

Date October 19, 2020

Communication from Council Member Mandelbaum to present a draft resolution concerning the City’s climate and energy goals to Council and to direct the City Manager to schedule a work session in November to discuss such goals and draft resolution and present a resolution to Council for consideration by the second meeting in December.

Moved by _____ to receive and file.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
BOESEN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
MANDELBAUM				
VOSS				
WESTERGAARD				
TOTAL				

CERTIFICATE

I, P. Kay Cmelik City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

Mayor

City Clerk

Date

DRAFT

ESTABLISHING NEW GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION GOALS AND A COMMUNITY 24X7 CARBON-FREE ELECTRICITY GOAL FOR THE CITY OF DES MOINES

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines is responsible for promoting the public health and safety of its residents, including access to clean air, clean water, and a livable environment; and

WHEREAS, energy resources the City uses as a municipal government and community significantly impact public health and safety, including the economic, physical, and social well-being of current and future residents; and

WHEREAS, rooftop solar, low-income community solar, energy efficiency, and demand control technologies offer the opportunity to equitably distribute resources, address poverty, stimulate new economic activity in Des Moines and lessen the energy cost burden upon those most impacted by high energy bills; and

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the connection between human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, and warming of the planet; and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines is already experiencing the effects of climate change locally through increased temperatures, changes in water systems, extreme weather events such as the record rainfalls and flooding of June 30, 2018, the Derecho of August 10, 2020, and other disruptions that threaten our economy, residents, and overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, distributed renewable energy paired with energy storage is an important strategy to build disaster resilience into our communities and will assist with disaster recovery; and ensuring equitable distribution of these resources is imperative to adequately prepare for disasters, particularly those exacerbated by climate change; and

WHEREAS, residential, commercial, and industrial energy usage accounted for 73% of Des Moines greenhouse gas emissions in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 28% by 2025 and has demonstrated its commitment to this goal by enacting the Energy and Water Use Benchmarking Ordinance and adopting initiatives such as the City Energy Project and Energize Des Moines; and

Date _____

WHEREAS, the Mayor has pledged to uphold the Paris climate agreement and has established the Taskforce on Sustainability, which seeks to commission a comprehensive climate action plan to attain greenhouse gas reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (“IPCC”) found that to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, there would need to be a 45% reduction of greenhouse from 2010 levels by 2030 and a need to reach net-zero by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines and the greater Des Moines community rely on MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) for electricity; and

WHEREAS, MidAmerican has announced a 100% renewable energy vision, and in 2019, provided over 61% of Iowa customers’ annual energy needs from renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, experts have estimated that customers could achieve significant savings with the retirement of coal plants replaced by cheaper renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, many corporations value reliable, low-cost, carbon-free energy when considering sites for business retention and expansion, making clean energy a valuable tool for economic development; and

WHEREAS, corporations such as Google, Inc. are going beyond 100% renewable purchasing goals that rely on the retirement of renewable energy credits to 24x7 carbon-free energy goals; and

WHEREAS, the transition to a 24x7 zero-carbon community reliant on the efficient use of a mix of carbon-free renewable energy resources will provide a range of benefits including but not limited to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality, enhanced public health, increased national and energy security, local green jobs, and reduced reliance on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines can speed the local clean energy transition with direct investments in clean energy resources, the City will seek solar energy systems on government buildings through Power Purchase Agreements and ownership, develop public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and phase in electric city-owned vehicles and public transportation; and



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

Date

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines is committed to helping facilitate this transition alongside other communities that have prioritized addressing climate change by investing in clean energy to enhance the well-being of current and future generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, that the City of Des Moines updates its greenhouse gas emission goals to align with the IPCC recommendations and commits to a 45% reduction of greenhouse emissions from 2010 levels by 2030 and to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Des Moines commits to a community-wide goal of achieving 100%, 24x7 electricity from carbon-free sources by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Des Moines shall include these goals in future franchise agreements with MidAmerican and will negotiate a collaborative approach to achieving the energy goals with meaningful benchmarks and milestones between now and then.

Moved by _____ to adopt.

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