

RESOLUTION No.

Declare that along with the COVID-19 pandemic that has created a public health and economic crisis, a human-made climate emergency also threatens our city, our region, our state, our nation, humanity and the natural world, and that such an emergency calls for an immediate mobilization effort initiating greater action, resources, collaboration and new approaches to restore a safe climate (Resolution)

WHEREAS, the City of Portland recognizes that frontline communities in Portland and worldwide, including Black and Indigenous people, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, low-income individuals, labor and workers, people living with disabilities, youth, and individuals experiencing homelessness are often the communities least responsible for contributing to climate change, yet are disproportionately affected by its impacts and will continue to bear a disproportionate burden; and

WHEREAS, the people from frontline communities have the fewest opportunities to change or benefit from the systems that impact them, including an economy that is built off slavery, colonialism, and the unsustainable extraction of natural resources, and they must be the ones that benefit first from the transition to a clean energy economy and be able to lead the planning and implementation efforts to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, Native Nations prioritize the balance between a sustainable environment and the well-being of the people, as they have done for this land since time immemorial and will do so in perpetuity to preserve their culture and protect traditional lifeways; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland recognizes the value of the sovereign voice of Native Nations and the importance of working in partnership with tribal leaders to uphold treaty-reserved lifeways, traditional values, and cultural resources that are jeopardized by the increasing threat of the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland acknowledges that Indigenous, immigrant, and refugee families in Portland are connected with communities in their homelands that are experiencing or are highly vulnerable to the catastrophic impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, youth will inherit the legacy of our decisions on climate, and youth from diverse backgrounds are organizing locally and worldwide to demand and support climate justice and government action to mitigate the catastrophic impacts of the climate emergency and to restore a safe climate; and

WHEREAS, the lifecycle impacts of fossil fuels pose risks to the health, livability, and safety of local communities surrounding the fuels' extraction, refinement, and combustion sites, transportation routes, and storage facilities and those communities are often disproportionately low-income and/or communities of color; and

WHEREAS, workers on the frontlines of climate change, such as day laborers, construction workers, and outdoor workers, should be provided with a climate-safe work

environment through health and safety standards developed in consultation with labor-representing organizations; and

WHEREAS, workers in the fossil fuel industry and sectors that are reliant on fossil fuels may lose their jobs as a result of the transition to a clean energy system, and a managed decline of the fossil fuel industry must be in line with the imperatives of a just transition, including prioritizing new job opportunities in the clean energy economy for displaced workers and other frontline communities; and

WHEREAS, a transition to a low-carbon future, and building resilience to the impacts of the climate emergency, is an opportunity to redress historical inequities in our community and must be just; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland's historically racist land use policies and discriminatory real estate, planning, and infrastructure investment practices means communities of color and low-income Black and Native American populations in Portland may experience significantly higher ambient temperatures, higher utility bills, poorer air quality, and greater risk to health than predominantly white or affluent neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, people living in homes with insufficient or no insulation and inefficient heating and cooling systems will incur higher energy bills, and people dependent on gas-powered vehicles may pay more for operation and maintenance, creating additional burdens on low-income households and other frontline communities that can lead to financial instability and displacement; and

WHEREAS, strategies and programs that prevent involuntary displacement of frontline communities, businesses, and cultural institutions is a significant climate change mitigation strategy. When displacement of frontline communities occurs, vehicle miles traveled increase as community members seek to maintain their community or are forced to lose it altogether. When frontline communities, businesses, and cultural institutions can stay or move within the neighborhoods of their choice, access to the foundational components of a thriving community increase; and

WHEREAS, references to "carbon emissions" includes all greenhouse gases combined in a single unit, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e), and the City of Portland has been tracking and analyzing carbon emissions since 1990 using the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories; and

WHEREAS, total local carbon emissions reductions in Multnomah County have plateaued at around 19% below 1990 levels, despite 27 years of climate planning and mitigation policies, programs, and investments; and

