



2022-00631

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Cincinnati City Council

March 11, 2022

MOTION

Renewing the Green Cincinnati Plan

WE MOVE that the Administration revise and update the 2018 Green Cincinnati Plan, considering with a distinct emphasis on climate equity and environmental and racial justice as fundamental organizing principles for the City's sustainability efforts. The revision should include, but not be limited to, the following priorities:

Regional Goals

- Develop a pathway to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2050; and
- Explore partnerships with the County, State, and surrounding municipalities to achieve broader regional impact; and
- Maintain the goals of improving the local economy, public health, and quality of life through sustainability efforts and youth and young-adult green workforce development; and
- Update Cincinnati's goals and strategies for significantly reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions; and

Action on Inequity and Climate Justice

- Prioritize programs to reduce energy burdens in low-income communities and those that are disproportionately affected by climate change; and
- Evaluate the health outcomes caused by detrimental climate and environment, and address these issues, including but not limited to lifespan, poor water quality, and indoor/outdoor air quality; and
- Address underlying community stresses, including housing access, food security, environmental justice, and economic stability to increase climate resilience; and

Infrastructure and Transportation

- Design a green transportation strategy that motivates energy-efficient travel methods, promotes active transportation such as biking and walking, and makes the City of Cincinnati more conducive to public transit usage; and
- Evaluate a Complete Streets policy to motivate activate transportation, reduce pedestrian hazards, and expand green infrastructure; and

- Prioritize strategies to further reduce commercial building emissions; and
- Develop large-scale climate resilience infrastructure plans in preparation for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable communities; and
- Identify paths or barriers to develop a dedicated green infrastructure / resiliency fund focused on projects in vulnerable communities; and
- Outline a comprehensive regulatory policy that incentivizes land-use patterns and development standards that would reduce the City's collective carbon footprint and improve community resilience; and

City Administration

- Improve the resilience of Cincinnati by identifying and preparing for threats posed by our changing climate and shifting weather patterns; and
- Reduce illegal dumping and litter in the City, particularly in its waterways and parks; and
- Identify areas the City of Cincinnati can lead by example to decarbonize municipal buildings, operations, and achieve a hundred percent (100%) zero-emissions fleet; and
- Evaluate a strategy to consider greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts in all planning and decision-making processes, including capital planning, neighborhood and comprehensive planning, and City boards and decisions; and

Neighborhood Specific Strategies

- Consider a policy to update neighborhood plans to include climate change, environment, and sustainability; and
- Prioritize diverse representation and community engagement with Cincinnatians not previously involved in the planning process by following the *Climate Safe Neighborhoods Model*¹ used by the Ohio Environmental Council, Green Umbrella, and Groundwork Ohio River Valley; and
- Address the detrimental effects of climate change felt across the fifty-two neighborhoods of the City, with a specific plan and prioritization for the equitable allocation of resources to the most vulnerable neighborhoods with the highest disparities in their climate equity indicators, as reported in *Climate Equity Indicators Report – 2021, City of Cincinnati*².

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Plan continue to pursue the policy and equity goals set by previous versions of the Plan, including developing a path to 100 percent renewable energy for the City of Cincinnati, pursuing innovative solar energy technology, and reducing citywide use of difficult-to-recycle and non-recyclable items.

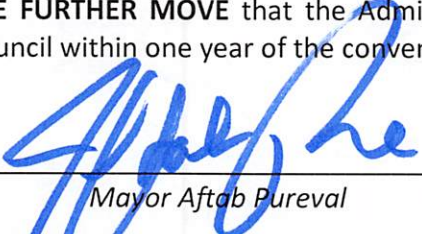
¹ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/8c2fa0feff13424ca8738fe051b579db>

² [https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/sites/oes/assets/File/Climate Equity Indicators Report_2021.pdf](https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/sites/oes/assets/File/Climate%20Equity%20Indicators%20Report_2021.pdf)

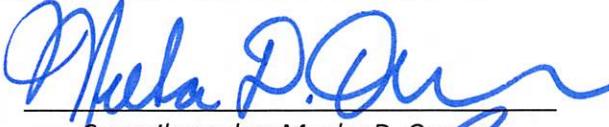
WE FURTHER MOVE that the Administration work with organizations working in the climate, environment, and sustainability space to develop the Plan, including but not limited to, the Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership, Green Umbrella, the Ohio Environmental Council, and Groundwork Ohio River Valley.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Administration provide regular quarterly updates to the Climate, Environment and Infrastructure Committee of City Council, evaluating the efforts to date and recommending any appropriate updates to the Green Cincinnati Plan.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Administration draft the necessary ordinances and report back to council within one year of the convening of the Steering Committee that will oversee the Plan.




Mayor Aftab Pureval




Councilmember Meeka D. Owens



Councilmember Mark Jeffreys



Councilmember Victoria Parks



Councilmember Reginald Harris



Councilmember Jan-Michele Lemoine



Councilmember JMG

STATEMENT

The climate crisis continues to disrupt the lives of Cincinnati residents and daily operations of City government. Increased frequency of heat events, severe storms, landslides, and sewer backups have caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damages, and immeasurable public health impacts. Despite these setbacks, cities across the nation have found innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while increasing quality of life for their residents.

To address these challenges locally, the 2006 Mayor and City Council passed a resolution endorsing the US Mayors Climate Protecting Agreement and striving to reduce global warming pollution in Cincinnati. In 2007, the Mayor and City Council passed a Motion initiating the City's

Climate Protection Action Plan (commonly known as the Green Cincinnati Plan). The Plan was adopted in 2008 and later revised and readopted in 2013 and 2018. The Plan presents a comprehensive set of recommendations for addressing global climate change as a City and a region, and has continued to be assessed and revised to keep Cincinnati on course toward achieving these important environmental goals.

The Green Cincinnati Plan has helped to establish Cincinnati as a national leader in sustainability and an attractive destination for businesses and individuals. However, revision and readoption the Green Cincinnati Plan should not be seen as the final word on how Cincinnati will address global climate change and sustainability. Rather, it should be considered an agreement on the urgency of the problem, a consensus on the broad direction in which we should head, and commitment to a set of actions that will begin to make the desired changes. The plan should continue to be assessed and revised as necessary to keep Cincinnati on course toward achieving the goals of this plan.

Together, these strategies have helped achieve a 37.8% citywide reduction in carbon emissions since 2006. In addition, the Green Cincinnati Plan has helped the City: move towards 100 percent renewable energy with the installation of 100 megawatts of solar energy; build the country's first LEED Platinum Net-Zero Police Headquarters; annually divert over 20,000 tons of recyclable material from the landfill; expand tree planting efforts to achieve a 43 percent citywide tree canopy; and improve public transit options through the Hamilton County region.

To continue this positive momentum, and to build a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future for Cincinnati, the Plan will be updated to align with the current state of the science and administrative priorities.