

Resolve 9-17/18

Passage: 8-0 (Strimling absent) on 4/9/2018

Effective 4/19/2018

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)
BELINDA S. RAY (1)
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)
BRIAN E. BATSON (3)
JUSTIN COSTA (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

KIMBERLY COOK (5)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A GOAL TO REDUCE
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CITYWIDE 80 PERCENT BY 2050**

WHEREAS, as a coastal, urban community, Portland is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, local sea level during the past two decades has been rising 130 percent faster than the historical rate and analysis in the recent Bayside Adapts report suggests the City should prepare to manage 8.8 feet of sea level rise by 2100; and

WHEREAS, waters in Casco Bay and the Gulf of Maine are warming at a rate 99% faster than the world's oceans, and will soon reach temperatures projected to shift marine species and disrupt traditional fisheries; and

WHEREAS, members of our community and others are already feeling the effects of climate change through increased temperatures, more extreme weather events, more frequent flooding, and other disruptions that also affect our economy, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, from 1895 to 2014, average annual temperatures in Portland warmed by four degrees Fahrenheit (F) and climate models for the Casco Bay watershed predict further increases from two to six degrees F by mid-century and three to 10°F by 2100; and

WHEREAS, current trends and projections show that Cumberland County can expect more frequent extreme precipitation events, categorized as coastal floods, flash floods, heavy rain and tropical storms, and increased months of drought as well; and

WHEREAS, these climate changes have cascading effects on the City's economy, infrastructure, public health and safety, and other critical systems; and

WHEREAS, the transition to a low-carbon community reliant on the efficient use of clean energy resources and electrified transportation will most likely improve air quality, enhance public health, increase national and energy security, create local green jobs, and reduce reliance on finite resources; and

WHEREAS, increasing energy efficiency and resilience may attract jobs and economic development opportunities to our community and improve our long-term economic competitiveness;

WHEREAS, the City of Portland has already demonstrated leadership in climate action and has implemented initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including energy upgrades in municipal buildings, deployment of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, an Energy Benchmarking Ordinance in 2016, the completion of a Municipal Climate Action Plan and the conversion of its streetlights to LED, a first for Maine; and

WHEREAS, national leaders met in Paris in December 2015 to negotiate a global agreement that endeavors to decrease greenhouse gas emissions to a level that could cap the average global temperature increase at two degrees above normal or lower; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the City Council pledged that the City will run on 100% clean energy by 2040, joined the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda, and pledged to take action in accordance with the goals stated in the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, conservative estimates by the world's climate scientists state that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emission of greenhouse gases must be brought to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland would be joining a growing coalition of cities around the world who are committed to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 including Atlanta, Boston, Boulder, Chicago, Minneapolis, New York, Portland, Oregon, Providence, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, DC; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council and the Mayor hereby establish the goal of reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050.