WHEREAS, local transportation emissions are increasing – currently 6% over 1990 levels, and 12% over their lowest levels in 2012, climbing faster than population growth

over the same period. From 2012 to 2017 Portland experienced year-over-year increases in transportation emissions, as the cost of gasoline remained low; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 crisis is increasing reliance on local freight delivery for groceries and goods, contributing to emissions and air pollution threats for frontline communities and those most vulnerable to poor air quality, such as children and older adults; and

WHEREAS, expanding roadways does not solve congestion but leads to additional vehicle miles and carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, investing in permanent affordable housing near transit lines in urban, suburban, and rural areas reduces carbon emissions and delivers greater environmental, economic, health, and social benefits;

WHEREAS, traditional sector-based carbon emission inventories – which primarily only account for emissions produced within a jurisdiction’s geographic boundary – drastically underestimate carbon impacts globally and lack the ability to address fundamental issues of well-being and quality of life. Portland’s consumption-based carbon emission inventory shows that global carbon emissions that result from the consumption of food, goods, materials, and services by Portlanders are more than double the emissions produced locally; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest region has warmed substantially – nearly 2°F since 1900 – leading to warmer winters, decreasing snowpacks, hotter summers, and heavier storms. Extreme years like 2015 will become more common, increasing the risk of both flooding and drought, water scarcity, large wildfires, warmer river and stream temperatures, harmful algal blooms, life-cycle effects on salmon and other threatened and endangered aquatic species, and damage to recreational tourism economies; and

WHEREAS, warmer, wetter winters will increase the risk of localized flooding and landslides, and hotter, drier summers will increase the risk of extreme heat events, both of which will have a direct impact on private property, public infrastructure, and the health and well-being of frontline communities that are disproportionately at risk from these natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, changes to the length of the summer season have a direct and immediate impact on trees by causing stress to species like Western Red Cedar, which undermines the ability of Portland’s tree canopy to provide critical habitat, urban cooling, and other green infrastructure services; and

WHEREAS, protecting, restoring, and managing our urban natural resources – including rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, trees, and unique habitats – mitigates risks, sequesters carbon, and builds resilience to the impacts of climate change, provides benefits to human physical and mental health, protects private property and public

infrastructure, and supports the intrinsic value of natural ecosystems and biodiversity;
and

WHEREAS, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic are both public health crises that disproportionately impact frontline communities and are compounded by pre-existing economic inequalities and systemic racism. On May 20, 2020, Portland City Council adopted Resolution No. 37487 declaring its intent to center the City's climate action, shared economic prosperity, environmental, and equity goals in the City's COVID-19 response measures; and

