

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-06

A RESOLUTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO ENSURE DEPARTMENTS AND POLICIES ALIGN WITH THE 2018 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND TO DEVELOP A “CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE” TO DEVELOP AND RECOMMEND 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS AND SUGGEST POLICIES TO ACCELERATE 2018 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION TARGETS.

WHEREAS, climate change, if unchecked, will have ever increasing impacts on human health, natural systems, wildlife, and infrastructure, creating mounting costs for individuals, communities, businesses, and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus demands we limit global temperature increases below 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid the most destructive and dangerous effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, an important first step toward achieving 100% renewable energy is to set a public long-term renewable energy target to demonstrate political commitment, and to provide both stakeholders and the community with an understanding of the long-term vision for the City; and

WHEREAS, "renewable energy" is herein defined as energy derived from hydrogen, wind power sited in ecologically responsible ways, solar, existing and low-impact hydroelectric, geothermal, biogas (including biogas produced from biomass), and ocean/wave technology sources. "Renewable energy" specifically excludes energy derived from fossil fuels, nuclear, biomass feedstocks sourced from state and federal lands, hydrogen produced from fossil fuels, and incineration of municipal and medical waste; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has already experienced long-term warming, longer and more intense fire seasons, sea level rising along most of the coast, ocean acidification, and decline in glacial area and spring snowpack; and, the State Department of Ecology has reported that, "human caused climate change poses an immediate and urgent threat"; and

WHEREAS, economists have concluded that Washington's families and businesses are likely to incur billions of dollars of annual economic costs if communities fail to drive reductions in greenhouse gas pollution. These economic

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impacts include increased energy costs, coastal and storm damage, reduced food production, increased wildland fire, and increased public health costs; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bellingham municipal government is responsible to promote the public health and safety of its residents including access to clean air, clean water, and a livable environment, and

WHEREAS, the entire community will be impacted by climate change. Communities facing socioeconomic and health inequities (such as youth, elders, communities of color, and low-income) will suffer disproportionately, requiring the City to invest in resilience that is proportionate and accountable to these communities, and

WHEREAS, since time immemorial, the Coast Salish People have called home and have been the stewards, whose example we shall all follow, of what is now recognized as the City of Bellingham. The Coast Salish People depend on healthy ecosystems for subsistence, thus are disproportionately impacted by climate change threatening the health of fish, crustacean, and shellfish populations in the Salish Sea, and

WHEREAS, since 2005, the City of Bellingham (the "City") Mayors and Councils have declared support for local, national and international commitments to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the Bellingham City Council passed Resolution 2007-10 adopting greenhouse gas reduction targets and a Climate Protection Action Plan to achieve those targets; and

WHEREAS, many of the measures proposed or underway in 2007 have been implemented and the City exceeded the 2012 targets at both the municipal and community levels and is on track to meet the 2020 municipal emissions reduction target; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 updated Climate Protection Action Plan implementation of additional measures will be necessary to meet commitments to further reduce emissions by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the transition to 100% renewable energy will provide a range of benefits, including improved air quality, enhanced public health, increased national and energy security, local jobs, reduced reliance on finite resources, and will bring

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tangible benefits to low-income residents and others who have historically been disadvantaged by our energy system; and

WHEREAS, On December 5, 2017 the Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance 2017-080 establishing the goal of 100% renewable energy use within County operations and the larger Whatcom County community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham has shown its commitment, declaring ambitious climate action goals commensurate with its obligations as a signatory of multiple international climate agreements, including the We Are Still In Declaration, the City's Climate Action Plan, the Compact of Mayors, 100% Clean Energy, and the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bellingham recognizes that while it is desirable and beneficial to set aggressive targets and transition to 100% renewable energy quickly, there are numerous financial, technological and societal challenges that need to be addressed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

SECTION 1. DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW GROWTH, LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS TO INSURE ALIGNMENT WITH THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN. This will include reviewing Comprehensive Plan policies, current and future land use policies, future development and re-development, and building standards to find options to further reduce the Bellingham community's carbon footprint and accelerate Climate Action Plan targets.

SECTION 2. DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO WORK WITH ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS TO INSURE THEIR POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES ARE IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN. This will include all Departments reviewing operations and facilities as well as policies, practices and procedures to determine opportunities to further reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and insure alignment with the Climate Action Plan when developing future policies.

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SECTION 3. DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO DOCUMENT METHODS THAT WILL BE USED TO ACHIEVE ACTIONABLE PRIORITIES. These will include identification of specific actions to reduce emissions, methods of delivering education and outreach to the public, and efforts to ensure that targets are achieved in a socially equitable manner. Activities will include developing metrics for cost effective decisions, guided by a Triple Bottom Line plus Technology approach.

SECTION 4. DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL ANNUALLY. The City Council directs City administration to update the Council during the first quarter of the year on activities and progress toward 2018 Climate Action Plan targets.

SECTION 5. COUNCIL'S AMBITIONS FOR ACCELERATING MUNICIPALITY AND COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS. The Council identifies the following as greenhouse gas reduction ambitions:

- 100% renewable energy for municipal facilities (electricity, heating and transportation) by 2030;
- 100% renewable energy use for the Bellingham community's electricity supply by 2030, and
- 100% renewable energy for community heating and transportation by 2035.

SECTION 6. CREATION OF A COMMUNITY AND STAFF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TASK FORCE. A limited-term Community and Staff Climate Action Plan Task Force ("Task Force") will be formed with the following directives:

- Adopt a triple bottom line plus technology philosophy; and
- Determine feasibility, costs and impacts of the 100% renewable energy ambitions (Section 5); and
- Develop 100% renewable energy targets; and
- Identify funding mechanisms and develop a plan to achieve the Task Force's recommended 100% renewable targets; and
- Develop accelerated greenhouse gas emissions targets for the Council to consider for adoption; and
- Identify policy considerations to attain accelerated targets.

The Task Force will deliver a final report to Council by the 4th Quarter of 2019.

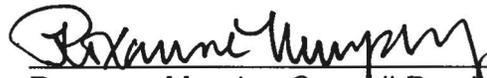
The Task Force will consist of no more than 12 members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Membership will include up to six community members (may include individuals with experience in relevant fields such as

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renewable energy, energy conservation, land use, energy/resource economics, community engagement, transportation, or finance); one member to represent the energy utilities; one member to represent public transportation; and up to six members representing City of Bellingham Departments. The Task Force will be supported by Mayor-designated staff and City Council-designated staff.

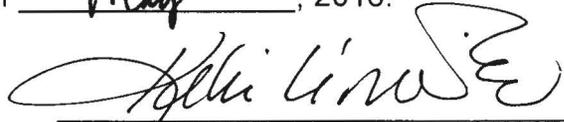
SECTION 7. THE CITY COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER ADOPTING THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 4th QUARTER OF 2019. Recommendations will include policies to accelerate Climate Action Plan greenhouse gas reduction targets and 100% renewable energy targets.

PASSED by the Council this 7th day of May, 2018.

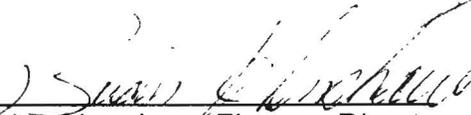


Roxanne Murphy, Council President

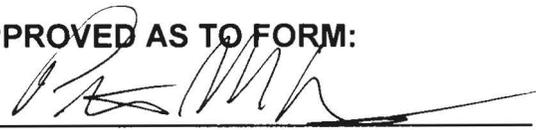
APPROVED by me this 17th day of May, 2018.



Kelli Linville, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Brian Henshaw, Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


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