



## Decarbonization Resolution

Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Manager



# Overview

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- SD-11, Decarbonization
- Outline of Proposed PUB Resolution
- Feedback/Questions



# Tacoma City Council Draft Resolution

## **Aimed at advancing the 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution by reducing City's carbon footprint by:**

1. Excluding natural gas and fossil fuels from City owned new building and renovations;
2. Conducting an inventory of city-owned building and analyzing the feasibility of retrofitting the buildings to low-emissions sources,
3. Developing a plan to retrofit city-owned parking facilities and building with EV charging stations;
4. Prioritizing, when purchasing, zero-emission, low emission, or non motorized vehicles;
5. Encouraging other jurisdictions to adopt similar policies; and
6. Conducting an impact assessment to require non-fossil fuel sourced heating, lighting, and power in new commercial and residential construction



# Strategic Directive 11, Decarbonization

## **Purpose:**

Tacoma Public Utilities seeks to be a leader in decarbonization of the electric utility system and transportation electrification and to promote Tacoma Power's renewable and nearly carbon free generation portfolio as a driver of economic development and a competitive advantage for existing customers.

## **Values Include:**

- The TPU Board joins the Tacoma City Council in supporting Council Resolution 40509, relating to the reality of climate change, and Council Resolution 39427, the Environmental Action Plan.
- TPU is committed to decarbonizing our own operations and transitioning to electrified transportation as much as economically and operationally feasible.



# Outline of Proposed Public Utility Board Resolution

**Within the City of Tacoma where operationally and economically feasible and appropriate reduce TPU's carbon footprint by:**

1. Excluding natural gas and fossil fuels from TPU-owned new building and renovations;
2. Conducting an inventory of TPU-owned building and analyzing the feasibility of retrofitting the buildings to low-emissions sources;
3. Developing a plan to retrofit TPU-owned parking facilities and building with EV charging stations, where appropriate; and
4. Prioritizing, when purchasing, zero-emission, low emission, or non motorized vehicles





Thank you

What feedback or questions do you have for us?





## RESOLUTION NO.

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS BEALE  
2 AND WALKER

3 A RESOLUTION relating to reducing the City's municipal carbon footprint by  
4 restricting the use of natural gas and new fossil fuel for existing City  
5 buildings and future City capital investments, encouraging other local  
6 jurisdictions to do the same, and assessing impacts for imposing the  
7 same restrictions on new commercial and residential construction.

8 WHEREAS the 11th UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate  
9 Change ("IPCC") report from October 2018 states that we have only until 2030 to  
10 limit devastating global warming and avoid a climate catastrophe, and

11 WHEREAS globally and locally, Black, Indigenous, and people of color  
12 communities and low-income communities are most vulnerable to the financial and  
13 human health stresses or shocks resulting from climate damage, and are  
14 disproportionately impacted, and

15 WHEREAS the climate crisis poses an imminent, existential threat to all life  
16 on Earth that demands timely action at the scale and speed necessary to mitigate  
17 harm to all people, including the residents of the City of Tacoma, and

18 WHEREAS, in December 2019, the City declared a Climate Emergency  
19 through Resolution No. 40509, which articulates the aspirational goal of "seeking a  
20 path to making City operations carbon-neutral by 2050," and requested the City  
21 Manager identify and propose sustainable funding mechanisms for actions  
22 described in the Environmental Action Plan, including building electrification, and

23 WHEREAS the City's 2016 Greenhouse Gas Inventory identifies combined  
24 emissions from the City's municipal buildings and fleet contribute approximately  
25  
26



1 28 percent of overall municipal emissions, and we know that we cannot meet our  
2 municipal and community carbon reduction goals without tackling clean  
3 transportation and clean buildings as we move forward, and

4 WHEREAS, in Washington State, homes and buildings are the single fastest  
5 growing source of carbon pollution, up 50 percent since 1990, and now account for  
6 27 percent of Washington's carbon emissions, and