WHEREAS, the climate emergency is an existential threat to our community and economy, and combatting it will require government agencies, businesses, and residents to treat this as the crisis it is by taking bold steps to meet Portland's carbon reduction goals and building a healthy, resilient city in which everyone can thrive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council declares that a human-made climate emergency threatens our city, our region, our state, our nation, humanity, and the natural world, and that such an emergency calls for an immediate mobilization effort initiating greater action, resources, and collaboration that prioritizes frontline communities to restore a safe climate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland asks businesses, non-profits, academia, large institutions, other governments, faith-based organizations, and residents to rise to the challenge of this emergency by making climate commitments of their own and mobilizing their resources, ingenuity and community wisdom to tackle this existential threat and restore a safe climate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland will advance climate justice and climate action initiatives that are led by the community, especially frontline communities and youth from frontline communities, and accelerate investments in projects that benefit these communities in ways that are restorative, reparative, and build present and future well-being and wealth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no later than Fall 2020, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is directed to work closely with other City bureaus, Multnomah County, frontline communities, and youth-led organizations to establish and co-convene a new and ongoing climate justice initiative that will provide a framework for government and community to work together as equal partners to identify and implement strategies that will advance a shared vision for climate justice and action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is directed to work with Multnomah County, community partners, funders, and other stakeholders to ensure the structure, processes, and resources for the climate justice initiative will meet the needs of frontline communities to fully participate, including working to secure additional funding to resource the participation of frontline community members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland recognizes the critical contribution that a wide array of stakeholders, including but not limited to utilities, businesses, environmental organizations, advocates, youth, and community organizations, have made and will continue to make to address climate change locally, and will engage these many stakeholders through multiple avenues to advance climate actions to put Portland on a path to meet the 2030 carbon emissions reduction targets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Portland will make available findings from ongoing climate-related initiatives related to sustainable consumption, pricing for equitable mobility, decarbonization pathways and sector-based emissions analyses, resilience, adaptation, net-zero carbon buildings, and anti-displacement to the climate justice initiative and other stakeholders to help identify and guide City, County, and community strategies to equitably meet Portland's 2030 carbon emission reduction goals and update future climate action priorities and work plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland will pursue partnerships with schools and youth-serving organizations to support a youth-led summit on climate to engage, inform, acknowledge, inspire, and support youth-led climate action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland will involve youth and other stakeholders in the development of a proposed climate test – such as an internal carbon fee or shadow price on carbon – that will ensure City bureaus are making informed decisions based on the best available climate science, particularly for major capital investments and high-carbon-impact decisions, such as fuel and vehicle purchases, and explore options for a lifecycle climate test that could apply to other areas where the City has environmental, safety, land use, zoning, or design review authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City bureaus with jurisdiction over land use, transportation, economic development, and housing decisions will coordinate to reduce vehicle miles traveled and offer greater opportunities for diverse housing options and affordability, and the City's legislative agenda will identify and support policy and funding opportunities that preserve and create permanent affordable housing near transit lines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that because the ability of residents, local businesses and communities to avoid displacement in the face of population growth and economic changes is a critical climate strategy, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability will complete the City's first Anti-Displacement Action Plan with the goals of decreasing housing and economic vulnerability and increasing community resiliency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Anti-Displacement Action Plan will consider climate impacts from displacement by connecting climate data with data on housing and economic vulnerability, access to green infrastructure, energy costs, and access to affordable low-carbon transportation options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that investments in resiliency and climate-related disaster response measures must proactively consider and address potential displacement and accessibility issues experienced by frontline communities through community-led and culturally specific planning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland will adopt new policies and development standards to further prevent expansion of new fossil fuel infrastructure, reduce fossil fuel consumption, reduce risk to the community and the environment, and encourage the adoption and use of clean, renewable fuels including, but not limited to updating the Renewable Fuel Standard; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland is committed to a just and managed decline of fossil fuel production and use, and will collaborate with stakeholders including labor unions and frontline communities to develop strategies for a just transition that prioritize quality family wage job opportunities in the clean energy economy for workers who may lose their jobs as a result of climate policy and for communities who have been excluded from benefiting off of the fossil fuel economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that building on the Zero Cities Project partnership with frontline communities, the City of Portland will prioritize and advance policies and investments through community-led participatory action research to reduce carbon emissions from the building and transportation sectors – the two largest contributors to local carbon emissions – that put us on a path to meet the City of Portland’s 2030 carbon reduction goals and beyond. Policies and investments will focus on resourced, community-led planning and strong community benefits for all large developments. The City of Portland will collaborate with community partners to resource frontline communities for their time and expertise in this work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any policy efforts to decarbonize the building sector will prioritize leadership from frontline communities who are resourced for their time and expertise, and will emphasize improved comfort, safety, and utility savings for renters and protections for low-income tenants that help reduce displacement and promote community stability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland will work with local stakeholders to advocate to and collaborate with regional jurisdictions, state agencies and city programs, projects, and policies that reduce carbon emissions from buildings and transportation sectors, including diesel particulate matter emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is directed to work collaboratively with Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Parks & Recreation, as well as other City bureaus, Metro, and state and federal agencies to incorporate information from climate modelling related to hydrology and flooding for the metro area in the update of regulations that protect and restore flood areas to reduce

