



**SYNOPSIS**

**Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology**

**City Council Resolution: 21-0075R**

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**Global Warming Solutions - Carbon Neutral City**

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**Sponsor:** Councilmember Conway, et al

**Introduced:** October 4, 2021

**Purpose:**

For the purpose of calling on the Mayor, the Baltimore City Council, the Baltimore City Administrator, the Baltimore Office of Sustainability, and the Baltimore Commission on Sustainability to take all necessary actions to make Baltimore a carbon neutral city by 2050.

**Effective:** Upon enactment

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**AGENCY REPORTS**

Department of Planning	Defers to Office of Sustainability
Department of Finance	
Office of Sustainability	
Commission on Sustainability	
City Solicitor	Favorable

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## **ANALYSIS**

The resolution calls on the Mayor, the Baltimore City Council, the Baltimore City Administrator, the Baltimore Office of Sustainability, and the Baltimore Commission on Sustainability to take all necessary actions to make Baltimore a carbon neutral city by 2050. Being carbon neutral generally means that the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere is no greater than the amount removed.

Global warming poses a significant threat to the environment and public health around the world. The Paris Agreement, which was adopted by 196 parties and went into force in November 2016, seeks to limit global warming and its impacts by “holding the increase of the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.” Limiting the temperature increase to 1.5°C will likely require a 45 percent reduction of global annual emissions by 2030 (relative to 2010) and reaching net zero around 2050.

The Office of Sustainability is currently updating the City’s Climate Action Plan. Baltimore City’s current carbon reduction goals (updated in 2019) call for a 25 percent reduction by 2020 and a 30 percent reduction by 2025 (relative to 2007). The City’s 2017 carbon inventory found that Baltimore was responsible for 7,487,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>eq) emissions—a 13 percent reduction compared to the 2007 baseline (8,570,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>eq). The stationary energy sector contributes 72 percent of Baltimore’s total emissions, while 25 percent are from transportation within Baltimore, and 3 percent are generated by waste management.

Several U.S. cities have set their own goals to become carbon neutral by 2050, including Washington, DC, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Boston, and San Francisco (by 2040). Actions to achieve carbon neutrality include:

- Reducing fossil fuels and increasing renewable energy in the energy sector,
- Adopting electric vehicles and investing in public transportation systems,
- Improving energy efficiency and increasing the electrification rate of buildings,
- Improving the recycling rate and reducing the amount of landfill waste, and
- Offsetting carbon emissions.

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):**

United Nations, Paris Agreement, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>;

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Global Warming of 1.5°C, <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>;


Baltimore City Office of Sustainability, Climate Action Plan, <https://www.baltimoresustainability.org/plans/climate-action-plan/>;

World Wide Fund for Nature, Beyond 2°C - The Long-Term Emission Reduction Actions of Global Cities in Response to Climate Change, <http://www.igdp.cn/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2020-10-30-iGDP-Report-EN-Beyond-2%C2%B0C.pdf>;

Reporting Agencies;

Resolution 21-0075R.

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