

Item 28 - ADDITIONAL

Travis County Resolution on Net Zero Carbon Emissions, July 2020

WHEREAS, climate change is deeply affecting our community through increasingly severe weather, including floods, droughts, hotter temperatures, wildfires and disastrous storms which negatively impact the health and safety of our residents and the economy; and,

WHEREAS, the primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels and other activities such as deforestation, land use changes and leaking refrigerants, which can be up to 9,000 times more destructive than CO2 emissions; and,

WHEREAS, business executives, religious leaders, climate scientists and individuals around the globe have called for systemic change to avoid the continued and worsening effects of climate change; and,

WHEREAS, cities, counties and states throughout the U.S. are adopting targets and strategies to combat climate change through the reduction of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions; and,

WHEREAS, partly in response to requests from our bond rating agency, Travis County has adopted a Climate Action Plan and other policies, committing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building facilities that meet energy efficiency standards, using alternative energy to power county-owned facilities and vehicles, and encouraging the use of sustainable commutes such as public transit and teleworking;

WHEREAS, Travis County recognizes that we cannot solve climate change alone and look to our community and residents to join us in taking immediate and sweeping measures to address and mitigate climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DO HEREBY DIRECT OUR STAFF AND URGE RESIDENTS TO COMMIT TO REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT TO STEM THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD, AND AGREE THAT:

Section 1. Travis County adopts the following climate protection and resiliency goals **and directs the Green Steering Committee to bring back an implementation plan by April 22 of 2021**:

- (1) Reach net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from County operations by 2030, as other governments and businesses have committed to;
- (2) Reach net zero community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050; and
- (3) Consistent with the County-adopted Climate Action Plan, complete a vulnerability assessment of County operations and assets as well as the larger Travis County community by 2022. The assessment should identify opportunities to improve operational and community resilience and adaptation especially as it relates to: extreme heat, flooding, wildfires, water conservation, and disease

Section 2. The Travis County Green Steering Committee (comprised of department directors and other County leaders) will drive results by ensuring the completion of the following actions:

- 1) Develop community-level emissions goals, milestones, and strategies;
- 2) Cooperate with other local and regional entities to align goals, share information and technical resources, and to coordinate region-wide greenhouse gas reduction and resiliency strategies;
- 3) Collaborate with County departments to develop and implement departmental climate goals and timelines for maximum achievable reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption in all County departments;
- 4) Work with the Travis County Green Team to create an employee climate education program, resources and incentives to help employees reduce their personal impact, and training to help employees engage in community outreach for climate protection;
- 5) Advise and assist an independent group of community stakeholders to engage the broader Travis County community;

Section 3. Travis County encourages residents to engage in the following ways:

- 1) Seek opportunities to reduce energy use and conserve resources. A helpful tool is the City of Austin’s page for carbon cutting tips: austintexas.gov/department/climate-change;
- 2) Shop local and use your dollars to support sustainable and low-impact businesses. Evaluate the impacts of your purchases and find ways to share, rent, or borrow items rather than buying new;
- 3) Make a plan of action in the event of an emergency such as a flood, wildfire, or disease outbreak, so that you can be prepared.
 - a. Visit www.ready.gov for a supply list, emergency plan template, and other preparedness tools and resources;
 - b. Review Travis County’s award-winning [neighborhood fire drill](#) initiative and coordinate with your neighbors;
 - c. Stay informed and be prepared – sign up for free alerts from the WarnCentralTexas.org emergency notification system;
- 4) Provide feedback and recommendations for climate action and resiliency projects you want to see completed, and how you and other residents can be engaged in achieving net zero community GHG emissions.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS ____ DAY OF JULY, 2020.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE

JEFFREY W. TRAVILLION, SR.
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

BRIGID SHEA
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

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