**Climate Action Commission Recommended Actions for City Council and Staff 12/10/20**

***Whereas*** City Council Resolution No. 2019-055 declares a Climate Emergency; and

***Whereas*** City Council Ordinance No. 2689 N.C.S. establishes a Climate Action Commission, stating  therein, “Whereas, restoring a safe and stable climate requires mobilization of all levels of government  and society on a scale, scope, and speed not seen since World War Two”; and

***Whereas*** the Climate Action Commission is tasked by the Ordinance to make policy recommendations to the City Council to confront this emergency; and

***Whereas***, there is growing consensus among the international climate science community that 2030 is a critical date to target for carbon neutrality or we risk catastrophic climate impacts; and

***Whereas***, with less than 10 years to dramatically change our climate impacts, every City action, inaction, and delay increases climate impacts and costs and reduces our ability to adapt to these changes; and

***Whereas***, transportation is our largest single source of emissions, has significant adverse public health impacts, and is a function of vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and

***Whereas***, sea level rise and elevated storm surges will impact Petaluma and are unaccounted for in our current General Plan and development approval processes; and

 ***Whereas*** the City is currently updating its General Plan;

***Therefore*, the Climate Action Commission hereby recommends that the City Council adopt and implement the following actions with deliberate speed and urgency:**

1. Inform and invite local California Native peoples into our ongoing dialogue as part of cultivating respectful and collaborative relationships with indigenous communities with the intention to understand, highlight, and integrate their community needs, climate action priorities, and ecological insight and values into our climate actions.
2. Adopt 2030 as the City’s target date for carbon neutrality.
3. Adopt the Climate Emergency Framework (CEF) and use it as a guide for city department planning, budgeting, procurement and other activities. City Departments should align actions with the attainment of the framework’s climate goals and performance against those goals should be reviewed annually as part of determining departmental performance.
4. Use the CEF as a foundation for the new General Plan update, including all guiding principles.  Integrate climate action, environmental justice and public health improvements throughout the General Plan document and include elements and/or extensive discussion (including community and expert discussion) and metrics for Environmental Justice, Climate and Healthy Communities so that  all planning and land use related CEF goals and objectives are fully developed and embodied in  the General Plan. As part of the General Plan process develop and adopt a Climate Action Plan that contains the actions the City shall take and ask the community to undertake over the life of the General Plan towards meeting the CEF goals. Ensure equitable new development by revising building and development codes, and other relevant City policies to apply climate-action equity priorities fairly across the board concurrently or in advance of the General Plan update process.
5. Adopt a VMT policy that is consistent with the 2030 carbon neutrality goal. In order to meet these targets, prepare policy recommendations for rapidly implementing alternative clean, safe, accessible, and affordable and active and public transportation modes to meet the rising community need for climate-friendly transportation.
6. Adopt a natural gas ban for new construction and adopt a policy to phase in building energy retrofits for existing buildings to meet climate targets. Provide resources and programs to ensure retrofits are available and affordable to low income residents and do not cause rent increases for tenants over and above monthly savings on utility bills from the upgrades and include tenant protections to avoid displacement and eviction.
7. Impose a temporary emergency moratorium on all riparian, vernal pool/wet meadow, wetland, and floodplain development until the General Plan EIR is completed and the City has prepared  and adopted a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan as recommended by the CEF.
8. Develop a plan and timeline to source 100% renewable energy for use in City facilities, and advocate and work with regional partners to ensure 100% clean renewable power for all City residents in order to meet Petaluma’s 2030 carbon neutrality target.
9. Make permanent the moratorium on new gas stations and develop a plan for building out publicly available EV charging infrastructure and capacity to meet projected needs.
10. Impose a moratorium on City purchases of fossil fuel powered vehicles, power equipment, and appliances, with limited exceptions for emergency vehicles and equipment where no low climate pollution causing alternatives are reasonably available.
11. Evaluate the process to divest from all fossil-fuel investments including pension funds and the costs/benefits of developing a new carbon neutral and green economy investment portfolio.
12. Adopt a resolution requiring all individual departments to report fossil fuel purchasing separately and setting annual fossil fuel budget reductions of 10% for every city department based on the base year of 2020.
13. Develop an assessment of climate change impacts by neighborhood and demographic group to assess where and for whom environmental justice and equity work needs to be focused.
14. Develop an initial outreach and engagement plan that the city funds as part of resourcing and educating Petalumans, including outreach campaigns and events to increase knowledge of energy efficiency and building electrification benefits and ensure that local energy providers or businesses that sell home energy equipment provide up-to-date and climate-smart options.
15. Ensure equitable new development, including affordable housing and shelters, by revising the General Plan, building and development codes, and other relevant City policies to apply climate-action equity priorities fairly across the board.