7 WHEREAS Tacoma Public Utilities provides customers in Tacoma plentiful,  
8 non-fossil fuel generated, and comparatively affordable electricity for powering its  
9 municipal operations, maintenance, and growth, along with all of its community-  
10 wide electricity needs, and

11 WHEREAS the City has the opportunity to lead by example to make  
12 decisive, transformative, and sustainable changes in its municipal energy  
13 consumption, and can significantly lower the City's greenhouse gas emissions and  
14 overall carbon impact, and

15 WHEREAS investments that make it easier and safer for people to ride the  
16 bus, walk, bike, and roll often have the added benefit of not only reducing carbon  
17 emissions, but improving affordable access to jobs, education and services,  
18 reducing stormwater pollution and local air pollution, improving physical activity, and  
19 supporting local, living wage construction and operation jobs, and

20 WHEREAS the City encourages the use of non-motorized travel to and from  
21 City facilities, including a Commute Trip Reduction program for employees, and  
22 through the use of investments of safe biking and walking infrastructure around City  
23  
24  
25  
26





1 buildings, parking for bicycles or other shared mobility services, transit passes for  
2 employees, and comfortable and ADA-compliant sidewalks around all facilities, and

3 WHEREAS the City supports a legislative agenda that advances  
4 decarbonization through increased electrification of energy use, and

5 WHEREAS the City already follows state law, RCW 43.19.648 and  
6 Chapter 194-29 WAC, which requires clean vehicles and fuels and describes  
7 “practicable use of electricity and biofuels to fuel local government vehicles,  
8 vessels, and construction equipment,” and

9 WHEREAS planning for clean energy in City assets represents a sound  
10 investment of the City’s resources into long-term infrastructure that is in line with its  
11 carbon reduction goals, and

12 WHEREAS vulnerable, underrepresented, and historically oppressed  
13 communities in the City, including low-income communities and those with  
14 pre-existing medical conditions, along with Black, Indigenous, and people of color  
15 communities are disproportionately harmed by indoor pollution (including from gas  
16 stoves) and outdoor air pollution, and have less access to healthcare and resources  
17 to mitigate this impact; Now Therefore,

18  
19  
20 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:**

21  
22 Section 1. That the City Manager is directed to require all new City-owned  
23 buildings and major renovations of existing City buildings within the City of Tacoma  
24 to exclude natural gas and other fossil fuel energy sources for heating, lighting, and  
25 power, and use low carbon fuels such as biodiesel, renewable diesel, renewable  
26 natural gas, electrolytic hydrogen, and electricity or other electricity derived fuels



1 generated from sustainable and renewable resources; except where exemptions  
2 are necessary due to reliability and resiliency of resources, technical or cost  
3 infeasibility. This policy will become effective January 1, 2022.

4 Section 2. That the City Manager is directed to inventory City-owned facilities  
5 within the City of Tacoma that use fossil fuels and evaluate the feasibility of  
6 retrofitting existing buildings to low-emission sources by 2030. This inventory and  
7 evaluation will make use of existing reports and data to prepare recommendations  
8 regarding feasibility and life-cycle costs. The report will be completed by January 1,  
9 2023, and a presentation will be made to the Infrastructure, Planning and  
10 Sustainability (“IPS”) Committee.  
11

12 Section 3. That the City Manager is directed to develop a plan to retrofit  
13 each City-owned parking facility and building within the City of Tacoma with electric  
14 vehicle (“EV”) charging stations by 2030. This plan will be completed by January 1,  
15 2023, and a report will be made to the IPS Committee. Zero-emission,  
16 low-emission, or non-motorized vehicles will be prioritized in all new vehicle  
17 purchases whenever:  
18

- 19 A. Suitable equipment exists for the duty;
- 20 B. Gross vehicle weight is less than 19,501 pounds (Class 5 vehicles and  
21 lower). The necessity and type of exemptions will be reviewed in  
22 conjunction with updates to the Environmental Action Plan;
- 23 C. Life Cycle Cost Analysis shows the premium at less than 10 percent; and
- 24 D. Suitable EV-charging or other infrastructure to recharge or fuel  
25 equipment is in place, or anticipated to be, preferably at the equipment’s  
26 assigned stationary location.

