

ADOPTED BY THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL

September 9, 2020

RESOLUTION NO. 23222

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TUCSON, ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF TUCSON, AND REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON AN EQUITABLE AND JUST TRANSITION AND URGENT MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep global warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C;”

WHEREAS, death and destruction already caused by global warming of 1°C demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, prolonged droughts, extreme weather events, loss of diversity and climate refugees;

WHEREAS, in September 25, 2015, the United Nations Assembly adopted the “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, a historic document that lays out 17 Sustainable Development Goals that aim to mobilize global efforts to end poverty, foster peace, safeguard the rights and dignity of all people, and protect the planet;

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, 1.5°C of global warming could expose 500 million people to water poverty, 36 million people to food insecurity because of lower crop yields, and 4.5 billion people to heat waves;

WHEREAS, the United Nations November 2019 Emissions Gap Report finds that

countries collectively failed to stop the growth in emissions, meaning that deeper and faster cuts are now required. In order to stay on track to meeting the Paris Agreement goals, the UN calls for immediate and aggressive action to achieve carbon by 2030;

WHEREAS, in July 2019 networks representing more than 7,000 higher education institutions from 6 continents declared a Climate Emergency and committed to carbon neutrality by 2030 or 2050 at the very latest; mobilizing more resources for action-oriented climate change research and skills creation; and increasing the delivery of environmental and sustainability education across curricula, and campus and community outreach programs;

WHEREAS, according to the 2018 U.S. National Climate Assessment, the integrity of Southwest ecosystems and their ability to provide natural habitat, clean water, and economic livelihoods have declined as a result of recent droughts and wildfire due in part to human-caused climate change.

WHEREAS, the 2011 City of Tucson's Climate Mitigation Report identifies climate change as a threat to Tucson's public health and safety, increasing the local risks and worsening the effects of major hazards such as wildfires, drought, extreme heat, flooding, among others.

WHEREAS, in April 2019 Climate Central, an independent organization of leading scientists and journalists researching and reporting change climate and its impacts, reported that Tucson and Arizona are the third fastest warming city and state, respectively, in the US from 1970 to 2018;

WHEREAS, according to the National Weather Service, August 2020 was the hottest month ever in Tucson with an average daily temperature 7.1 degrees above August's normal average daily temperature, and the 2020 summer was the hottest summer since climate records started being collected in 1897;

WHEREAS, in 2018, Pima County released the "Sustainable Action Plan for

County Operations 2018- 2025” with an overarching goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in county operations by 26% below 2005 levels by 2025; with core areas in carbon, water, landscapes, materials and workforce; each with specific targets, performance measure, and recommended implementation strategies;

WHEREAS, the Pima Association of Governments mission is to address regional issues through cooperative efforts and pooled resources and to provide accurate, relevant data that leads to effective regional planning decisions; and to enhance the region’s livability by improving regional mobility and sustainability;

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Authority’s 2020 Plan has an Environmental and Economic Vitality Element that includes funding for greenways, pathways, bikeways and sidewalks, as well as transportation-related critical wildlife linkages;

WHEREAS, the City of Tucson Mayor, Regina Romero, is committed to advance climate action and has joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, a global coalition of thousands of cities and mayors around the world who pledge to take ambitious local climate action to help deliver on the Paris Agreement; and the Climate Mayors, a bipartisan, peer-to-peer network of U.S. mayors working together to implement meaningful climate actions in their communities and to express and build political will for effective federal and global policy;

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2020, City of Tucson Mayor and Council participated in a retreat where their priorities for the next five years were identified. Mayor and Council committed, as a governing body, to address climate change by developing a comprehensive Climate Action and Adaptation Plan to be included in Plan Tucson; improving mobility and transportation, housing affordability, parks infrastructure, and our recycling system; identifying a path to transition the City’s fleet to electric; preserving water supplies; investing in diversity, equity and inclusion, among other priorities;

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2020 City of Tucson Mayor and Council passed Resolution

No. 11746 calling on the Arizona Corporation Commission to adopt a clean energy standard of 100% by 2050, as the Commission reviewed the Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff, to move the State of Arizona toward a more sustainable future.

