ORDINANCE NO. 29014

BY REQUEST OF DEPUTY MAYOR HINES AND COUNCIL MEMBERS DIAZ, SADALGE, AND WALKER

AN ORDINANCE relating to climate and sustainability; amending Title 1 of the Municipal Code, relating to Administration and Personnel, by adding a new Chapter entitled “Climate and Sustainability Commission”, establishing a Climate and Sustainability Commission, and appointing current members of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission with unexpired terms to the Climate and Sustainability Commission.

WHEREAS the City declared a climate emergency in 2019, and called for a transformative effort to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate impacts, and

WHEREAS the City has adopted a Climate Action Plan to guide efforts in creating healthy affordable housing, clean reliable transportation, protections for public health, and green good-paying jobs, and

WHEREAS this proposed Ordinance would amend the Tacoma Municipal Code, and establish a Climate and Sustainability Commission to advise and report to the City Council on the City’s progress in meeting the goals of its Climate Action Plan and sustainability measures; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby adopts the Recitals of this Ordinance as its formal legislative findings.

Section 2. That Title 1 of the Municipal Code relating to Administration and Personnel, is hereby amended by adding a new Chapter entitled “Climate and Sustainability Commission”, as set forth in the attached Exhibit “A.”

Section 3. That a new commission, entitled Climate and Sustainability Commission, is hereby established, effective May 1, 2025, and that the persons set forth in the attached Exhibit "B," who are currently serving on the Sustainable Tacoma Commission, are hereby confirmed and appointed as members of the Climate and Sustainability Commission for the initial terms as are set forth therein, and that all member positions and initial terms shall be as established in the attached Exhibit "B."

Section 4. That effective May 1, 2025, the Sustainable Tacoma Commission created pursuant to Section 3 of City Council Resolution No. 37631, shall be dissolved and no longer in force and effect, and all work then in progress before the Sustainable Tacoma Commission shall be transferred to the Climate and Sustainability Commission.

Section 5. That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney, is authorized to assign within Title 1 of the Tacoma Municipal Code a chapter number to the new chapter entitled Climate and Sustainability Commission, and to make

necessary corrections to this ordinance, including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Passed _____

_____
Mayor

Attest:

_____
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
City Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"

CHAPTER XXX

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Sections:

Short title.
Climate and Sustainability Commission—Declaration of purpose.
Creation of a Climate and Sustainability Commission.
Composition of the Climate and Sustainability Commission.
Terms of Climate and Sustainability Commissioners.
Members shall serve without compensation.
Rules and officers.
Powers and duties of the Commission.
Meetings and procedures.

Short Title.

This chapter may be referenced as "Climate and Sustainability Commission Code."

Climate and Sustainability Commission—Declaration of purpose.

The purpose of this legislation is to:
A. Establish the Climate and Sustainability Commission (also referred to in this chapter as "Commission") and to provide the administrative process by which this Commission will serve; and
B. Recognize the importance of climate and sustainability issues in the City of Tacoma.

Creation of a Climate and Sustainability Commission.

In order to fulfill the purposes of this chapter, a Climate and Sustainability Commission, consisting of 13 members, is hereby established. The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the City Council in accordance with the City Charter and Rules of Procedure of the City Council.

Composition of the Climate and Sustainability Commission.

All members of the Commission shall have a demonstrated interest and familiarity with basic climate and sustainability issues, either through professional practice, education, or volunteer work, and shall be residents within the boundaries of the City.
The Climate and Sustainability Commission shall consist of 13 members as follows:
A. District Positions: At least one member of the Commission shall reside in District 1. At least one member of the Commission shall reside in District 2. At least one member of the Commission shall reside in District 3. At least one member of the Commission shall reside in District 4. At least one member of the Commission shall reside in District 5.
B. Temporary vacancies shall not render actions by the Commission invalid.
C. The provisions of this chapter shall be enforced as vacancies occur following the adoption of this legislation.
D. There shall be a "youth seat" reserved for an individual who is between the ages of 16 – 24 years old and serves for one year in alignment with the other Commission members.

Terms of Commissioners.

Terms of the Commissioners of the Climate and Sustainability Commission shall be three years.
A. Terms of Commissioners shall begin on May 1 and end on April 30.
B. To promote both stability within the Commission and to encourage rotation of the membership, the City Council sets a guideline of two full terms per member but, at its discretion, may reappoint members to serve more than two terms.

C. In the event that a position is vacated before the expiration of the term, the City Council may appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

Members shall serve without compensation.

Members of the Climate and Sustainability Commission shall serve without compensation.

Rules and officers.

A. The Commission shall elect annually from its members a Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs (Officers). The term of office shall be for one (1) year or until the next group of Officers assume their duties. In case of any vacancy in office, the vacancy shall be filled by an election at the first regular meeting after the occurrence of such vacancy.
B. Any Commissioner who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Commission without being excused may be deemed to have forfeited his or her office. The Commission shall take the necessary action to enforce this provision by causing such absence and the resulting forfeiture of office to be recorded in its official minutes, which minutes shall be transmitted to the Mayor for the purpose of nominating a successor to fill the unexpired term.
C. Members shall abide by the City's Code of Ethics as provided in TMC 1.46.

Powers and duties of the Commission.

The primary duty of the Climate and Sustainability Commission is to bring community accountability, transparency, and vigilance to the long-term implementation of Tacoma's Climate Action Plan and sustainability initiatives. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Climate and Sustainability Commission shall engage in the following:
A. Develop an annual work plan identifying Commission goals and implementation plans, including discussion of timelines and responsibilities. Items requiring sustainability staff support will be identified and prioritized. Discuss and evaluate work plan progress as needed.
B. Provide policy, program, and budget recommendations both written and verbal to City Council and City staff, through or in coordination with Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee, and other relevant Committees and Commissions.
C. Request updates from staff on implementation and results of City sustainability policies and programs. Communicate barriers to and benefits for implementation to City Council, through or in coordination with Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee, and other relevant Committees and Commissions.
D. Provide annual climate action progress reports to the public.
E. Coordinate, communicate, and encourage public involvement in sustainability initiatives.
F. Serve as a forum for regular public comment and community involvement.

Meetings and procedures.

A. The Commission shall establish a regular time and place for meetings and shall meet a minimum of 12 times per calendar year, or additionally, as necessary, to conduct Commission business. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or by any three members of the Commission upon personal notice being given to all members or written notice being mailed to each member at least 24 hours prior to the date set for such meeting, unless such notice requirement is waived in writing.
B. A simple majority of appointed filled positions shall constitute a quorum.
C. All Commission meetings shall be conducted in compliance with Chapter 42.30 RCW, Open Public Meetings Act, to provide for adequate public participation, and the Commission shall adopt standards in its rules to guide this action.
D. The Commission's chairperson shall submit an annual report to the City Council, sending a copy thereof to the City Clerk.

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EXHIBIT “B”

Current Roster for the Sustainable Tacoma Commission

Position	Name	Term Start Date	Term End Date
1	Vacant*	5/1/2025	4/30/2028
2	Alexandra “Lexi” Brewer	5/1/2025	4/30/2027
3	Michael Chang	5/1/2025	4/30/2026
4	Vacant*	5/1/2025	4/30/2028
5	Vacant*	5/1/2025	4/30/2028
6	Sheena Hewett	5/1/2025	4/30/2026
7	Gloria “Joy” Muhammad	5/1/2025	4/30/2027
8	Margaret Schwertner	5/1/2525	4/30/2027
9	Laura Svancarek	5/1/2025	4/30/2026
10	Casey Twiggs	5/1/2025	4/30/2026
11	Vacant	5/1/2025	4/30/2027
12	Lowell Wyse	5/1/2025	4/30/2026
13 - Youth Member	Vacant	5/1/2025	4/30/2026

*Currently, Matthew Benedict holds Position 1, Evlondo Cooper holds Position 4, and John Doherty holds Position 5, through April 30, 2025, and are eligible to seek reappointment at a later date.