



## RESOLUTION NO. U-11258

1 A RESOLUTION relating to reducing the Tacoma Public Utilities' (TPU) municipal  
2 carbon footprint by restricting the use of natural gas and new fossil fuel for  
3 existing TPU buildings and facilities and future TPU capital investments.

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

7 WHEREAS globally and locally, Black, Indigenous, and people of color  
8 communities and low-income communities are most vulnerable to the financial and  
9 human health stresses or shocks resulting from climate damage, and are  
10 disproportionately impacted, and

11 WHEREAS the climate crisis poses an imminent, existential threat to all life  
12 on Earth that demands timely action at the scale and speed necessary to mitigate  
13 harm to all people, including the customers of Tacoma Public Utilities, and

14 WHEREAS, in December 2019, the City of Tacoma (City) declared a Climate  
15 Emergency through Resolution No. 40509, which articulates the aspirational goal of  
16 "seeking a path to making City operations carbon-neutral by 2050," and requested  
17 that sustainable funding mechanisms be identified and proposed for actions  
18 described in the Environmental Action Plan, including building electrification, and

19 WHEREAS the City's 2016 Greenhouse Gas Inventory identifies  
20 combined emissions from General Government and TPU's municipal buildings  
21 and fleet which contribute approximately 28 percent of overall municipal  
22 emissions, and we know what we cannot meet our municipal and community  
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1 carbon reduction goals without tackling clean transportation and clean buildings  
2 as we move forward, and

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

6 WHEREAS TPU provides customers in our service area plentiful, non-fossil  
7 fuel generated, and comparatively affordable electricity, and TPU uses this  
8 electricity to power its municipal operations, maintenance, and growth, along with  
9 all of its community-wide electricity needs, and

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

14 WHEREAS TPU joins General Government in encouraging the use of non-  
15 motorized travel to and from TPU and General Government facilities, including a  
16 Commute Trip Reduction program for employees, and through the use of  
17 investments of safe biking and walking infrastructure around TPU buildings, parking  
18 for bicycles or other shared mobility services, transit passes for employees, and  
19 ADA-compliant facilities, and

20 WHEREAS TPU supports a legislative agenda that advances decarbonization  
21 through increased electrification of energy use, and  
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1 WHEREAS TPU already follows state law, RCW 43.19.648 and  
2 Chapter 194-29 WAC, which requires clean vehicles and fuels and describes  
3 "practicable use of electricity and biofuels to fuel local government vehicles,  
4 vessels, and construction equipment," and  
5

6 WHEREAS planning for clean energy use in TPU assets represents a  
7 sound investment of TPU's resources for long-term infrastructure that is in line with  
8 its carbon reduction goals; Now Therefore,  
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

11 Section 1. That the TPU Director shall require all new TPU-owned  
12 buildings and major renovations of existing TPU buildings to exclude natural gas  
13 and other fossil fuel energy sources for heating, lighting, and power, and use low  
14 carbon fuels such as biodiesel, renewable diesel, renewable natural gas,  
15 electrolytic hydrogen, and electricity or other electricity derived fuels generated  
16 from sustainable and renewable resources; except where exemptions are  
17 necessary due to resource availability, reliability and resiliency of resources,  
18 technical or cost infeasibility. This policy will become effective January 1, 2022.  
19

20 Section 2. That the TPU Director shall inventory TPU-owned facilities that  
21 use fossil fuels and evaluate the feasibility of retrofitting existing facilities to low-  
22 emission sources by 2030. This inventory and evaluation will make use of existing  
23 reports and data to prepare recommendations regarding feasibility and life-cycle  
24 costs. The report will be completed by January 1, 2023, and a presentation will be  
25 made to the Public Utility Board (PUB).  
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1 Section 3. That the TPU Director shall develop a plan to retrofit TPU-owned  
2 parking facilities and buildings with electric vehicle ("EV") charging stations by 2030,  
3 where operationally and economically feasible. This plan will be completed by  
4 January 1, 2023, and a report will be made to the PUB. Zero-emission,  
5 low-emission, or non-motorized vehicles will be prioritized in all new vehicle  
6 purchases whenever:  
7

- 8 A. Suitable equipment exists for the duty;  
9 B. Gross vehicle weight is less than 19,501 pounds (Class 5 vehicles and  
10 lower). The necessity and type of exemptions will be reviewed in  
11 conjunction with updates to the Environmental Action Plan;  
12 C. Life Cycle Cost Analysis shows the premium to be economically feasible;  
13 and  
14 D. Suitable EV-charging or other infrastructure to recharge or fuel  
15 equipment is in place, or anticipated to be, preferably at the equipment's  
16 assigned stationary location.

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

17 Approved as to form:

18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 /s/  
20 Chief Deputy City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Clerk

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_



## Board Action Memorandum

**TO:** Jackie Flowers, Director of Utilities  
**COPY:** Charleen Jacobs, Director and Board Offices  
**FROM:** LaTasha Wortham  
**MEETING DATE:** June 09, 2021  
**DATE:** June, 04, 2021

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### STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE ALIGNMENT (select as many that apply):

Please indicate which of the Public Utility Board's Strategic Directives is supported by this action.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD1 – Equity & Inclusion                  | <input type="checkbox"/> SD8 – Telecom                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD2 – Financial Sustainability            | <input type="checkbox"/> SD9 – Economic Development                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD3 – Rates                               | <input type="checkbox"/> SD10 – Government Relations                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD4 – Stakeholder Engagement              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD11 – Decarbonization/Electric Vehicles |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD5 – Environmental Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> SD12 – Employee Relations                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD6 – Innovation                          | <input type="checkbox"/> SD13 – Customer Service                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD7 – Reliability & Resiliency            | <input type="checkbox"/> SD14 – Resource Planning                            |

**SUMMARY:** Request to consider a resolution relating to reducing the TPU's municipal carbon footprint by restricting the use of natural gas and new fossil fuel for existing TPU buildings and facilities and future TPU capital improvements

**BACKGROUND:** On April 20, 2021 the Tacoma City Council adopted RES40776 a resolution reducing the City's municipal carbon footprint by restricting the use of natural gas and new fossil fuel for existing buildings and future capital investments, encouraging other local jurisdictions to do the same, and assessing impacts for imposing the same restrictions on new commercial and residential construction., effective January 1, 2022. Councilmembers Walker and Beale requested that the Public Utility Board (PUB) adopt a similar resolution to reduce Tacoma Public Utilities' carbon footprint.

On April 14, 2021 the proposed "decarbonization" resolution was presented to the PUB for feedback. After incorporating that feedback, the current resolution is now before the PUB for consideration.

**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes, there may be expenditure, and no they are not yet planned and budgeted.** The resolutions explains that "Director shall inventory TPU-owned facilities that use fossil fuels and evaluate the feasibility of retrofitting existing facilities to low-emission sources by 2030. This inventory and evaluation will make use of existing reports and data to prepare recommendations regarding feasibility and life-cycle costs. The report will be completed by January 1, 2023, and a presentation will be made to the Public Utility Board (PUB)." And that "the TPU Director shall develop a plan to retrofit TPU-owned parking facilities and buildings with electric vehicle ("EV") charging stations by 2030, where operationally and economically feasible. This plan will be completed by January 1, 2023, and a report will be made to the PUB." These items will likely cause expenditures that will be considered in future budgetary planning.



## Board Action Memorandum

**IF THE EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW IT IS TO BE COVERED.**

The Director of the Utility will plan for the necessary budget.

**IF THE ACTION REQUESTED IS APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT, INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING \$200,000 INCREASE IN ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO DIRECTOR? No**

**ATTACHMENT'S:** PUB proposed resolution  
City Council RES40776

**CONTACT:**

LaTasha Wortham, Regional Relations Manager, 253-753-6858  
Michael Catsi, Economic Development Manager, 253-820-9841  
Tom Morrill, Chief Deputy City Attorney, 253-244-4693





# **Decarbonization Resolution**

**LaTasha Wortham, Regional Relations Manager**



# Overview

- Background
  - Tacoma City Council Resolution
- Proposed PUB Resolution
- Feedback/Questions





# Tacoma City Council Resolution

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

1. Excluding natural gas and fossil fuels from City-owned new buildings and renovations;
2. Conducting an inventory of city-owned buildings and analyzing the feasibility of retrofitting buildings to low-emissions sources;
3. Developing a plan to retrofit city-owned parking facilities and buildings 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



# Proposed Public Utility Resolution

A resolution relating to reducing the TPU's municipal carbon footprint by restricting the use of natural gas and fossil fuels for existing TPU buildings and facilities and future TPU capital improvements.



# Outline of Proposed Public Utility Board Resolution

**Where operationally and economically feasible and appropriate reduce TPU's carbon footprint by:**

1. Excluding natural gas and fossil fuels from TPU-owned new buildings and renovations;
2. Conducting an inventory of TPU-owned buildings and analyzing the feasibility of retrofitting the buildings to low-emissions sources;
3. Developing a plan to retrofit TPU-owned parking facilities and buildings with EV charging stations, 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. 40776

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 United Nations 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 to 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





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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

WHEREAS vulnerable, underrepresented, and historically oppressed communities in the City, including low-income communities 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) and outdoor air pollution, and have less access to healthcare and resources to mitigate this impact; Now Therefore,

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

- Public health and safety;
- Economic costs and savings;
- Technical feasibility;
- Legal implications;
- Labor and workforce;
- Operations;
- Housing affordability; and
- Equity.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

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