25 Consideration of the addition of EV charging equipment at such stationary  
26 locations will be considered in decision-making.



1 Section 4. That the City will encourage other local entities, such as the  
2 County, school districts, and major institutions, to join it in this step to invest in clean  
3 energy assets by adopting similar policies.

4 Section 5. That the City Manager is directed to complete an impact  
5 assessment of requiring non-fossil fuel sourced heating, lighting, and power in new  
6 commercial and residential development in the City, and will report back to the  
7 IPS Committee by January 1, 2023, with findings, including stakeholder  
8 involvement, that will look at potential opportunities and challenges related to:

- 9 ○ Public health and safety;
- 10 ○ Economic costs and savings;
- 11 ○ Technical feasibility;
- 12 ○ Legal implications;
- 13 ○ Labor and workforce;
- 14 ○ Operations;
- 15 ○ Housing affordability; and
- 16 ○ Equity.

17 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

18  
19  
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Mayor

22 Attest:

23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 City Clerk

25 Approved as to form:

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Deputy City Attorney

## Fiscal Impacts: Decarbonization Resolution

Item	Section	Fiscal Impact (\$)	Description
Inventory City-owned facilities that use fossil fuels and evaluate feasibility of retrofitting existing buildings to low-emission sources by 2030.	2	\$40,000 (one-time)	Research would be done by OEPS staff with the support of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission. This research work would be absorbed by the Department with no additional costs. Consulting services would be needed to examine the feasibility of retrofitting existing buildings to low-emission sources totaling approximately \$40,000.
Develop a plan to retrofit each City owned parking facility and buildings with electric vehicle (EV) charging stations by 2030.	3	\$40,000 (one time)	The City is in the process of retrofitting eight public parking facilities with EV infrastructure. This funding would be provided for a plan to retrofit the City's fleet and employee parking facilities.
Impact assessment to require non-fossil fuel sourced heating, lighting, and power in new commercial and residential development in the City.	5	\$50,000 (one-time)	A third-party consultant would be contracted to provide this impact assessment costing approximately \$40,000. Outside Counsel would be hired to provide a legal opinion totaling approximately \$10,000.

## Other Considerations

Potential long-term costs include the following:

- \$500,000-\$1 million: Litigation costs to defend Section 5.
  - Natural gas utilities may file suit against the City for unfair business practices that favor municipally owned energy sources over others.
- Unknown costs to the City: Implementation of the actions called for in the resolution.
  - Additional incremental costs of constructing new City-owned buildings and conducting renovations without the use of fossil fuel based energy sources (Section 1).
    - Cost-estimates will be developed for specific projects as they arise.
  - Retrofitting existing buildings to low-emissions sources (Section 2).
    - Cost-estimates will be developed for specific projects as they arise.
  - Retrofitting existing parking facilities and buildings with EV charging stations (Section 3).
    - A \$597,558 grant was awarded to the City by the Washington State Department of Commerce with a match from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to install EV charging stations at some municipally-owned parking facilities. The grant will contribute to the overall expense of retrofitting each City-owned parking facility and building with EV charging stations by 2030. The total cost to retrofit each City-owned parking facility and building with EV charging stations will be determined by the study in Section 3 of this resolution and will need to be budgeted for in future.



**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** James G. Parvey, P.E., Division Manager OEPS  
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director  
**COPY:** City Council, City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution - Strengthen the City's Commitment to Decarbonization - April 20, 2021  
**DATE:** April 7, 2021

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A resolution relating to reducing the City's municipal carbon footprint by restricting the use of natural gas and new fossil fuel for existing City buildings and future City capital investments, encouraging other local jurisdictions to do the same, and assessing impacts for imposing the same restrictions on new commercial and residential construction.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Mayor Victoria Woodards, Council Member Beale, and Council Member Walker

**BACKGROUND:**

The City Council adopted Resolution 40509 in 2019, referred to as the Climate Emergency Resolution, which declared climate change an emergency and set a goal of achieving carbon neutrality of City operations by 2050. Resolution 40509 also urges the City to lead by example. Adoption of a decarbonization policy demonstrates leadership in addressing the challenges of climate change. Climate change affects all our residents but especially our low income and minority community members. Reducing the City's carbon pollution reduces health impacts and economic burdens on our vulnerable communities. Viable alternatives to fossil fuels do exist and it is the responsibility of the City to lead by example in using and promoting such energy sources. We must seize the opportunities to purchase and build low carbon assets.

