

RESOLUTION NO. 9977

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SETTING A GOAL TO SOURCE 100% OF PASADENA'S ELECTRICITY FROM CARBON FREE SOURCES BY 2030

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2018, the City of Pasadena ("City") adopted a Climate Action Plan ("CAP) based on the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 ("AB 32") and focuses on five specific GHG reduction strategies: Energy Efficiency and Conservation; Sustainable Mobility and Land Use; Solid Waste Reduction; Water Conservation; and Urban Greening; and

WHEREAS, the CAP reinforces Pasadena's commitment to providing sources of renewable power and reducing GHG emissions by meeting or exceeding state required emissions reduction targets; and

WHEREAS, the City has already implemented a number of important actions to achieve CAP GHG reduction goals including but not limited to a commitment to procuring only low carbon generating resources and phasing out all fossil fuel contracts, and offering a 100 percent renewable Green Program rate option for customers; and

WHEREAS, the City has declared a water supply shortage and has enacted stringent water conservation policies and strategies to mitigate the effects of ongoing drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City actively promotes active transportation, public transit, and continues to demonstrate leadership in accelerating the adoption of Electric Vehicle ("EV") technology with Pasadena having one of the highest percentages of registered EVs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted ordinances to achieve long-term GHG reduction including a requirement to include electrification in new building designs, prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, and prohibiting polystyrene food packaging in Pasadena; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to exceed CAP Urban Greening targets by restoring greenspace and planting new trees to improve carbon sequestration, reduce urban heat-island effect, and increase opportunities for active recreation; and

WHEREAS, the City has developed partnerships with community-based organizations for inclusive energy efficiency and water conservation programs and actively engages the community in conservation strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Pasadena Environmental Advisory Commission on January 17, 2023, the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education on December 15, 2022, and the Pasadena City College Board of Trustees on January 18, 2023, each took action to support a goal of the City of Pasadena achieving 100% carbon free Energy by 2030 to address the climate emergency; which aligns with and supports previous actions of the Pasadena City Council when it adopted an Environmental Charter in 2005, endorsed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords, and launched a Green City Action Plan in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the City recently implemented a comprehensive GHG Inventory process to measure actual and forecasted emissions of municipal operations and the community to gauge the ongoing progress of the CAP; and

WHEREAS, California continues to pass successor legislation that expands on the goals of AB 32 and prioritizes climate change mitigation strategies; and

WHEREAS, in the 2022 Scoping Plan for Carbon Neutrality ("Scoping Plan"), the California Air Resources Board ("CARB") has set a recommended GHG emissions reduction target of 85 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2045, and updates the Scoping Plan every five years with increasingly ambitious targets; and

WHEREAS, in Policy D-135.966, the American Medical Association has declared climate change as a "public health crisis that threatens the health and well-being of all individuals" and promises to advocate for policies that limit global warming, reduce GHG emissions, and support clean energy solutions; and

WHEREAS, according to the California Energy Commission, the percentage of California's energy that comes from renewable resources continues to increase as the state moves toward 100 percent clean energy; and

WHEREAS, proactive planning is required to ensure that GHG emissions reduction can be achieved while maintaining a power supply portfolio that meets customer needs, satisfies local and state reliability requirements, and minimizes electric rate impacts and volatility; and

WHEREAS, the City’s role as a publicly owned utility is governed by local, state, and federal laws and regulations; multi-party agreements; and bond documents which direct and/or impact operating and investing decisions; and

WHEREAS, Pasadena Water and Power (“PWP”) undergoes its Power Integrated Resource (“IRP”) planning process every five years, which guides how Pasadena’s electricity will be sourced for the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to demonstrating aggressive action and ongoing leadership in combating climate change and has set GHG targets that will achieve carbon neutrality before 2045.

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

Section 1. The City Council hereby declares that climate change is an emergency that threatens the health and welfare of our city, region, state, nation, and the environment.

Section 2. The City commits to environmental stewardship and continued leadership in sustainability.

Section 3. The City Council hereby sets a policy goal to source 100% of Pasadena’s electricity from carbon free sources by the end of 2030.

Section 4. The City Council hereby directs the City Manager to utilize the 2023 IRP process to plan multiple approaches to transition to the goal described in Section 3 and to optimize affordability, rate equity, stability, and reliability of electricity while achieving this goal.

Section 5. The City Council hereby directs the City Clerk to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Pasadena Water and Power General Manager.

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Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on the 30th day of January
2023, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Hampton, Jones, Lyon, Madison, Masuda,
Rivas, Vice Mayor Williams, Mayor Gordo

NOES: None


ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Mark Jomsky
City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Lisa Hosey
Assistant City Attorney