the impacts of future flooding on property, public infrastructure, and public health, and support recovery of threatened and endangered species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is directed to work collaboratively with the Bureau of Development Services, Bureau of Transportation, Water Bureau, Bureau of Environmental Services, and Portland Parks & Recreation to update regulations that protect and enhance tree canopy to reduce heat island impacts on public health, particularly in East Portland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bureau of Environmental Services, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Portland Parks & Recreation, and Portland Bureau of Transportation are directed to collaborate on the creation of a citywide integrated and prioritized green infrastructure action plan to: 1) help achieve the goal of a healthy connected city for all; 2) maximize the benefits of green infrastructure investments in reducing carbon emissions and preparing for climate change impacts; and 3) build on, connect and enhance the existing network of green infrastructure initiatives being led by community, non-profits, businesses, and other governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the bureaus participating in the existing cross-bureau Disaster Resilience and Recovery Action Group including the Bureau of Environmental Services, Water Bureau, Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Transportation, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, and Bureau of Emergency Management are directed to collaborate with community partners including Portland State University's Institute for Sustainable Solutions on: 1) the development of a citywide natural disaster resilience and recovery strategy that prioritizes frontline communities; 2) the creation of a resilience and recovery implementation structure to carry out that strategy; and 3) piloting a resiliency hub centered at the East Portland Community Center that focuses on both physical and community resilience to, and recovery from, natural disasters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Portland Bureau of Transportation will work with TriMet, Metro, youth leaders and community stakeholders to secure funding for free, year-round transit access to all Portlanders aged 18 and under; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council on freeway facilities in Portland before approving additional lane-miles and Portland will evaluate and advance equitable congestion pricing strategies within existing roadway will require the Oregon Department of Transportation to include dynamic pricing capacity in Portland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is directed to: 1) explore updating the City's code to require electric vehicle charging infrastructure in a percentage of off-street parking spaces in new residential buildings and in non-conforming development upgrades; 2) define what a "mobility hub" is and identify areas of the city where they are appropriate; and 3) identify additional opportunities to increase access to electric vehicles and charging stations for frontline communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all efforts to reduce carbon emissions through the use of technology, such as community solar, ride sharing apps, and electric vehicle infrastructure, will seek to remedy any privacy concerns and barriers associated with access to technology and banking experienced by frontline communities, and will be guided by the Privacy and Information Protection Principles adopted by City Council in 2019 (Resolution 37437); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is directed to work with other bureaus, local businesses and community partners to reduce Portland's contribution to carbon emissions generated elsewhere in the world by: 1) using the City's influence and regulatory authority to shift systems in ways that facilitate more sustainable consumption; 2) helping Portlanders make informed choices about what products and services to support, buy and reuse; and 3) scaling up community-led efforts to maximize opportunities to rent, share, fix, and reuse goods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland adopts a new target of achieving at least a 50% reduction in carbon emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions before 2050. These targets will be carried forward into future Climate Action Plan updates and work plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to inform future Climate Action Plan updates and workplans, the City of Portland will analyze decarbonization pathways to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 with clear interim goals, including a commitment to monitoring any remaining emission sources and implementing policies or mechanisms to reduce those emissions, including but not limited to the role of urban sequestration and negative carbon technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland continues to oppose the rollback of climate policy at the federal level and affirms Portland's ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the City's responsibility to meet its proportionate carbon emissions reductions for the United States under that agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland is calling on investor-owned electric utilities, Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp, to deliver 100% clean, renewable electricity that includes a maximal amount of community-based and community-benefitting energy to all Portland residents and businesses no later than 2030; on NW Natural to fully decarbonize its gas pipeline no later than 2050; for all utilities to prioritize the protection of low-income customers; and for all utilities to engage in a managed stakeholder process with local jurisdictions and community to address the complex challenge of decarbonizing an interdependent energy system strategically, equitably, and affordably; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 100% Renewable Energy Resolution (No. 37289) is hereby amended with the updated interim goal: to meet 100 percent of the community's electric energy needs through renewable energy resources by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability will update City Council on the progress to implement these directives in the first quarter of 2021 and annually thereafter to increase transparency and accountability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution directs the City of Portland to use a climate justice approach to guide the City of Portland's climate actions and plans and is binding City policy.

