

5-19-05

#44

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's mission is to make Austin the most livable city in the country; and

WHEREAS, as members of the Austin City Council we have a unique opportunity to provide leadership to develop a sustainable urban community based on culturally and economically appropriate local actions; and

WHEREAS, The City of Austin has been invited to be a signatory of the United Nations Environmental Accords in an effort to advance sustainability, foster vibrant economies, promote social equity, and protect the planet's natural systems; and

WHEREAS, between now and World Environment Day 2012, cities that implement 19 to 21 actions shall be recognized as a Global Sustainable City, cities that implement 15 to 18 actions shall be recognized as a Regional Sustainable City, cities that implement 12 to 17 actions shall be recognized as a National Sustainable City, and cities that implement 8 to 11 actions shall be recognized as a Local Sustainable City; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Council authorizes the Mayor to commit our city to move vital issues of sustainability to the top of our legislative agenda by

signing the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords; and directs the City Manager to develop the strategy of their implementation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City of Austin will set a goal to implement many of the following 21 actions contained in these Accords over the next seven years.

Energy

Action 1 Adopt and implement a policy to increase the use of renewable energy to meet ten per cent of my city's peak load within seven years.

Action 2 Adopt and implement a policy to reduce my city's peak load by ten per cent through energy efficiency, shifting the timing of energy demands, and conservation measures within seven years.

Action 3 Adopt a citywide greenhouse gas reduction plan that reduces the jurisdiction's emissions twenty five per cent by 2030 and which includes a system for accounting and auditing greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste Reduction

Action 4 Establish a policy to achieve zero waste to landfills and incinerators by 2040.

Action 5 Adopt a citywide law that reduces the use of a disposable, toxic, or non-renewable product category by at least fifty per cent in seven years.

Action 6 Implement "user-friendly" recycling and composting

programs, with the goal of reducing per capita solid waste disposal to landfill and incineration by twenty per cent in seven years.

Urban Design

Action 7 Adopt a policy that mandates a green building rating system standard that applies to all new municipal buildings.

Action 8 Adopt urban planning principles that advance higher density, mixed use, walkable, bikeable and disabled-accessible neighborhoods which coordinate land use and transportation with open space systems for recreation and ecological reconstruction.

Action 9 Adopt a policy or implement a program that creates environmentally beneficial jobs in slums and/or low-income neighborhoods.

Urban Nature

Action 10 Ensure that there is an accessible park or recreational open space featuring environmental education, arts, or organic community gardens (particularly in lower income neighborhoods) within half a kilometer of every city resident by 2015.

Action 11 Conduct an inventory of existing canopy coverage in your city; and, then establish goal based on ecological and community considerations to plant and maintain canopy coverage in not less than 50% of all available sidewalk planting sites.

Action 12 Pass legislation that protects critical habitat corridors and other key habitat characteristics (e.g. water features, food-bearing plants, shelter for wildlife, use of native species, etc.) from unsustainable development.

Transportation

Action 13 Develop and implement a policy which expands public transportation coverage to within half-a-kilometer of all city residents in ten years.

Action 14 Pass a law or implement a program that eliminates leaded gasoline (where it is still used) and that phases down sulfur levels in diesel and gasoline fuels, concurrent with using advanced emission controls on all buses, taxis, and public fleets to reduce particulate matter and smog-forming emissions from those fleets by 50% in seven years.

Action 15 Implement a policy to reduce the percentage of commute trips by single occupancy vehicles by 10% in seven years.

Environmental Health

Action 16 Every year we will identify one product, chemical, or compound that is used within my city that represents the greatest risk to human health and adopt a law to reduce or eliminate their use by the municipal government.

Action 17 Promote the public health and environmental benefits of supporting locally grown organic foods. Ensure that 20% of all city facilities (including schools) serve local and organic food within seven years.

Action 18 Establish an Air Quality Index (AQI) to measure the level of air pollution and set the goal of reducing by 10% in seven years the number of days categorized in the AQI range as "unhealthy" or "hazardous."

Water

Action 19 Cities should develop policies to increase access to adequate and safe drinking water for all by 2015. Cities with potable water consumption greater than 10 liters per capita per day will adopt and implement policies to reduce consumption by 10per cent by 2015.

Action 20 Protect the ecological integrity of the city's primary drinking water source (i.e., groundwater, rivers, lakes, wetlands and associated ecosystems).

Action 21 Address storm water pollution and reduce the volume of wastewater discharge by ten per cent in seven years through the expanded use of recycled water and the implementation of a sustainable urban watershed planning process that includes participants of all affected communities and is based on sound economic, social, and environmental principles.

ADOPTED: May 19, 2005 ATTEST:

Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk