



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

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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

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

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

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

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25 WHEREAS TPU supports a legislative agenda that advances decarbonization
26 through increased electrification of energy use, and



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
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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 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:
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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.
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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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Section 3. 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. 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 to be economically feasible; 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.

Approved as to form:

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| <p>_____ /s/ Chief Deputy City Attorney</p> <p>_____ Clerk</p> | <p>_____ Chair</p> <p>_____ Secretary</p> <p>Adopted _____</p> |
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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

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:

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