



TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: December 21, 2021

TITLE: Resolution Adopting a Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions Policy and
Supporting Joining the ICLEI150 Race to Zero - **(Commission Districts
1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt the following policy, by resolution, to establish direction for the City with regards to carbon footprint.

- *The City of Fort Lauderdale commits to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions in its operations by the year 2040 and citywide by the year 2050.*

It is also recommended that the City join the ICLEI150 Race to Zero to assist the City in advancing its net zero goals and amplify the City's commitment to those goals.

Background

The City has adopted greenhouse gas reduction goals over the past 10 years starting with 20% reduction by 2020 in the 2011 *Sustainability Action Plan* and most recently 80% reduction by 2050 in the *Advance Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan*. Over the last year, staff has presented to Commission on the City's progress on reducing its carbon footprint and on potential policies and implementation strategies to advance this effort. In addition, during the same time period, staff has discussed these issues with the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) resulting in the Commission Informational Memo dated September 13, 2021, and in the SAB Communication presented to the Commission at its October 5, 2021, Conference meeting. The memo and communication both recommended that the City adopt a goal of achieving net zero by 2040 for City operations and by 2050 community wide.

The urgency of net zero policies is highlighted by the recent release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, *AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*, which summarizes the most current scientific consensus on

this topic.¹ This report found that global temperature and other climate change impacts such as sea level rise will continue to increase until at least the midcentury even with substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the report indicates that “reaching at least net zero CO₂ emissions” is needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Adoption of a net zero policy would also align Fort Lauderdale with many of the leading cities across the state, nation and globe who have signed on to campaigns such as ICLEI150 Race to Zero, Florida Race to Zero, and Ready for 100.

The policy itself will have no direct cost but will present an overarching goal for the City. However, strategies to achieve that goal will have associated costs. In many cases, these costs would be investments with an expected payback within the life cycle of the building, vehicle, or other improvement. In addition, City efforts toward the net zero goal will be augmented by and rely upon state, federal, and private sector action to advance greenhouse gas reductions and achieve the stated goal.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community.
- Objective: Ensure climate change resiliency and implement mitigation strategies, incorporating partnership actions and cross-jurisdictional plans.
- Objective: Promote energy efficiency and the expansion of renewable energy sources; and
- The Internal Support Focus Area
- Goal 8: Build a leading government organization that manages all resources wisely and sustainably.
- Objective: Integrate sustainability and resiliency into daily operations.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Ready*. This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan* specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Climate Change Element
- Goal: 1. Develop mitigation and adaptation strategies to reduce emission that contribute to climate change.

¹ IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [MassonDelmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S. L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M. I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J. B. R. Matthews, T. K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – ICLEI150 Commitment Form

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Nancy J. Gassman, Ph.D., Assistant Public Works Director –
Sustainability

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager, Public Works

Department Director: Alan Dodd, P.E., Public Works