

A RESOLUTION

reaffirming the commitment of the City of Columbia to take action to reduce climate pollution; authorizing participation in the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and taking steps to create a Climate Action Plan.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia, Missouri desires to protect and enhance quality of life for all those who live, work, learn and play in our community; and

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the recognition that human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, is an important driver of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business and academic leaders as a worldwide threat with the potential to harm our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, climate change has a direct impact on insurance losses, insurance premiums and economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, members of our community and others experience the effects of climate change through increased temperatures, more extreme weather events, and other disruptions that affect our residents, economy, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, climate change affects all residents and businesses, but communities that already face socioeconomic and health inequities will be most severely impacted, including youth, elders, people of color, and low-income communities, and such communities therefore require an investment in resilience that is proportionate to these more severe risks; and

WHEREAS, many local, regional, and global economies are prioritizing efficiency and transitioning to low-carbon energy sources; and

WHEREAS, actions that reduce climate pollution also have potential to improve air quality, public health, energy security, social equity, our local natural environment, and quality of life for our residents; and

WHEREAS, taking steps to increase energy efficiency and resilience can attract jobs and economic development opportunities to our community and increase our long-term economic competitiveness and wealth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia, Missouri has demonstrated a legacy of leadership against the threat of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia, Missouri remains committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, several drivers of climate pollution, such as the production and use of energy in buildings and transportation, can be influenced by local governments and the collective action of communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia, Missouri has already taken important actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance quality of life in our community, including adopting a renewable energy portfolio, and enacting energy efficiency standards in building codes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia, Missouri is in the process of setting greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and creating a climate action plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia is joined in taking action on climate change by a global coalition of cities, state and national governments and community and private sector leaders who recognize the importance and potential of these actions to protect and enhance the well-being of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, more than 200 communities representing more than 55 million Americans have recently re-affirmed a commitment to climate action; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia, Missouri actively collaborates with other local governments throughout the region, state, nation, and the world to learn from each other and identify win-win opportunities to take action on climate change while creating measurable benefits in communities; and

WHEREAS, 195 countries, including the United States, vowed to address climate change in agreements reached in Paris in December 2015 (the "Paris Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the City desires to reaffirm its commitment to creation and implementation of a Climate Action Plan for the benefit of the citizens of the City of Columbia in general conformance with the spirit of the Paris Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Columbia, Missouri hereby re-affirms its continued commitment to taking affirmative action to reduce climate pollution.

SECTION 2. The City of Columbia, Missouri continues to support the principles of the Paris Agreement and encourages the continued participation of the United States of America as a party to the Paris Agreement.

SECTION 3. The City Council authorizes participation in the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, and its successor and affiliate organizations, and further directs and authorizes the City Manager, or designee, to do the following acts in support of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy:

1. Register the commitment and intent of the City of Columbia, Missouri to support the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and the Paris Agreement.
2. Take an inventory to assess the current impacts of climate change in the City by taking the following steps:
 - a. Build and complete a community-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory with a breakdown of emissions for buildings and transport sectors, using the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC) standard;
 - b. Build and complete a city government Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory with a breakdown of emissions for City buildings and transport sectors, using the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC standard);
 - c. Identify climate hazards; and
 - d. Report on both the inventory and identified climate hazards through either the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) reporting system or the Carbon Climate Registry (CCR).
3. Within one (1) year, establish climate reduction targets and a system of measurement for the City to include an update of the City's GHG inventory and a climate change vulnerability assessment which is reported through the CDP or CCR.
4. Within two (2) years, establish a strategic Climate Action Plan for the City showing how the city will deliver on its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.
5. Provide an annual review and update of the Climate Action Plan adopted by the city.

ADOPTED this 19th day of June, 2017.

ATTEST:




City Clerk



Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Counselor