

City of Mount Rainier

Resolution 15-2020: Municipal Greenhouse Gas Resolution - Draft Final

WHEREAS, The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report finds that limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels would require human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach ‘net zero’ by 2050;

WHEREAS, The United States is the largest historic emitter of greenhouse gas emissions and must achieve ‘net zero’ emissions sooner;

WHEREAS, Signatories to the Paris Agreement are pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius;

WHEREAS, The City of Mount Rainier has committed that “We Are Still In” the Paris Agreement and acknowledges its goals;¹

WHEREAS, A 2015 analysis of the City of Mount Rainier’s carbon footprint found that:

- Forty-four (44) percent of the CO₂ emissions were from municipal waste collection;
- Twenty-two (22) percent of the CO₂ emissions were from municipal vehicles;
- Eighteen (18) percent of the CO₂ emissions were from streetlights and traffic signals; and
- Sixteen (16) percent of the CO₂ emissions were from building operations; and

WHEREAS, The negative impacts of climate change and of emissions from the burning of fossil fuels disproportionately impact communities of color, frontline communities, indigenous persons, and citizens of emerging and developing nations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the municipal operations of the City of Mount Rainier will be greenhouse gas neutral by 2030;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Mount Rainier shall implement a zero waste policy that shall go into effect by 2025 and shall set a goal of zero waste by 2035;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all non-emergency light-duty (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating less than 8,500 pounds) onroad vehicles owned or leased by the City of Mount Rainier shall be zero emissions by 2027;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all emergency light-duty (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating less than 8,500 pounds) onroad vehicles owned or leased by the City of Mount Rainier shall be zero emissions by 2030;

¹ <https://www.wearestillin.com/signatories>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all heavy-duty (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating greater than or equal to 8,500 pounds) onroad vehicles owned or leased by the City of Mount Rainier shall be zero emissions by 2035;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all nonroad vehicles owned or leased by the City of Mount Rainier shall be zero emissions by 2035;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That carbon offsets shall be purchased for all travel on behalf of the City of Mount Rainier by elected officials and staff of the City of Mount Rainier using vehicles not owned or leased by the City of Mount Rainier;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all streetlights owned by the City of Mount Rainier shall use the most efficient technology available at the time of replacement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That staff of the City of Mount Rainier shall be directed to work with the utility company that owns any street lights within the boundaries of the City of Mount Rainier in order to implement a policy to replace lighting with the most efficient lighting technology available;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Mount Rainier shall at the end of its useful life or by 2030 replace all fossil-fuel fired heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), cooking, and water heating systems with efficient technologies powered by electricity or net zero emission fuels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Mount Rainier shall replace all lighting and fixtures that rely on incandescent technology with light emitting diode or other efficient lighting technology;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the staff of the City of Mount Rainier shall, while relying on a relevant energy audit, develop a plan to and then implement measures to increase the energy efficiency of all buildings owned and leased by the city;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Mount Rainier shall continue to contract for electricity through providers that supply zero emission electricity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Mount Rainier shall purchase carbon offsets to offset any additional greenhouse gas emissions emitted through city operations by 2030 at the latest;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Mount Rainier shall implement these goals in a fashion that is equitable towards all residents, businesses, and employees of the City;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Manager of the City of Mount Rainier shall submit a plan to the City Council outlining how to implement this resolution by October of 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Manager of the City of Mount Rainier shall submit a progress report to the City Council October of 2022 and every subsequent year as part of regular reports to the City Council.