

Resolution No. 10078

Resolution of the Council of the City of Palo Alto Adopting a
Carbon Neutrality Goal to Further the Climate Goals of the
Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

R E C I T A L S

A. In December 2007, Council adopted the City's Climate Protection Plan which set a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal of 20% reduction by the year 2020.

B. In March 2013, Council approved Resolution 9322 directing staff to achieve carbon neutrality for the electric supply portfolio by 2013 through the use of a combination of hydroelectric resources, long-term renewable resources and short-term renewable energy resources and/or renewable energy certificates (RECs).

C. In 2013, Council established the Office of Sustainability to work with other City departments to bring a sharper strategic focus, better interdepartmental synergy, and greater momentum to the City's sustainability and climate initiatives.

D. In April 2016, Council adopted a GHG emissions reduction goal of 80% reduction by the year 2030, relative to a 1990 baseline (the "80 x 30" goal). In 2016, the City and Community reduced GHG emissions an estimated 37% relative to the 1990 baseline.

E. In December 2016, Council approved Resolution 9649 directing staff to achieve carbon neutrality for the natural gas supply portfolio by 2018 through the use of high-quality environmental offsets and physical "biogas" or "biomethane".

F. In September 2018, Governor Brown issued California Executive Order B-55-18, setting the goal to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, by 2045 at the latest, and achieve and maintain net negative emissions from that point forward. As defined by the California Air Resources Board, "Carbon neutrality means that all GHG emissions emitted into the atmosphere are balanced in equal measure by GHGs that are removed from the atmosphere, either through carbon sinks or carbon capture and storage".

G. In 2020, the City and Community reduced GHG emissions an estimated 50.6% relative to the 1990 baseline.

H. In April 2021, Council directed the Mayor to form a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) Ad Hoc Committee to guide the development, implementation, communication, and future community engagement of the S/CAP. In April 2022, the S/CAP Ad Hoc Committee began discussions on carbon neutrality. The "80 x 30" goal is an interim step that supports California's statewide goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2045.

I. As a result, the Council wishes to adopt a carbon neutrality goal to further the climate goals of the S/CAP beyond the "80 x 30" goal, and direct staff to evaluate how the City would meet a carbon neutrality goal.

The Council of the City of Palo Alto ("City") RESOLVES as follows:

SECTION 1. The Council hereby approves a goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

SECTION 2. The Council finds that the adoption of this resolution is not subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review because it is an administrative government activity that will not result in any direct or indirect physical change to the environment (CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5)).

INTRODUCED AND PASSED: October 3, 2022

AYES: BURT, CORMACK, DUBOIS, FILSETH, KOU, STONE, TANAKA

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Lesley Milton
E58491CF3DB34FA...
City Clerk

DocuSigned by:
Patrick Burt
ED9E9CFB89E64FF...
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Amy Bartell
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Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED:

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Ed Shikada
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City Manager

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Director of Utilities

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Director of Administrative Services

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Signature

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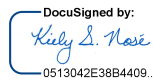
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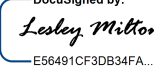
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Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Lesley Milton Lesley.Milton@CityofPaloAlto.org City Clerk City Clerk Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	 <p>DocuSigned by: Lesley Milton E56491CF3DB34FA...</p> Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 199.33.32.254	Sent: 10/13/2022 2:48:33 PM Viewed: 10/13/2022 2:52:52 PM Signed: 10/13/2022 2:53:12 PM
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