



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#21-0370

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

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: May 4, 2021

TITLE: City's Carbon Footprint Policy Recommendation - (**Commission Districts
1, 2, 3 and 4**)

On November 5, 2020, the City Commission received a presentation on the status of the City's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint. As was shared, the City has made progress in reducing its greenhouse gases from internal operations and to a lesser degree in the community, in large part due to FPL shifting to cleaner energy sources. However, those reductions are a small step in addressing the impacts of climate change. Avoiding the worst impacts of climate change such as sea level rise requires being part of a long-term global solution to reduce emissions.

The scientific consensus recommends that keeping global temperature increase below 1.5°F can avoid the worst impacts of climate change. In line with that goal many cities, business and other organizations have set goals that would require achieving carbon neutrality by the year 2050 or sooner. To make substantial progress to reduce Fort Lauderdale's carbon footprint, taking the actions below is recommended. These may include internal policies and programs to reduce emissions, funding the incremental costs of building greener facilities and investing in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and cleaner emission vehicles. Achieving these goals requires a shift to more carbon-neutral design and an organizational dedication to the mission of a carbon-free future in our operations and in our community.

In December 2020 and January 2021, staff developed the proposed policies for carbon footprint reductions aligned with the Advance Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2020, as shown in Exhibit 1. In addition, during that same period, staff developed the Feasibility Study: Renewable Energy for City Operations to determine the possibility of achieving the Comprehensive Plan's renewable energy goals by installing solar panels on City properties (Exhibit 2). These proposed policies and the renewable energy study were presented to the Sustainability Advisory Board at its January 25 and February 22, 2021 meetings. The SAB endorsed those policies in a Communication to City Commission (Exhibit 3) at the latter meeting. Staff recommends that the City Commission consider the policies in Exhibit 1 and, if appropriate, adopt them by resolution at a future Commission meeting.

While no cost is associated with the adoption of the policies, implementing them will require identification of funding and approval by the City Commission. These investment in reducing the City's carbon footprint could be partially offset by the savings in electricity usage, fuel usage, and reduced operational costs.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a 2021 Top Commission Priority, advancing the Resiliency initiative.

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*.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Proposed Carbon Footprint Reduction Policies for Commission
Consideration

Exhibit 2 – Feasibility Study: Renewable Energy for City Operations

Exhibit 3 – Sustainability Advisory Board Communication from 2-22-2021

Exhibit 4 – Carbon Footprint Presentation

Prepared by: Nancy J. Gassman, Ph.D., Asst. Public Works Director – Public Works
Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager, Public Works
Pauline Ricketts, Sr. Administrative Assistant, Public Works

Department Director: Raj Verma, Public Works