



Department Source: Sustainability

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 20, 2018

Re: Setting emissions reduction goals for climate action and adaptation plan

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared a resolution setting emissions reduction goals. The goals will be used by staff and members of the Mayor's Task Force on Climate Action and Adaptation Planning for developing the climate action and adaptation plan.

Discussion

Staff has prepared a resolution setting the emission reduction goals that were presented at the June 4 City Council work session by members of the Mayor's Task Force on Climate Action & Adaptation Planning. Setting reduction targets allows cities: (1) to track their progress towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and (2) to measure success of climate programs. Reduction targets can motivate action, allow for comparability among cities, and provide a framework for monitoring changes in emissions.

Resolution 83-17 authorized participation in the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. The third action of that resolution was to "establish reduction targets". Goals should be adopted before the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) is complete for a few reasons. First, strategies for the CAAP are measured on how effective they are for meeting a reduction goal. Second, community feedback at the May 22 workshop stressed the importance of adopting emissions reduction goals. Third, by setting goals the City Council is showing support for the current efforts of the Task Force. Finally, there are other plans taking place at the City that can assist with the implementation efforts of the climate action and adaptation plan. Namely, the integrated electric resource and master plan that will guide future development of the electric utilities energy purchases, distribution and demandside management programs, and renewable energy investments. It is important to have Council set goals for emission reductions so those plans can develop strategies for implementation.

The city of Columbia will use 2015 carbon emissions as the baseline. The most important consideration when determining a baseline year is whether or not there is complete inventory data available. City staff and Cascadia Consulting just completed the first municipal emissions inventory for 2015 and reviewed the 2015 community-wide inventory for compliance with the GPC Protocol.

Community carbon emissions are emissions resulting from:

- a. Stationary energy (residential, commercial & institutional buildings and facilities, manufacturing industries and construction, energy industries, and fugitive emissions from other energy systems);
- b. Transportation (on-road, railways, aviation, and off-road); and



- c. Waste (solid waste disposal, biological treatment of waste, wastewater treatment and discharge).

Community carbon emissions were 2.86 million metric tonnes in calendar year 2015.

Municipal carbon emissions are a subset of Columbia's total community greenhouse gas emissions. They are emissions generated through normal city operations and activities and include:

- a. Streetlights and traffic signals electricity use;
- b. Facility electricity and natural gas usage;
- c. Facility solid waste disposal;
- d. Fleet fuel consumption;
- e. In-town power generation;
- f. Landfill emissions;
- g. Airport fuel consumption;
- h. Wastewater treatment emissions; and
- i. Employee commuting emissions.

In 2015, municipal emissions were 322,648 metric tonnes of carbon emissions.

The Mayor's Task Force on Climate Action and Adaptation Planning members voted for the following emission reduction goals to be considered by City Council.

1. Reduce the amount of community carbon emissions as follows:
 - a. 35% reduction of community emissions by 2035;
 - b. 80% reduction of community emissions by 2050; and
 - c. 100% reduction of community emissions by 2060.
2. Reduce the amount of municipal carbon emissions as follows:
 - a. 50% reduction of municipal emissions by 2035; and
 - b. 100% reduction of municipal emissions by 2050.

Attached to this memo is a discussion guide that the Task Force and City staff went through to develop the emission reduction goals presented here. The guide references the different goals peer communities who are working on climate action are setting, including St. Louis, Fayetteville, and Iowa City. These and other peer communities all have 80% by 2050 reduction goals (also known as 80X50).

By adopting the goals outlined above, City Council would be working in tandem with peer communities and demonstrating continued leadership and support for Resolution 83-17. These goals are vital to enabling city staff, Task Force members, Cascadia Consultants and community members to plan, to coordinate and to track our efforts to reduce carbon emissions for the benefit of all citizens.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: unknown

Long-Term Impact: unknown



Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Economy

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Tertiary Impact: Environmental Management

Legislative History

Date	Action
06/04/2018	Presentation to City Council at work session on CAAP update and setting emission reduction goals, based on Task Force recommendations
05/22/2018	Community Workshop on Climate Action, attended by approximately 150 community members
12/04/2017	Presentation to City Council at work session on CAAP timeline and peer city emission reduction goals
06/19/2017	Resolution 83-17 - Reaffirmed 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.

Suggested Council Action

Consideration and adoption of the Mayor's Task Force on Climate Action and Adaptation Planning proposed emissions reduction goals for compliance with the requirements of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.