WHEREAS, the City of Tucson partnered with the 2030 District Network to demonstrate that high performing buildings can be the most valuable and economical buildings in the region and has the goal of reducing energy and water use in the built environment within the District boundaries by 50% by 2030;

WHEREAS, the City of Tucson General and Sustainability Plan was ratified by the voters of Tucson in 2013 and the focus areas in Chapter 3—The Social Environment, The Economic Environment, The Natural Environment and The Built Environmental—have specific goals and policies for sustainability including housing; public safety; parks and recreation; arts and culture; public health; urban agriculture; education; governance and participation; jobs and workforce development; business climate; regional and global positioning; tourism and quality of life; energy and climate readiness; water resources; green infrastructure; environmental quality; historic preservation; public infrastructure, facilities and cost of development; redevelopment and revitalization; land use, transportation and urban design;

WHEREAS, the City of Tucson's Water Department has established a robust conservation program that has conserved 3.3 billion gallons of water over the last decade by offering incentives for high-efficiency plumbing appliances and rainwater harvesting, including free programs for customers in need, adopted gray water harvesting and commercial rainwater harvesting ordinances (10579 and 10597, respectively); engaged half a million students and teachers in water conservation education programs, as well as thousands of homeowners and landscape professionals in irrigation efficiency training; provided individual water checkups to thousands of customers annually and developed the Neighborhood-scale Stormwater Harvesting Program and Green Stormwater Infrastructure Fund to maintain and install green infrastructure throughout the community; is developing the One Water 2100 Master Plan to ensure the viability and quality of

Tucson's water supply for the next 80 years.

WHEREAS, the City of Tucson's Department of Environmental and General Services has expanded solar installations at various City facilities across departments that generate 20 megawatts of new solar energy and provide additional shade to parking spaces and it is in the development or construction phase for additional solar installations that would generate an additional 2.5 megawatts; and has provided infrastructure to further support future electric charging stations for city owned vehicles and public use;

WHEREAS, the City of Tucson's Department of Transportation and Mobility has converted over 20,000 streetlights to LED; built over 500 miles of low-stress bikeways; built close to 70 miles of biking and walking trails; installed over 750 free bike racks; launched e-scooters and the Tugo Bike Share (which has 330 bikes at 36 stations); built the Sun Link, the modern car, with 8 fully electric streetcars; installed and manages two Blink electric-vehicle charging stations as part of Park Tucson and plans to bring additional charging stations to other ParkTucson garages; is piloting an electric bus and will be adding 10 new electric buses to its fleet; and is implementing the Complete Street policy, which, once fully implemented, will provide safer and more appealing environments for people to walk, bike and use public transportation;

WHEREAS, the City of Tucson Mayor and Council, working with the Department of Planning and Development Services, advanced transit-oriented infill development in downtown and along the streetcar, which enabled the development of 1,000 housing units in the downtown area, 25% of which are affordable units, and fostered a vibrant, mixed-use, walkable environment in our urban core; enabled backyard farming and promoted local food production through an Urban Agriculture Ordinance; encouraged adaptive reuse of vacant commercial and historic sites for new businesses through an array of code tools; and has adopted building codes that facilitate the adoption of solar power and rainwater harvesting and promote gray water ready, highly energy-efficient new construction;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability (CCES) advises Mayor and Council on:

- (a) the most effective and efficient methods of meeting the climate, energy and

sustainability goals outlined in the City's General Plan, (b) methods for improving the City's climate and environmental impact and adaptability in its operations; and (c) achieving the incremental as well as transformative systemic outcomes necessary to respond to climate, energy, and broader sustainability challenges in our region; and would support the climate action and sustainability efforts outlined in this document;

WHEREAS, climate change and the global industrialized economy's overshoot of ecological limits are driving the Sixth Mass Extinction of species, could devastate much of life on Earth for many millennia, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and ecological emergencies and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly solve these crises;

WHEREAS, in July 2019, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, Representative Earl Blumenauer, and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced a concurrent Congressional resolution to declare a national climate emergency in the United States, calling for a "national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization of the resources and labor of the United States at a massive scale to halt, reverse, mitigate, and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency and to restore the climate for future generations;"

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a Climate Mobilization, an emergency mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II, in order to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy; to rapidly and safely drawdown and remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere at emergency speed and until safe, near pre-industrial climate conditions are restored; and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate breakdown;

WHEREAS, such necessary measures to restore a safe climate include: (a) A rapid, just, managed phase-out of fossil fuels; (b) An elimination of human-caused greenhouse gas

emissions as quickly as possible to establish a zero-emissions economy; (c) A widespread effort to safely drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere; (d) A full transition to a regenerative agriculture system; and (f) An end to the Sixth Mass Extinction through widespread conservation and restoration of ecosystems;

WHEREAS, the term “Just and Equitable Transition” is a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all its members; and

WHEREAS, Just and Equitable Transition strategies were first forged by a “blue-green” alliance of labor unions and environmental justice groups who saw the need to phase out the industries that were harming workers, community health, and the planet, while also providing just pathways for workers into new livelihoods;

WHEREAS, Just and Equitable Transition initiatives shift the economy from dirty energy to energy democracy, from funding new highways to expanding public transit, from incinerators and landfills to zero waste products, from industrial food systems to food sovereignty, from car-dependent sprawl and destructive unbridled growth to smart urban development without displacement and from destructive over-development to habitat and ecosystem restoration;

WHEREAS, core to a Just and Equitable Transition is equity, self-determination, culture, tradition, deep democracy, and the belief that people around the world have a fundamental human right to clean, healthy and adequate air, water, land, food, education, healthcare, and shelter;

WHEREAS, marginalized populations in the City of Tucson and worldwide, including people of color, immigrants, Indigenous communities, low-income individuals, people with disabilities, outdoor laborers, and the unhoused are already disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change, and will continue to bear an excess burden as temperatures increase, and disasters worsen;

WHEREAS, building a society that is resilient to the current, expected, and potential

effects of climate change will protect health, lives, ecosystems, and economies, and such resilience efforts will have the greatest positive impact if the most dramatic potential consequences of climate change are taken into account;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 global pandemic has both highlighted and exacerbated existing health inequalities that have resulted from climate change, such as neighborhoods with poorer air quality being disproportionately affected by the disease.

WHEREAS, justice calls for climate resilience that addresses the specific experiences, vulnerabilities, and needs of marginalized communities within our jurisdiction, who must be included and supported in actively engaging in climate resilience planning, policy, and actions;

WHEREAS, actions to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and/or drawdown greenhouse gases should be taken in ways that also improve resilience to the effects of climate change, and vice versa;

WHEREAS, justice requires that frontline and marginalized communities, which have historically borne the brunt of the extractive fossil-fuel economy, participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort and that they benefit first from the transition to a climate-safe economy;

WHEREAS, fairness demands a guarantee of high-paying, good-quality jobs with comprehensive benefits for all, and many other tenets of a “Green New Deal” effort as the mobilization to restore a safe climate is launched; and

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate and biosphere will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate emergency;

WHEREAS, the City of Tucson can act as a global leader by initiating an emergency

Climate Mobilization to promote an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative local economy at emergency speed, as well as advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

WHEREAS, in order to be successful, the City of Tucson will need all Tucsonans to unite in our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. Our individual as well as our collective and coordinated actions are pivotal to solve the challenges presented by climate change locally;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUCSON ARIZONA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson declare that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world, and recognize the need for bold action to combat climate change, so that it meets or exceeds the current recommendations of the foremost climate scientists working around the world;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Tucson commits to a citywide urgent climate mobilization effort to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from local, state and federal authorities, reduces citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible towards carbon neutrality by 2030; immediately initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere through massive tree planting; ensuring a just and equitable transition for Tucsonans that are disproportionately impacted, and accelerating adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying local climate impacts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, through this declaration Mayor Regina Romero's Climate Action Advisory Council, which includes a representative of the Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability (CCES), will support the development and implementation of a 10-year "Climate Action and Adaptation Plan" in collaboration with the hired consultant to guide the climate emergency response, as well as all climate mitigation, resilience, adaptation, engagement, education, advocacy, and research and development

programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Tucson commits to engaging our residents in the creation of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan in order to accomplish this city-wide climate mobilization effort and to ensure a just and equitable transition with the full democratic participation of Tucsonans;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Tucson commits to keeping the concerns of frontline and marginalized communities central to all Climate Emergency program planning processes and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in the development and implementation of this Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and all climate mobilization efforts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Tucson recognizes that the full participation, inclusion, support, and leadership of community organizations, faith communities, youth, labor organizations, academic institutions, businesses, non-profits, Indigenous groups, and racial, gender, family, immigrant, and disability justice organizations and other allies are integral to the climate emergency response and mobilization efforts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Tucson Mayor and Council directs that all City Departments work with the Pima Association of Governments, Climate Action Advisory Council and/or dedicated consultant to update the City of Tucson's government operations greenhouse gas inventory by providing input data, including, but not limited to, stationary energy (fossil fuel combustion and grid-supplied electricity used in facilities, potable and reclaimed water, central Arizona project, fleet facilities, public lighting, district energy), on road and nonroad transportation, waste, employee commuting, and solar energy generation, within 3 months of the signing of this declaration ;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Tucson Mayor and Council directs all City Departments to work with the Pima Association of Governments, Climate Action Advisory Council and/or dedicated consultant to review the greenhouse gas inventory, the "business-as-usual" forecasting that estimates carbon emissions if no action is taken, and to collaborate

on scenario analysis to identify the most ambitious and feasible greenhouse gas reduction target options from their operations to become carbon neutral by 2030;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as a means to accomplish carbon neutrality by 2030, the City of Tucson Mayor and Council directs all City Departments, in coordination with the Climate Action Advisory Council and selected consultant developing the climate action plan previously approved by Mayor & Council, to identify and pursue strategies, and action to transition out of fossil fuel production, power generation, and use within City operations, including immediate changes to building codes, local ordinances, and permitting processes to de-incentivize the construction of new local fossil fuel infrastructure in city-owned property or city-funded construction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Tucson Mayor and Council directs all City Departments to prioritize and align efforts with the Paris Agreement and the Green New Deal and identify climate adaptation and mitigation strategies that are people-centered and prioritize the following climate and sustainability solutions:

1. Clean and renewable energy: involves deploying and efficiently using clean, renewable and locally sourced electricity generated on site or transmitted through the power grid; including upgrading City facilities to 100% renewable energy such as solar and battery storage.
2. Electrification and fossil fuel phase-out: involves upgrading and replacing carbon-intensive, fossil fuel-based infrastructure and combustion power owned by the city with clean, renewably generated electric power; including having a long-term goal of electrifying the City's public transit and vehicle fleet, and retrofitting City facilities.
3. Carbon sequestration: involves drawing down carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere through ecological and/or technological methods and capturing and safely storing them in plants, soils, water systems, and other solid forms; primarily through massive tree planting and the Tucson Million Trees campaign.
4. Transportation, mobility, and connectivity: involves developing and enhancing land use patterns that foster safe, multimodal, accessible, equitable,

intelligent, and clean motorized and non- motorized travel options, infrastructure, and community connectivity; including updating zoning codes to allow compatible residential infill and neighborhood-oriented commercial uses so that services like bakeries, grocery stores, and coffee shops are accessible to residents by foot or bike.

5. Resource conservation and the elimination of waste: involves conserving natural and manufactured resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recycling; including developing a Zero Waste Plan for the City with a 50% waste diversion goal by 2030 and zero waste by 2050; adopting the “food recovery hierarchy” citywide through educational programs and policies to first promote the reduction of surplus food, and then ensure excess food is use to feed the hungry, the animals, composted before it ends in the landfill; expanding the City’s Conservation Programs to further reduce water use; and instituting a paperless management system by digitalizing all City files and processes.

6. Green infrastructure and restorative ecology: involves incorporating green infrastructure (trees, capture and use of stormwater runoff) into community design, and restoring, rehabilitating, and repurposing damaged ecosystems through active intervention (e.g. buffel grass removal).

7. Climate adaptation and resilience: involves preparing for, learning from, and adapting to the effects of climate change through proactive and holistic planning and response at the infrastructural, cultural, and institutional levels; including limiting/restricting development in areas that are vulnerable to flooding, landslides, and wildfires; increasing the number of community cooling centers for vulnerable populations during extreme heat; incorporating changing climatic conditions and climate hazards into emergency response and recovery programs; ensuring affordable housing units are available for vulnerable communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Tucson Mayor and Council directs the City Manager to report back on opportunities and funding to address the climate and ecological emergency and its impacts through existing hazard mitigation programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Tucson Mayor and Council directs the City

Clerk to work with the Climate Action Advisory Council to include greenhouse gas and co-pollutant impact statements, greenhouse gas and co-pollutant reduction and greenhouse gas drawdown statements in all relevant Council motions, much as it currently includes fiscal impact statements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Tucson Mayor and Council joins a nationwide call for a regional just and equitable transition and urgent climate mobilization collaborative effort focused on transforming our region, enacting policies that dramatically reduce heat-trapping emissions, and rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the City of Tucson Mayor Regina Romero, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Tucson hereby includes in its 2020 Federal Legislative Program, support for H.Con.Res.52 and S.Con.Res.22, “Expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes,” and its 2020 and 2021 Federal Legislative Program support for any legislation that would initiate a national emergency-speed mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, as described in the text of this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Tucson calls on the State of Arizona, the United States of America, Tribal nations and all governments and peoples worldwide to initiate a just and equitable transition and urgent climate mobilization effort to reverse global warming by restoring near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations, that rapidly phases out all fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them, ends human-induced greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, transitions to regenerative agriculture, ends the potential for a sixth mass extinction, and creates high-quality, good-paying jobs with comprehensive benefits for those who will be impacted by this transition.

SECTION 2. WHEREAS, it is necessary for the preservation of the peace, health and safety of the City of Tucson that this Resolution become effective, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, September 9, 2020.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

REVIEWED BY:

CITY ATTORNEY

CITY MANAGER

MR/cf
9/1/20