



**Roll Call Number**

21-0040

**Agenda Item Number**

32

**Date** January 11, 2021

**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 securing the economic, physical, and social well-being of current and future residents; and

WHEREAS, the transition to a 24x7 zero-carbon community, reliant on the efficient use of a mix of carbon-free electric energy resources, will provide a range of benefits including but not limited to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality, enhanced public health, business attraction, local job growth, increased resilience, and energy security; 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 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 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, inaction perpetuates inequity and ensures the burdens of climate hazards will be borne by the City's most marginalized and vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, carbon-free energy resources paired with energy storage, and microgrids, where feasible, are important strategies to build disaster resilience into our communities and will assist with disaster recovery; and ensuring equitable distribution of the benefits of these resources is imperative to adequately prepare for disasters, particularly those exacerbated by climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has pledged to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement, is the Interim President of Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI International), and has established the Taskforce on Sustainability, which seeks to commission a comprehensive climate action plan to attain greenhouse gas reduction goals; and



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WHEREAS, Guide DSM and Plan DSM commit the City to foster sustainable communities, and the City has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 28% by 2025, further demonstrating this commitment by enacting the Energy and Water Use Benchmarking Ordinance and initiating a Climate Action and Adaptation Planning Process (CAAP); and

WHEREAS, a host of solutions exist to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy while reducing demand and emissions, including but not limited to solar, wind, energy storage, geothermal, biomass, energy efficiency, demand control technologies, carbon sequestration, waste reduction, water systems technologies, and tree planting; and

WHEREAS, new and existing buildings must play a key role in reducing energy demand through smart building technologies, grid interaction, electrification, and efficiency, with residential, commercial, and industrial energy usage accounting for 73% of Des Moines greenhouse gas emissions in 2017; and

WHEREAS, transportation advancements, including electric vehicles, intermodal transit, and pedestrian and bicycle-oriented streets offer solutions to limit harmful vehicle emissions, reduce congestion, and support vibrant neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines and the greater Des Moines community rely on MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) for electricity, who is committed to a 100% carbon-free energy vision for its Iowa customers, and who under GreenAdvantage® delivered approximately 83% of its customers' energy needs from renewable sources in 2020; and

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

WHEREAS, the City can accelerate the local clean energy transition by partnering with stakeholders to support carbon-free energy resources and the City will continue to pursue options for renewable energy systems on government buildings and properties through ownership and Power Purchase Agreements, develop public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and phase in electric fleet vehicles, non-road equipment, and public transportation; and

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



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City hereby commits to a community-wide goal of achieving 100% 24x7 electricity from carbon-free sources by 2035.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager and his designees are directed to work with utility partners, businesses, residents, and community stakeholders to identify a collaborative approach to achieve the emissions targets and energy goals with meaningful benchmarks and milestones between now and the target years referenced in this resolution.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Moved by Manelbaum to adopt.

/s/ Lawrence R. McDowell  
Lawrence R. McDowell  
Deputy City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE	✓			
BOESEN	✓			
GATTO	✓			
GRAY	✓			
MANDELBAUM	✓			
VOSS	✓			
WESTERGAARD	✓			
TOTAL	7			

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

J. M. Frankin Cownie  
Mayor

**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.

P. Kay Cmelik

City Clerk