

EESW

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2023

ADOPTING the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan as the comprehensive climate action plan for the City of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, in 2008 the City of Cincinnati adopted the first-ever Green Cincinnati Plan, which was one of the first-of-its-kind municipal climate action plans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the Green Cincinnati Plan has been revised and updated every five years; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, under the leadership of Mayor Aftab Pureval, Councilmember Meeka D. Owens, Councilmember Mark Jeffreys, the Environmental Advisory Council, the Green Cincinnati Steering Committee, Director of Environment and Sustainability Oliver Kroner, among many others, the City initiated a review and revision of the Green Cincinnati Plan; and

WHEREAS, Cincinnati has reduced citywide carbon emissions by 38.6 percent since 2006; and

WHEREAS, Cincinnati continues to experience historic incidence of climate change, including 10 hundred-year storms in the last eleven years; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change are not felt equally across our community, with the frontline neighborhoods impacted the most being primarily black, brown, and/or low income; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati has been recognized as an international leader among municipalities addressing climate change, including as a winning city in the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge; and

WHEREAS, it is now more pivotal than ever to align with global efforts, reduce carbon and methane emissions, and address climate change; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2022, Council adopted Item #202200631, a motion asking the Administration to revise and update the 2018 Green Cincinnati Plan, with a distinct emphasis on climate equity and environmental and racial justice as fundamental organizing principles for the City’s sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan was developed over a year-long period with significant input from the City, the community, and local and national sustainability advocates and leaders; and

WHEREAS, throughout the development of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan there was significant public participation through different outreach programs created by the City, including direction and oversight from a 34-person steering committee appointed by Mayor Pureval and led by City Councilmember Meeka D. Owens and Director of Environment and Sustainability Oliver Kroner, representing local community organizations, businesses, nonprofits, and institutions, and from eight subcommittees that involved numerous community members; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Environment and Sustainability increased its community engagement from the that during the consideration of the 2018 plan, with 1,680 attendees at in-person events and 157 attendees at the frontline community-specific events; and

WHEREAS, in total 3,766 individuals were engaged across 42 events and two online surveys, with over 3,000 ideas submitted by the community that were used to directly shape the recommendations of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan; and

WHEREAS, the draft plan was circulated to the public for comments and has been revised based on these comments; and

WHEREAS, the Green Cincinnati Steering Committee adopted an object to achieve fifty percent carbon reduction by 2030 and 100 percent carbon neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the following eight focus areas serve as the framework for the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan and play a significant role in driving policy and creating systems change: Buildings and Energy, City Operations, Community Activation, Food, Mobility, Natural Resources, Resilience & Climate Adaptation, and Zero Waste; and

WHEREAS, the City supported the creation of a Youth Environmental Council, formed from young people in Cincinnati, to serve as champions and advocates to drive the City forward with residents, community leaders, and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the City released a public survey to discuss the draft plan and collect feedback on its goals, strategies, and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the public, through the engagement events and online surveys, set the vision for Cincinnati's climate change initiatives, which is focused on an unapologetic drive for achieving sustainability, equity, and resilience in all facets of City operations and functions, across community spaces, and in individuals' homes and daily lives; and

WHEREAS, for the first time, the Green Cincinnati Plan process included the creation of an equity committee to establish a framework for including equity principles in engagement; the development of an equity commitment in the Green Cincinnati Plan; and the development of a definition for operationalizing equity; and

WHEREAS, within each focus area, there is a series of goals, strategies, and focus actions to achieve these sustainability goals; and

WHEREAS, among other focus actions, the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan commits to a goal of decreasing emissions from buildings by thirty percent by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Council supports the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan's goal to, among others, eliminate food deserts in all 52 neighborhoods by creating access to nutritious and affordable food in every neighborhood, prioritizing the communities that need it most; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan aims to meet the demands of the growing green economy and commits to training 4,000 individuals for green economy jobs by 2028; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan centers the principles of the Federal Justice40 Initiative, and aims to ensure that at least forty percent of spending benefits priority communities; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan lays out a strategy for Cincinnati to become a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable City for all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati is also considering an ordinance to form the creation of an Environmental Advisory Board, which will be tasked to oversee and advise on the implementation on the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan, working with the staff of the Office of the Environment and Sustainability, or its successor, to solidify prioritization, timelines, partners, and potential funding sources; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on March 17, 2023, the City Planning Commission reviewed the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan and recommended it for approval as the comprehensive climate action plan for the City of Cincinnati and recommended it to City Council for adoption; and

WHEREAS, a committee of Council considered and approved the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan, finding it in the interest of the public's health, safety, morals, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, Council considers the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan to be in the best interests of the City and the public's health, safety, morals, and general welfare; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan furthers the goals, strategies, and visions of the City of Cincinnati.

Section 2. That the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference, is hereby approved, and adopted as the City's climate action plan.

Section 3. That City departments should work to develop policies and programs in pursuit of the aspirations and recommendations of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan.

Section 4. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: _____, 2023

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Mayor Aftab Pureval and Councilmembers Meeka Owens and Mark Jeffreys