

May 27, 2020

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas is committed to protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents and leading the region in addressing climate change and environmental efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas remains committed to reducing emissions, improving regional air quality, and addressing the real consequences of climate change through local, state, and federal action; and

WHEREAS, climate change has the potential to lead to disruptions in the City of Dallas' operations and poses risk to infrastructure, built environment, and public health; and

WHEREAS, our region is significantly vulnerable to climate change-driven heat and flooding risks as described in *Climate Change/Extreme Weather Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for Transportation Infrastructure in Dallas and Tarrant Counties* (2015) by Dr. Arne Winguth (UT-Arlington); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brian Stone (Georgia Tech) found that Dallas' significant urban heat island effect is amplified by climate change, and that Dallas is warming at a rate that is the third highest in the nation in a 2017 report for the Texas Trees Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas is committed to energy efficiency and being a good steward of resources in the procurement of energy for municipal operations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas is committed to protecting its residents by reducing emissions, improving regional air quality, and addressing the real consequences of climate change; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2014, City Council adopted Ordinance 29307 adding Chapter 9C, "Carryout Bags" to the Dallas City Code to provide regulations for single-use and reuseable carryout bags, establishing fees to be collected from consumers who opted to use single-use bags, establishing the Carryout Bag fund and limiting such fees to be used for administration of the Carryout Bag program, and other environmental efforts by Resolution No. 14-0564; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2016, City Council adopted a resolution encouraging the State of Texas to explore changes that would promote "net metering" and the creation of distributed energy districts or additional programs to expand the use of solar power and other renewable green energy sources by Resolution No. 16-0974; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas achieved a 68% reduction of municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 1990 levels by 2017, exceeding a strategic goal of 39% reduction; and

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WHEREAS, actions taken to mitigate climate change can also have the effect of improving regional air quality and otherwise providing better quality of life for current and future generations of Dallas residents; and

WHEREAS, the municipal emissions reductions were achieved in large part through the procurement of renewable energy, municipal energy efficient retrofit projects, and on-site renewable energy projects such as landfill gas capture at McCommas Bluff Landfill and co-generation of electricity at Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas is the most populous municipality in the United States to use 100% renewable energy according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Partnership Top 30 Local Government list dated February 5, 2019; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2018, City Council adopted the Landscape and Urban Forest Conservation Ordinance to add additional protection for trees within the urban forest canopy in Dallas through Resolution No. 18-0977; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2018, City Council adopted the City Park Land Dedication Ordinance (Dallas City Code 51A-4.1002), that expands green space in the City of Dallas by requiring park dedication as a part of development planning efforts through Resolution No. 18-0981; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2018, City Council adopted the *Resilient Dallas* plan, that identified efforts to reduce emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change as part of the strategy to make Dallas neighborhoods and our community thrive by Resolution No. 18-1026; and

WHEREAS, the *Fourth National Climate Assessment* released on November 23, 2018 and the work of over 300 scientists and 13 federal agencies – reports that climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization, primarily as a result of human activities. Chapter 23 (Great Southern Plains) identifies potential flooding, heat, drought, extreme temperature and storm events, and food supply risks for the region that includes North Texas; and

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2019, City Council adopted a resolution calling for federal action on climate change and continued local efforts to develop a comprehensive environmental and climate plan with goals that will ensure that the City of Dallas is addressing the environment and climate change in a manner that is effective and equitable through Resolution No. 19-0223; and

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WHEREAS, on April 10, 2019, City Council adopted a resolution committing the City of Dallas to clean and efficient energy use through the use of 100% renewable energy for municipal operations, evaluation of feasibility of implementing on- and off-site renewable energy projects at City and other properties, establishing a city-wide energy management system to benchmark municipal energy efficiency, and continue to explore options to expand the renewable energy use beyond municipal operations in the Dallas community through Resolution No. 19-0484; and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2019, City Council adopted the Water Conservation Plan that outlines actions the City will take to reduce water demand and to conserve water, consistent with Texas regulatory requirements through Resoluton No. 19-497; and

WHEREAS, over the last year, the City of Dallas has engaged thousands of residents in all areas as it used best practices to develop a Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) consistent with Resolution No. 19-0223 and building on existing plans, and has engaged environmental advocates, the business sector, and any other interested parties with all meeting requests accepted; and

WHEREAS, the robust inclusive community engagement has resulted in an increased community contribution in shared goals and created a desire to provide a continued path for participation during the implementation phase of the CECAP plan; and

WHEREAS, a diverse, inclusive and representative group of professionals and community members to advise on environment, sustainability, and CECAP implementation will benefit the stated purpose of achieving equitable and effective environmental and climate action; and

WHEREAS, CECAP includes actions to improve the environment and deliver GHG emissions reductions, which makes Dallas an environmental leader and provides the path forward to a healthier population and economy; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day as a way of bringing a greater focus on environmental protection onto the national agenda. In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, today, on the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day and consistent with the City of Dallas' position as a data-driven, community-oriented, and collaborative environmental leader, City of Dallas will authorize CECAP.

Now, Therefore,

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

May 27, 2020

SECTION 1. That the City Council hereby authorizes the adoption of the Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan (CECAP).

SECTION 2. That the City Manager, through the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability, coordinate City of Dallas initiatives and partnerships necessary to implement the actions and goals set forth in the CECAP, subject to annual appropriations.

SECTION 3. That the City Manager identify and convene an Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee, under guidelines established by the City Manager, comprised of professionals and community members to advise on environment, sustainability, and CECAP implementation. The Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee shall be convened for as long as the City Manager finds that it furthers the purposes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee including implementation of the CECAP.

SECTION 4. That the City Manager coordinate with the Environment and Sustainability Committee regarding the scope and potential roles of a permanent board or commission with a goal of implementation and making appropriate appointments between or around October 1, 2021 and January 1, 2022.

SECTION 5. That the City Manager provide the Environment and Sustainability Committee or other designated City Council Committee with regular reporting concerning progress on CECAP implementation.

SECTION 6. That the City Manager provide the Environment and Sustainability Committee or other designated City Council Committee with an updated green house gas inventory on an interval of no more than three years.

SECTION 7. That the City Manager provide City Council a formal annual progress report or briefing at or around Earth Day, to summarize progress towards meeting the goals, and any recommendations to the CECAP plan goals and objectives to be considered for future implementation.

SECTION 8. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.