

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Declare that along with the COVID-19 pandemic that has created a public health and economic crisis, a human-made climate emergency also threatens our city, our region, our state, our nation, humanity and the natural world, and that such an emergency calls for an immediate mobilization effort initiating greater action, resources, collaboration and new approaches to restore a safe climate. (Resolution)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The purpose of this legislation is to:

- 1) Declare that along with the COVID-19 pandemic that has created a public health and economic crisis, a human-made climate emergency also threatens our city, and
- 2) Acknowledge the impact of climate change on frontline communities, including Black and Indigenous people, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, low-income individuals, labor and workers, people living with disabilities, youth, and individuals experiencing homelessness and to recognize their climate action leadership, and
- 3) Adopt a new target of achieving at least a 50% reduction in carbon emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions before 2050, and
- 4) Direct the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to work with other City bureaus and external stakeholders to launch a climate justice initiative that centers frontline communities in the development of equitable community benefits that reduce carbon emissions.

Portland's response to climate change is not new. Portland was the first city in the U.S. to adopt a climate action plan in 1993, and in 2015 Portland adopted its fourth climate plan and reaffirmed the goal of reducing total local carbon emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. As of 2018, Portland's total carbon emissions are 19% below 1990 levels (national emissions are currently 4.6% above 1990 levels), and per person emissions are 42% below 1990 levels. During that same time, jobs have increased by 36% and population has increased by 39%. However, Portland's total carbon emissions reductions have plateaued in recent years and we will not be on track to hit our 2030 goals without a major shift in how we approach climate action planning and implementation.

While Portland is often recognized as a leader in the U.S. on climate action, it doesn't tell the full story. The harmful effects of climate change are not experienced equitably across Portland. People of color, low-income households and Native Americans living in Portland are on the frontlines of climate change. These same frontline communities have largely been denied the benefits that have historically flowed from years of investments in climate-friendly programs, policies and infrastructure, and they are facing disproportionate climate impacts that take a real toll on their families and communities.

Generations of institutional racism and gentrification displaced many Black, Asian and Latino communities from their neighborhoods to more dispersed and outer areas of the Portland. Due to inequitable or biased investments in housing, transportation, parks and green infrastructure, these areas are more likely to experience poorer air quality, higher temperatures, increased risk of flooding, and less energy efficient housing. In addition, these neighborhoods tend to be farther from jobs, established cultural resources and neighborhood services like grocery stores. As a result, frontline communities experience disproportionate energy and transportation cost burdens, adverse health impacts and unsafe transportation connections and/or lived experiences. Climate justice requires that frontline communities that have historically borne the brunt of climate change and the extractive economy participate actively in the planning and implementation of the City's climate work, and that they benefit from those actions and investments.

The United Nations International Panel on Climate Change's special report that found avoiding catastrophic climate change will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 10 years to achieve a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The urgency to transform the City's climate work in terms reducing emissions, building resilience to the impacts of climate change, and creating a just transition from an extractive fossil-fuel economy, make this is a critical time to create a new vision for how Portland tackles climate change in both the near- and long-term.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

This resolution does not have any direct financial or budgetary impacts. However, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability will use existing grant funds to resource participation by frontline community representatives that are involved in the Climate Justice Initiative. Funding considerations for any specific climate action policies, programs and/or actions that the City advances will be addressed through that action's development process or the City's budget-making process.

Community impacts and community involvement:

This resolution does not create community impacts directly; however it does set the stage for future actions that will deliver community benefits, with a focus frontline communities. Close to 50 representatives from various frontline community-based organizations, and climate and environmental stakeholders were consulted in the development of this resolution and will be actively engaged in the development of the next update to the Climate Action Plan.

100% Renewable Goal:

This resolution directly supports continued implementation of the 2015 Climate Action Plan and the 100% renewable energy resolution, both of which include actions that advance the City's renewable energy goals.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- YES:** Please complete the information below.
- NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount