

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREMONT TO ADOPT A GOAL TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2045, TO SET AN INTERIM GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET OF 55 PERCENT BY 2030 FROM A 2005 BASELINE, AND TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A POST-CARBON COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2006, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), or the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, committing California to reducing statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 2000 levels by 2010, to 1990 levels by 2020, and to a level 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the City of Fremont adopted a goal of reducing community GHG emissions by 25 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 in alignment with the goals of AB 32; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2011 the City of Fremont adopted a General Plan with a vision of transitioning Fremont from an auto-oriented suburb into a sustainable, strategically urban, modern city; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2012 the City of Fremont adopted its first Climate Action Plan (CAP), putting forth an implementation plan to reduce both municipal and community-wide GHG emissions by 25 percent by 2020 across the transportation, energy, waste, and water sectors; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the City of Fremont established an Environmental Sustainability Commission to advise the City Council on emerging policy issues related to environmental sustainability and on updates to the CAP; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2015, the Paris Agreement was adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 21st Conference of Parties (COP21), setting a goal of keeping global mean surface temperature (GMST) rise in this century well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit); and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2016, the United States signed onto the Paris Agreement, which obtained enough parties to enter into force on November 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, President Donald Trump announced his intent to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2017, Fremont Mayor Lily Mei issued an open letter to the community reaffirming the City's commitment to fight against climate change and signing on to the "We Are Still In" domestic and international coalition statement speaking to the urgency of staving off climate change and demonstrating continued support for the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, California Governor Jerry Brown signed Executive Order B-55-18, committing California to achieving carbon neutrality no later than 2045, and achieving and maintaining net negative emissions thereafter; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius to the UNFCCC stating that the current rate of global warming (approximately + 0.2 degrees Celsius/decade) is expected to increase GMST to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels between the years of 2030 and 2052; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC Special Report recommends “deep emissions reductions” and “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” in order to stay within 1.5 degrees Celsius of GMST rise and avoid the worst impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2018, Fremont City Council adopted a resolution to divest fully from the fossil fuel sector, support a fast and just transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 at the latest, discourage installations of new fossil fuel infrastructure, and adopt regulations to support the transition to clean energy; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2019, the Environmental Sustainability Commission unanimously recommended that City Council adopt a resolution to achieve community-scale carbon neutrality no later than 2045, set an interim 55 percent GHG emissions reduction target by the year 2030 from a 2005 baseline, and establish a “Framework for a Post-Carbon Community” to guide the Climate Action Plan update process; and

WHEREAS, a “post-carbon community” can be defined as one that provides for economic and social opportunity across all ages, cultures, and abilities without producing net greenhouse gas emissions nor contributing to ecosystem degradation; and

WHEREAS, by adopting ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets and establishing a long term post-carbon community goal, the City of Fremont can demonstrate local climate action leadership as well as align with the vision of California Executive Order B-55-18 and with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREMONT RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- To achieve municipal and community-scale carbon neutrality no later than the year 2045, and to transition to a post-carbon community.
- To establish an interim target of 55 percent emissions reductions from a 2005 baseline emissions level by the year 2030.
- To update the Climate Action Plan with implementation actions that aim to achieve the interim 55 percent emission reduction target by 2030 and align with the 2045 carbon neutrality/post-carbon community goal.

- To adopt the following driving principles and strategies as the framework for achieving carbon neutrality and a post-carbon economy:

FRAMEWORK FOR A POST-CARBON COMMUNITY

Guiding Values

❖ Equity & Access	Ensure that all people have the opportunity to benefit equally from climate solutions, while not taking on an unequal burden of climate impacts.
❖ Efficiency & Innovation	Promote the efficient use of resources and the adoption of clean and climate-smart technologies and techniques.
❖ Health & Wellness	Safeguard and enhance the ability of the community to live, work, play, connect, and thrive in a healthy social and physical environment.
❖ Resiliency & Capacity-Building	Provide education and training on the opportunities offered by a more resilient future and encourage sustainable behaviors across all sectors of the community.

Key Strategies

1. Clean & Renewable Power	Deploy and efficiently use clean, renewable, and locally-sourced electricity generated onsite or transmitted through the power grid.
2. Electrification & Fossil Fuel Phase-Out	Upgrade and replace carbon-intensive, fossil fuel-based infrastructure and combustion power throughout the transportation and building sectors with clean electric power.
3. Carbon Sequestration	Drawdown carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere through ecological and/or technological methods and capture and store in plants, soils, water systems, and other solid forms.
4. Mobility & Connectivity	Develop and enhance safe, multimodal, accessible, equitable, intelligent, and clean motorized and non-motorized travel options, transit modes, transportation infrastructure, and community connectivity.
5. Resource Conservation & Elimination of Waste	Conserve natural and manufactured resources by means of the responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials.

6. Restorative Ecology & Green Infrastructure	Restore, rehabilitate, and repurpose degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystems and habitats through active interventions. Incorporate green infrastructure and ecosystem services into community design.
7. Climate Adaptation & Resilience	Prepare for, limit, learn from, and adapt to the negative effects of climate change through proactive and holistic planning and response at infrastructural, cultural, and institutional levels.

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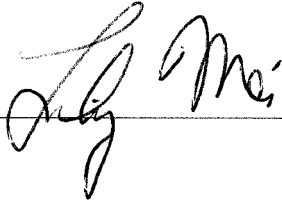
ADOPTED, February 19, 2019, by the City Council of the City of Fremont by the following vote:


AYES: Mayor Mei; Vice Mayor Salwan; Councilmembers Bacon, Keng, Jones, Kassan and Shao

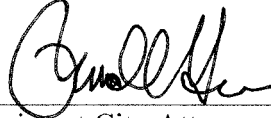
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Mayor 

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Assistant City Attorney