and in the leadership of the mobilization effort; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2019 Tacoma's youth and young adults joined with their companions around the world to call for a global climate strike and greater, more urgent climate leadership from their elected officials and public institutions; and

WHEREAS, each generation has a duty to leave a sustainable and healthy planet for future generations; NOW, THEREFORE

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

SECTION 1. That the City of Tacoma declares that our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world are experiencing a climate emergency, and that the City Council hereby expresses its support for initiatives to foster a citywide climate emergency mobilization effort to combat global



warming that will result in the goal of a just transition to a carbon neutral economy and accelerates adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts;

SECTION 2. That the City Manager will direct the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS) to develop an updated Environmental Action Plan (EAP) by April 22, 2021. The EAP shall outline a pathway to reaching the City's carbon reduction goals by 2050 and, at a minimum:

- Establish the feasibility, cost, timeline, performance targets, scope, strategy for implementation, and specific actions for reaching greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, which also addresses the City's transportation infrastructure. To demonstrate the City's commitment to leading by example, the City's internal goals will be accelerated to include an 80% GHG reduction goal (from 40%) by 2030, and 100% by 2050 (from 80%). The community goals include an 80% GHG reduction by 2050. These goals shall be published in the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, including the Transportation Master Plan, which may include a new Climate element that incorporates these goals and key strategies.
- Include actions that support goals of the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan and other relevant planning and policy documents;
- Commit to equity and social justice playing an integral role in all phases of the Plan;

- Support and develop community environmental justice leaders by building capacity among youth and young adults and in marginalized communities to shape and implement climate change solutions;
- Create an Environmental Justice Leadership Workgroup that engages and collaborates with community members and those most burdened by environmental impacts to participate in the update of the City's Environmental Action Plan;
- Include a green economy section that will define actions and targets to assist existing Tacoma businesses with sustainability actions, attract and retain carbon neutral and climate friendly businesses, increase the number of living wage jobs, and provide a just transition for the workforce into the next generation of sustainable manufacturing and construction jobs;

SECTION 3. That the City Manager direct staff to establish a method by which the quantity and type of fossil and bio-fuels produced, refined, stored in, and distributed through the City of Tacoma can be determined, and periodically reported. The City Manager should further direct staff to establish a method to gather information on specific fossil fuel facilities in the City of Tacoma including changes of ownership, mergers and acquisitions, investor presentations and reports, or any other public information that may indicate a facility's interest or intent to expand in the future, taking into account broader market trends in oil and gas refining and export in the Pacific Northwest. If this method does not require the consideration of additional City Council legislation, the method will be

implemented, and the data furnished to the City Council on a periodic basis depending on the frequency of availability of data;

SECTION 4. The City Manager will review the reporting structure of the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability to better collaborate with all City Departments and initiatives to address shared responsibilities, seriousness and urgency for climate action and report back to the Council by March 31, 2020 with those recommendations;

SECTION 5. That the City Manager, in coordination with Tacoma Public Utilities, shall identify and propose to the City Council and the Public Utility Board sustainable funding mechanisms for actions prescribed in the EAP which are determined practicable by the City Council, which may include but are not limited to, smart growth strategies, building electrification, sustainable transportation systems, green jobs with living wages, community development strategies that uphold culture and equity, urban tree canopy, and Tacoma's air, water, and lands;

SECTION 6. That the City Manager is directed to provide training for all City Department Directors and coordinate with Tacoma Public Utilities regarding climate science and equity to ensure awareness for how climate change impacts the delivery of services to the public and capital improvements by March 31, 2020.

SECTION 7. That the City Manager shall direct appropriate staff to coordinate with the community and partners, including artists, students, and justice



organizations who care for and protect the earth, to celebrate the most diverse global mobilization in defense of the environment in world history and honor of Earth Day's 50th anniversary on April 22, 2020.