Adopted by the Council:

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Prepared by: Alisa Kane
Date Prepared: June 16, 2020

Mary Hull Caballero
Auditor of the City of Portland
By

Deputy

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Declare that along with the COVID-19 pandemic that has created a public health and economic crisis, a human-made climate emergency also threatens our city, our region, our state, our nation, humanity and the natural world, and that such an emergency calls for an immediate mobilization effort initiating greater action, resources, collaboration and new approaches to restore a safe climate. (Resolution)

Contact name: Alisa Kane, BPS | Amanda Watson, Mayor Wheeler's Office

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Presenter name: Andrea Durbin and/or Alisa Kane

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The purpose of this legislation is to:

- 1) Declare that along with the COVID-19 pandemic that has created a public health and economic crisis, a human-made climate emergency also threatens our city, and
- 2) Acknowledge the impact of climate change on frontline communities, including Black and Indigenous people, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, low-income individuals, labor and workers, people living with disabilities, youth, and individuals experiencing homelessness and to recognize their climate action leadership, and
- 3) Adopt a new target of achieving at least a 50% reduction in carbon emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions before 2050, and
- 4) Direct the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to work with other City bureaus and external stakeholders to launch a climate justice initiative that centers frontline communities in the development of equitable community benefits that reduce carbon emissions.

Portland's response to climate change is not new. Portland was the first city in the U.S. to adopt a climate action plan in 1993, and in 2015 Portland adopted its fourth climate plan and reaffirmed the goal of reducing total local carbon emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. As of 2018, Portland's total carbon emissions are 19% below 1990 levels (national emissions are currently 4.6% above 1990 levels), and per person emissions are 42% below 1990 levels. During that same time, jobs have increased by 36% and population has increased by 39%. However, Portland's total carbon emissions reductions have plateaued in recent years and we will not be on track to hit our 2030 goals without a major shift in how we approach climate action planning and implementation.

While Portland is often recognized as a leader in the U.S. on climate action, it doesn't tell the full story. The harmful effects of climate change are not experienced equitably across Portland. People of color, low-income households and Native Americans living in Portland are on the frontlines of climate change. These same frontline communities have largely been denied the benefits that have historically flowed from years of investments in climate-friendly programs, policies and infrastructure, and they are facing disproportionate climate impacts that take a real toll on their families and communities.

Generations of institutional racism and gentrification displaced many Black, Asian and Latino communities from their neighborhoods to more dispersed and outer areas of the Portland. Due to inequitable or biased investments in housing, transportation, parks and green infrastructure, these areas are more likely to experience poorer air quality, higher temperatures, increased risk of flooding, and less energy efficient housing. In addition, these neighborhoods tend to be farther from jobs, established cultural resources and neighborhood services like grocery stores. As a result, frontline communities experience disproportionate energy and transportation cost burdens, adverse health impacts and unsafe transportation connections and/or lived experiences. Climate justice requires that frontline communities that have historically borne the brunt of climate change and the extractive economy participate actively in the planning and implementation of the City's climate work, and that they benefit from those actions and investments.

The United Nations International Panel on Climate Change's special report that found avoiding catastrophic climate change will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 10 years to achieve a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The urgency to transform the City's climate work in terms reducing emissions, building resilience to the impacts of climate change, and creating a just transition from an extractive fossil-fuel economy, make this is a critical time to create a new vision for how Portland tackles climate change in both the near- and long-term.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

This resolution does not have any direct financial or budgetary impacts. However, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability will use existing grant funds to resource participation by frontline community representatives that are involved in the Climate Justice Initiative. Funding considerations for any specific climate action policies, programs and/or actions that the City advances will be addressed through that action's development process or the City's budget-making process.

Community impacts and community involvement:

This resolution does not create community impacts directly; however it does set the stage for future actions that will deliver community benefits, with a focus frontline communities. Close to 50 representatives from various frontline community-based organizations, and climate and environmental stakeholders were consulted in the development of this resolution and will be actively engaged in the development of the next update to the Climate Action Plan.

100% Renewable Goal:

This resolution directly supports continued implementation of the 2015 Climate Action Plan and the 100% renewable energy resolution, both of which include actions that advance the City's renewable energy goals.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- YES:** Please complete the information below.
- NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount