

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TO EQUITABLY REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND STRENGTHEN RESILIENCY AND DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK TO OVERSEE AND MONITOR PROGRESS.

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that human activity has unequivocally warmed the planet, largely from burning fossil fuels (coal, petroleum, methane), which, if continued unabated, will cause increasingly dire risks of harm to life and safety, the environment, infrastructure, and quality of life of communities; and

WHEREAS, climate change poses serious impacts around the world – more intense heat waves, droughts, coastal storms and heavy downpours – and some effects are already being felt in the City of Rockville and Montgomery County in the form of hotter summers, inland flooding, increased threats from wind and storms and the potential for compounding effects; and

WHEREAS, scientists, policymakers, business leaders, public health experts and economists recognize that immediate, bold actions will reduce the long-term risks from climate change; and

WHEREAS cities across the nation, recognizing the gravity of climate change, are taking leadership roles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transportation, foster a regenerative economy, and prepare to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change to protect infrastructure, the environment, and communities, especially the most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's 2030 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan outlines measures to achieve a goal of 50% reductions by 2030, recognizing that developed nations will need to reduce emissions to net zero as early as 2045, and calls for the state to ensure that equity and environmental justice are key principles of climate policies moving forward; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments completes greenhouse gas community-scale inventories for all 24 local government members and published the *Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan* that establishes priority collaborative actions for area governments and partners to work on together over the next ten years to move the region towards meeting regional climate mitigation and resiliency goals; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council previously signed on to the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (2006), joined the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) (2007), approved the *Strategy for a Sustainable Rockville* (2007), joined the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program (2012) and recertified in 2015, 2018 and 2021, joined Maryland Smart Energy Communities and established an energy efficiency and a renewable energy goal for municipal facilities and operations (2013), established climate change as a Mayor and Council priority (2016-present); signed the "We Are Still In" pledge to support the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and resolved to develop a climate action plan (2017); and

WHEREAS, Rockville's greenhouse gas emissions have already reduced 20% since 2005, but more action is needed to achieve 50% by 2030, with about 99% of emissions derived from the community and 1% from City operations; and

WHEREAS, Rockville's Comprehensive Plan, adopted August 4, 2021, recommends the creation of a Climate Action Plan as well as progressive policies to guide the city's growth, development, and quality of life over the next twenty years, including in the areas of land use, transportation, housing, recreation and parks, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the climate change impacts in Rockville will be most acutely felt by children, seniors, low income populations, people with disabilities, non-native English speakers, residents with unstable economic or housing situations, and racial and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, through resolution 10-21, recognizing the pivotal role of governmental institutions in addressing systemic racism, the Mayor and Council committed to applying a proactive racial and ethnic equity lens to decision-making and to policies, practices and programs, and the Climate Action Plan falls under this purview; and

WHEREAS, Rockville engaged with community stakeholders to identify a list of municipal and community actions that are tailored to Rockville, that leverage partnerships and opportunities when possible, and are flexible to allow the City to take advantage of new technology or funding opportunities as they arise;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF ROCKVILLE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM:

1. The City of Rockville approves the Climate Action Plan to equitably reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resiliency and development a framework to oversee and monitor progress.
2. All City departments will coordinate to implement actions to achieve the following goals:
 - a. Reduce GHG emissions from the community and municipal government operations at least 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 to be on track to reach net zero by or before 2050;
 - b. Improve the capacity of our community, homes, businesses, and natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from climate change impacts such as rising temperatures, more frequent and intense heat waves, drought, heavy rainfall and severe storms; and
 - c. Incorporate equity in implementation and conduct inclusive engagement to reduce environmental disparities and protect and empower vulnerable communities.
3. Plan implementation will involve strategic City leadership and new or expanded investment in clean energy technologies, capital improvements, programs and services, policies and ordinances, and staff capacity (new positions, adjusted positions, and expanded expertise).

4. The Director of Public Works will work with the Environment Commission, Traffic and Transportation Commission, Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee, Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee, Planning Commission, Human Services Advisory Commission, Human Rights Commission, and Recreation and Park Advisory Board to support Climate Action Plan community engagement and implementation.
5. The Director of Public Works will work with all departments to develop an approach to measure and track progress, which may include annual budget metrics and periodic progress updates, in order to allow the Mayor and Council to gauge plan performance.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Rockville as its meeting of January 10, 2022.


Sara Taylor-Ferrell, City Clerk/Director of
Council Operations

