City of Ann Arbor

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Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Council Action

Resolution: R-20-138

File Number: 20-0511

Enactment Number: R-20-138

Resolution Adopting the Living A2Zero Ann Arbor Carbon Neutrality Plan

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor has demonstrated a history of leadership in promoting energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy use, including developing its first Energy Plan in 1981 and establishing a City Energy Commission;

Whereas, Despite the City's goals and progress to-date, the global climate is changing at a rate that necessitates bolder action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including getting to net zero emissions as soon as possible;

Whereas, Over 19,000 scientists have signed a Second Warning to Humanity proclaiming that "a great change in our stewardship of the Earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided",

Whereas, On November 4, 2019, Ann Arbor City Council unanimously declared a climate emergency and set a goal of becoming carbon neutral, as an entire community, by the year 2030;

Whereas, The Office of Sustainability and Innovations heeded this charge and created the A2Zero initiative to organize the planning and implementation work related to the City's carbon neutrality goals;

Whereas, Public engagement was integral to the A2Zero Carbon Neutrality Planning work, with over 60 public events held over 4-months, most with individuals not traditionally engaged in City planning processes;

Whereas, Over 80 individuals joined four technical advisory committees to help identify what was technically needed to achieve carbon neutrality by the year 2030;

Whereas, Three public surveys were administered which, in addition to the more than 60 public events, provided insights into what was socially possible in regards to achieving carbon neutrality locally;

Whereas, Over 60 partner organization supported the A2Zero planning process and have agreed to be partners in supporting implementation of various actions identified in the A2Zero plan;

Whereas, The A2Zero Carbon Neutrality Plan was designed to be a living plan that can be changed as things such as technology shift;

Whereas, Staff in the City worked to identify solutions that had a multitude of co-benefits that aligned with existing community values;

Whereas, The societal and economic costs of not acting to mitigate and adapt to climate change far exceed timely investments in emission reduction measures; and

Whereas, As with all projects requiring significant city investment, relevant components of the Plan would come before City Council for ultimate authorization;

RESOLVED, That Ann Arbor City Council receives the A2Zero Carbon Neutrality Plan and expresses its appreciation to City Staff for their efforts in providing a comprehensive, timely response to Council's November 4, 2019 Resolution;

RESOLVED, That City Council requests the City Administrator develop a funding plan by source and year and develop a framework or mechanism for Council to utilize in evaluating and prioritizing high-leverage actions; and

RESOLVED, that City Council requests the City Administrator present the A2Zero Carbon Neutrality Plan to City Council for further consideration when the funding plan and prioritization framework have been developed; and

RESOLVED, Ann Arbor City Council requests that the City Administrator begin or continue work to implement the actions outlined in the Plan and provide at least quarterly updates to City Council on progress.

As Amended by Ann Arbor City Council on April 20, 2020

At a meeting of the City Council on 4/20/2020, a motion was made by Anne Bannister, seconded by Jane Lumm, that this Resolution R-20-138 be Approved as Amended. The motion passed.

Yeas: 11 Councilmember Lumm, Councilmember Eaton, Mayor Taylor, Councilmember Grand, Councilmember Ackerman, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Bannister, Councilmember Hayner, Councilmember Griswold, Councilmember Nelson, and Councilmember Ramlawi

Nays: 0