



HEARING NOTES

Resolution: 21-0075R

Global Warming Solutions - Carbon Neutral City

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

Chaired by: Danielle McCray

Hearing Date: January 19, 2022

Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM

Time (Ending): 11:55 AM

Location: Webex Virtual Hearing

Total Attendance: Approximately 50 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

Danielle McCray John Bullock Mark Conway Ryan Dorsey
Phylcia Porter James Torrence Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

- Bill Synopsis in the file? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Attendance sheet in the file? [] YES [] NO [X] N/A
Agency reports read? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? [] YES [] NO [X] N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners? [] YES [] NO [X] N/A
Final vote taken at this hearing? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Motioned by: Conway
Seconded by: Bullock
Final Vote: Fav. With Amendment

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Lisa McNeilly, Office of Sustainability
Miriam Avins, Commission on Sustainability
Mara James, Department of Finance
Hilary Ruley, Law Department
Taylor Smith-Hams, Blue Water Baltimore
Tom Peterson, Center for Climate Strategies

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman McCray called the hearing to order and discussed the urgent need to address climate change and its impacts.
2. Councilman Conway noted that recent research has shown that the world is far behind in addressing climate change, but that immediate action can still prevent the worst impacts. He also explained that Baltimore City is already experiencing impacts from climate change, including urban heat islands, flooding, and dangerous air quality.
3. Lisa McNeilly summarized the City's progress in reducing carbon emissions and the new goals and timeline for achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. She further noted that the Office of Sustainability expects to complete the City's updated Climate Action Plan by June 2023.
4. Miriam Avins explained that the Commission on Sustainability supports the goal of carbon neutrality and will support the City's implementation efforts.
5. Representatives for the other agencies confirmed the recommendations in their written reports.
6. Taylor Smith-Hams from Blue Water Baltimore discussed the impacts and risks from climate change, the need to act quickly to limit and mitigate those impacts, and the need to ensure that the City's actions prioritize equity and environmental justice. Tom Peterson from the Center for Climate Strategies noted that time is of the essence to limit climate change and its impacts. He also suggested integrating climate goals with economic and social goals, developing financial and regulatory structures necessary for implementation, and measuring the costs and benefits of existing and new activities in relation to carbon emissions.
7. Councilmembers asked the following questions:
 - a. What are the targets and timeline for the newly announced goal of carbon neutrality by 2045? The targets start with the existing 30 percent by 2025 goal, then move to 60 percent by 2030, and then 100 percent by 2045.
 - b. What are the potential costs for the City, as well as residents, businesses, and institutions in the City, and how do we ensure that those costs do not disproportionately burden low-income residents? The costs are not known at this point, but the Finance Department will actively participate in updating the Climate Action Plan and developing future policies.
 - c. How are City agencies working together to achieve climate and environmental goals? The Office of Sustainability is working with 13 other agencies with workgroups of relevant agencies on specific subject areas.
 - d. How can the City measure progress on environmental justice? The Office of Sustainability incorporated metrics, including equity focused metrics, in the recent Sustainability Plan. There is a need for more work on metrics related to climate change and environmental justice, and the community engagement process for the Climate Action Plan will help to develop those metrics.
 - e. What is the Office of Sustainability's communications strategy for community outreach? The outreach process is just beginning and the Advisory Council is helping to develop a set of outreach strategies.
 - f. What are the potential impacts on Baltimore City of a 1.5° C temperature increase and how does that compare to the potential impacts of a 2° C increase? Extreme heat and cold, more flooding related to rain and sea level rise, and more severe wind events are likely. The direct impacts will also exacerbate existing inequities because many people lack the resources to cope. There is still uncertainty on the severity of the impacts for

any given temperature increase but higher temperatures will lead to more extreme impacts.

- 8. Members of the public testified in support of the resolution and called for eliminating greenhouse gas emissions. Individuals noted actions that the City can take now to reduce carbon emissions and other pollution and gave examples of other local jurisdictions' policies and strategies. Individuals also called for amendments to the resolution to ensure equitable implementation of the City's initiatives. Members of the public also testified that the City needs to eliminate carbon emissions before 2045 and that it should not allow continued pollution through carbon pricing and offsets.
- 9. The Committee voted to recommend Councilman Conway's amendments.
- 10. The Committee voted to recommend the resolution favorably with the amendments.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

D. McCray: Yea
J. Bullock: Yea
M. Conway: Yea
R. Dorsey: Yea
P. Porter: Yea
J. Torrence: Yea
I. Schleifer: Absent



Matthew L. Peters, Committee Staff

Date: January 20, 2022

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File