

25 community-wide emissions sets the city up for a greener, healthier, and safer
26 community; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Austin City Council has previously directed the City Manager
28 to take specific steps to advance Austin’s climate change, sustainability, and
29 resilience goals, including Water Forward, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, and
30 Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan; and

31 **WHEREAS**, in August 2019 the Austin City Council unanimously
32 approved Resolution No. 20190808-78, declaring a climate emergency in the City
33 of Austin and calling for an acceleration of the timeline for achieving the City’s
34 climate goals; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20190808-78 also included direction to the
36 City Manager to provide clarity on leadership responsibilities for climate goals
37 within the organizational structure of the City Manager’s Office; and

38 **WHEREAS**, the 2021 Climate Equity Plan includes a number of
39 recommendations that may be implemented and/or launched in the short term, and
40 the imperative to act means we cannot wait for the next budget cycle to make
41 investments that further advance the strategies outlined therein; and

42 **WHEREAS**, the Joint Sustainability Committee, the Office of
43 Sustainability, and the Equity Office worked collaboratively to assemble a diverse
44 team of Austin community members and an equitable process for engaging the
45 community to develop the 2021 Climate Equity Plan; and

46 **WHEREAS**, the 2021 Climate Equity Plan was created by a collaboration
47 of 120 community members and 24 City staff, with additional community input

48 provided by over 50 interviews conducted by 24 climate ambassadors and over 250
49 attendees at five community workshops; and

50 **WHEREAS**, low-income communities and communities of color in Austin
51 and around the world are the most impacted by extreme weather and pollution
52 despite having contributed least to the drivers of climate change and pollution; and

53 **WHEREAS**, the 2021 Climate Equity Plan has determined climate change
54 cannot be solved without racial equity; and

55 **WHEREAS**, low-income communities and communities of color must be
56 prioritized to receive the disproportionate benefits of the transition to a pollution-
57 free society to remedy disproportionate harm done historically and presently; and

58 **WHEREAS**, the goals and strategies in the 2021 Climate Equity Plan were
59 evaluated to ensure it would lower greenhouse gas emissions while addressing
60 racial equity; and

61 **WHEREAS**, successful implementation of the 2021 Austin Climate Equity
62 Plan will depend on focused attention from the City Council and other City
63 leadership, adequate funding, guidance from community advisory bodies, and
64 continued engagement with the broader Austin community; **NOW,**

65 **THEREFORE,**

66 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

67 The Austin City Council affirms its commitment to the new and more
68 aggressive timeline to achieve net-zero community-wide emissions of 2040
69 outlined within the 2021 Climate Equity Plan.

70 In adopting the 2021 Climate Equity Plan, the City Council recognizes that
71 how the City of Austin achieves net zero emissions will have a direct impact on the
72 lives of its residents, and therefore directs the City Manager to use the strategies
73 and goals outlined in the 2021 Climate Plan to achieve a just transition that
74 addresses the disproportionate impacts of the climate emergency on low-income
75 communities and communities of color as we meet our emission goals.

76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

77 The City Manager is directed to identify and clearly define leadership
78 responsibilities over the implementation of the 2021 Climate Equity Plan, and
79 more generally over the climate emergency and sustainability efforts of the City
80 government, and return to Council with this information by November 1, 2021.

81 Furthermore, the City Manager is directed to provide at least quarterly
82 updates on the implementation of the 2021 Climate Equity Plan to the City Council
83 during regular work sessions. Updates should include progress on City's own goals
84 as well as community-wide efforts, and report back on regional collaboration
85 activities.

86 The City Manager is additionally directed to return with an update to the
87 Climate Equity Plan within the next five years.

88 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

89 In the interest of acting with expediency and treating the climate emergency
90 with the urgency it requires, the City Manager is directed to:

91 identify recommendations included in the 2021 Climate Equity Plan
92 that may be brought forward as a midyear budget amendment and present
93 such recommendations to Council by March 1, 2022 or sooner;

94 identify recommendations and strategies that do not require a budget
95 amendment and that can be launched by departments in the near term and/or
96 at the regional or five-county scale, and report to Council on the progress
97 and timeline of implementing such recommendations at the first quarterly
98 update; and

99 bring forward a list of proposed investments that would advance the
100 city's sustainability and climate goals and further the implementation of the
101 2021 Climate Equity Plan in advance of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget
102 process. Within the Fiscal Year 2023 budget process and all future budgets,
103 the City Manager is directed to identify specifically investments related to
104 supporting the city's greenhouse gas reduction efforts to achieve net-zero
105 goals.

106 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

107 The City Manager is directed to identify and prioritize the strategies and
108 action items within the 2021 Climate Equity Plan that support multiple plan goals
109 and recommendations, have a large impact on emissions reduction, address racial
110 inequities and environmental injustices, are directly beneficial to the local Austin
111 community, and take an innovative approach to one or more of the plan's
112 overarching strategies:

- 113 • Green Jobs and Entrepreneurship
- 114 • Prioritize Local Community Initiatives

- Regional Collaboration
- Local Carbon Reduction Projects, Carbon Dioxide Removal, and Carbon Offsets

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is further directed to:

- identify potential pilot project opportunities for City of Austin departments and operations to support or incorporate local potential carbon reduction removal projects;
- pursue strategies for further electrifying Austin’s airport parking infrastructure and Airline Ground Service Equipment, and develop a stakeholder plan to reduce the airport’s operational emissions;
- and evaluate and pursue equitable natural gas reduction strategies and opportunities as outlined on page 50 of the plan.

The City Manager is directed to build on the city’s existing green jobs programs and leverage the City’s workforce development efforts to advance the Climate Equity Plan’s equitable green jobs and entrepreneurship goals.

The City Manager is directed to advocate for and monitor climate-related federal legislation (such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Build Back Better Act) and pursue opportunities to assist in the city’s climate efforts within legislation that passes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to create a public-facing, accessible dashboard, webpage, or similar mechanism to provide up-to-date information on the methods

138 and metrics on the City’s progress in implementing the 2021 Climate Equity Plan
139 and net-zero goals overall. The information presented should include aspects of
140 other City plans (such as the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and the Austin Energy
141 Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan) that have an impact on
142 reducing community-wide emissions and achieving equity through climate action.

143 The City Manager is further directed to provide regular accessible public
144 engagement opportunities regarding the implementation of the climate plan, and to
145 evaluate extending the Climate Ambassador program to incorporate the
146 implementation stage of the 2021 Climate Equity Plan.

147 The City Council additionally supports updating bylaws for the Joint
148 Sustainability Committee to add additional members to the committee from the
149 Austin community, appointed by City Council. The City Council recognizes and
150 appreciates the role of the Joint Sustainability Committee in advancing the City’s
151 climate goals.

152
153 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2021 **ATTEST:** _____
154 Jannette S. Goodall
155 City Clerk
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