

RESOLUTION NO. 0307-02-20

WHEREAS, the Iowa Climate Change Impacts Committee reported in 2011, Iowa is experiencing extreme storms, precipitation, and flooding; a rise in overall temperature; and increased humidity as a result of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Climate Change Impacts Committee reported in 2011, the above climate change impacts have led to or threaten to generate changes in crop and livestock production, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, plant diseases, water pollution, health hazards and deaths, and economic and infrastructure damages in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the *Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C* in October 2018 stating, climate-related risks for natural and human systems are greater at 1.5°C global warming, and "global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate;" and

WHEREAS, the IPCC Report states, in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C, the following is required:

- a) A decline in anthropogenic carbon emissions by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and the achievement of net zero carbon emissions by 2050;
- b) A decline in emissions of methane and black carbon by 35% or more from 2010 levels by 2050;
- c) An increase in renewables to supply 70-80% of electricity by 2050;
- d) A decline in coal-generated electricity to 0% by 2050;
- e) A decline in industry carbon emissions by 65-90% from 2010 levels by 2050;
- f) An increase in the transport sector's share of low-emission energy to about 35-65% by 2050;
- g) The use of carbon dioxide removal on the order of 100-1000 Gt CO₂ over the 21st century, including measures of afforestation, reforestation, and soil carbon sequestration; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC Report identifies urban and infrastructure systems as critical to limiting global warming to 1.5°C; and

WHEREAS, Cedar Rapids is the second most populous city in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, Cedar Rapids' 2018 *STAR Certification Results Report* identifies "developing a climate action plan," as a measure to improve Cedar Rapids' greenhouse gas mitigation score; and

WHEREAS, Cedar Rapids' 2019 *EnvisionCR, updated December 3, 2019, includes the initiative to, "Prepare a community-wide Climate Action Plan," that focuses on the entire community, after the iGreenCR Action Plan is completed; and*

WHEREAS, the *iGreenCR Action Plan*, a municipal sustainability plan, was enacted by the City of Cedar Rapids in January 2020; and

WHEREAS, the United States' *Fourth National Climate Assessment* states, older adults, children, low-income communities, communities of color, disabled communities, and Indigenous

peoples, referred to in this report as vulnerable communities, are “disproportionately affected by, and less resilient to, the health impacts of climate change,” including waterborne and foodborne diseases, heat-related deaths, asthma, hay fever, and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the World Bank’s *Unbreakable: Building the Resilience of the Poor in the Face of Natural Disasters* states, vulnerable communities are more often affected by natural hazards, lose more when hit by a disaster, and receive less support to cope and recover, keeping them in a cycle of poverty; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines fair treatment as the notion that “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or policies,” and

WHEREAS, the EPA defines meaningful involvement as a process in which “community concerns will be considered in the decision making process,” and “decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected;” and

WHEREAS, according to Cedar Rapids’ 2016 *State of Affairs Report*, Cedar Rapids uses the following elements to measure sustainability: land use, energy, water, consumption, food, equity, and health.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA:

Section 1. That the City Council of the City of Cedar Rapids officially recognizes the urgency for community climate action, given global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if the global average temperature continues to increase at the current rate, and Cedar Rapids will experience greater impacts as a result.

Section 2. That the Council directs staff to develop a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory for the year 2010.

Section 3. That the Council commits to developing a community-wide sustainability plan with the following climate mitigation targets:

- a) Reduce carbon emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050;
- b) Reduce methane and black carbon emissions by 35% from 2010 levels by 2050;
- c) Increase renewables to supply 70-100% of electricity by 2050;
- d) Decrease coal-generated electricity to 0% by 2050;
- e) Decrease industry carbon emissions by 65-90% from 2010 levels by 2050;
- f) Increase the transport sector’s share of low-emission final energy to 35-65% by 2050;
- g) Utilize carbon dioxide removal methods that allow the city to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Section 4. That the Council commits to developing a community-wide sustainability plan with the following climate adaptation targets:

- a) Prioritize the development of flood protection, stormwater management systems, and green infrastructure for vulnerable communities within 100 and 500 year floodplains.

Section 5. That the Council commits to developing a community-wide sustainability plan with the following climate justice targets:

- a) Develop an inclusive outreach and participation process by enabling vulnerable communities to determine the climate mitigation, adaptation, and justice challenges and solutions in their neighborhoods;
- b) End food deserts by 2050 by ensuring access to fresh, nutritious, and culturally relevant foods to vulnerable communities;
- c) Guarantee access to clean air and water to all vulnerable communities by protecting their neighborhoods from hazardous materials or pollutants;
- d) Guarantee access to nature or green space to all vulnerable communities by preserving or developing green amenities in their neighborhoods;
- e) Guarantee a direct line of communication between vulnerable communities and the City of Cedar Rapids in order for vulnerable communities to provide feedback on environmental programs and injustices affecting their neighborhoods.

Section 6. That the Council commits to developing a community-wide sustainability plan with the following job and worker guarantees:

- a) Create high-wage, green jobs, where green jobs are those that further the climate mitigation, adaptation, and justice goals of the city;
- b) Ensure a just transition for workers whose jobs depend on the fossil fuel industry by investing in job training programs and opportunities that provide workers with the skills required of a green economy.

Section 7. That the Council appoints a steering committee with the purpose of guiding staff in the development of a community-wide sustainability plan, with diverse members representing the following communities:

- a) Energy industry workers
- b) Energy industry leaders
- c) Food insecure residents
- d) Cyclists
- e) Public transportation riders
- f) Vulnerable communities
- g) Sustainable industry leaders
- h) Sustainability-focused non-profits
- i) Local industry leaders
- j) Business community leaders


Passed this 25th day of February, 2020.

Voting: Council member Olson (Tyler) moved the adoption of the resolution; seconded by Council member Vanorny. Adopted, Ayes, Council members Hoeger, Loeffler, Olson (Scott), Olson (Tyler), Overland, Poe, Todd, Vanorny and Mayor Hart.



Bradley G. Hart, Mayor

Attest:



Amy Stevenson, City Clerk