The resolution advances the 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution by reducing the City's carbon footprint. It does this by:

- 1) Excluding natural gas and fossil fuels from new City buildings and renovations;
- 2) Conducting an inventory of City-owned buildings and analyzing the feasibility of retrofitting the buildings to low-emissions sources;
- 3) Developing a plan to retrofit City-owned parking facilities and buildings with electric vehicle (EV) charging stations;
- 4) Encouraging other jurisdictions to adopt similar policies; and
- 5) Conducting an impact assessment to require non-fossil fuel sourced heating, lighting, and power in new commercial and residential construction.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission sent a letter to the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee on October 26, 2020 requesting this legislation. The Commission spent months learning about the issue and in the draft resolution are asking for further research and stakeholder input into potential positive and negative impacts of decarbonizing new community buildings.



**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

Vulnerable, underrepresented, and historically oppressed communities in the City of Tacoma, including low-income households, and those with pre-existing medical conditions, along with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities, are disproportionately harmed by indoor pollution (including from gas stoves), outdoor air pollution, and climate change due to less access to healthcare and other resources to mitigate this impact. Reducing carbon emissions and other air pollutants is good for everyone’s health, but especially frontline community members.

**Livability:** *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

**Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).**

If adopted, this resolution will limit new carbon emissions from City facilities and fleet. It will also research impacts on new clean energy community buildings options, both for indoor and outdoor pollution.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. No action	Greater choice in capital investments	If fossil fuel infrastructure is procured, it locks in pollution and associated costs for decades
2. Adopt some of the recommended proposals	Progress on carbon reduction goals	Not as much progress as needed to achieve long-term carbon reduction goals

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

The Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability prepares a Greenhouse Gas Inventory every four years. Reductions in carbon pollution will be monitored in that inventory. In addition, fossil fuel is monitored through City purchases - this will provide a more frequent reference to the effectiveness of this resolution. An impact assessment report will be developed as required by this resolution deadline and delivered to Council.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

The Environmental Services Department’s Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability recommends that Council adopt the attached resolution based on the Sustainable Tacoma Commission’s October 26, 2020 letter. The resolution requires prudent and achievable action to address the Council-declared Climate Emergency. These actions are important but modest steps towards reaching the City’s carbon reduction goals. The policy described in the resolution would go into effect January 1, 2022.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Three items have a fiscal impact in the proposed resolution totaling \$130,000.

- 1) An inventory of City-owned facilities that use fossil fuels and an evaluation on the feasibility of retrofitting existing buildings to low-emission sources by 2030 totals approximately \$40,000.
- 2) A plan to retrofit each City owned parking facility and building with EV charging stations by 2030 totals approximately \$40,000.
- 3) An impact assessment to require non-fossil fuel sourced heating, lighting, and power in new commercial and residential development in the City totals approximately \$50,000.

The resolution does not allocate funds for future projects. Funding and feasibility will be determined in normal budgeting processes and future project feasibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 5800 Environmental Services	598400	5310100	\$130.000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$130.000</b>

**What Funding is being used to support the expense?**

5800-ES Env Svcs

**Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?**

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

This resolution does not create new immediate expenditures but prompts staff to request funding during the 2021-2022 mid-biennium budget development process and through a Council-sponsored Council Contingency Fund request. The resolution provides guidance on requirements of new capital projects. Those fiscal impacts are evaluated at the time those capital projects are adopted.

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?**

YES

**Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?**

YES

**Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?**

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Resolution
- Fiscal Note