

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0075R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Conway, Bullock, Burnett, Cohen, Middleton, Porter, Ramos
Introduced and read first time: October 4, 2021
Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

Committee Report: Favorable, with Amendments
Adopted: ♦

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Global Warming Solutions - Carbon Neutral City

1
2 FOR the purpose of calling on the Mayor, the Baltimore City Council, the Baltimore City
3 Administrator, the Baltimore Office of Sustainability, and the Baltimore Commission on
4 Sustainability to take all necessary actions to ~~make Baltimore a carbon neutral city by 2050~~
5 achieve a 30% reduction in City carbon emissions by 2025, a 60% reduction in City carbon
6 emissions by 2030, and to make Baltimore a carbon neutral city by 2045, while minimizing
7 carbon offsets.

Recitals

8
9 Baltimore City is responsible for promoting the public health and safety of its residents,
10 including ensuring citizens have access to clean air, clean water, and a livable environment.

11 The International Energy Agency’s 2021 Global Energy Review estimates that carbon
12 dioxide (“CO₂”) emissions will increase by almost 5% this year to 33 billion metric tons, based
13 on the latest national data from around the world, as well as real-time analysis of economic
14 growth trends and new energy projects that are set to begin operations. This is the second-largest
15 increase in history – reversing most of the decline caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.
16 The key driver of this increase is coal demand, which is set to grow by 4.5%, surpassing its 2019
17 level and approaching its all-time peak from 2014. The electricity sector accounts for
18 three-quarters of this increase.

19 In 2017, Baltimore was responsible for the emission of 7,487,000 metric tons carbon dioxide
20 equivalent (“CO₂ eq”). The stationary energy sector contributes 72% of Baltimore’s total
21 emissions, while 25% are from transportation within Baltimore, and 3% of emissions are
22 generated by waste management.

23 On April 22, 2019, the Mayor signed The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The Plan is
24 composed of recommended strategies to meet Baltimore’s goal to mitigate global climate change.
25 In the Plan, Baltimore committed to achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions similar to
26 goals set by the Paris Climate Agreement; including a 25% reduction by 2020 and a 30% by 2025
27 (relative to 2007). Despite this goal, in comparison to the 2007 baseline established by the
28 Baltimore Office of Sustainability (8,570,000 metric tons CO₂ eq), emissions in Baltimore have
29 only reduced by 13%.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.

Council Bill 21-0075R

1 While the rise of global emissions are a serious threat to all, adverse effects from a changing
2 atmosphere can compound existing poverty in a city like Baltimore, where almost 35% of
3 households earn less than \$25,000 annually. The City's initiative to reduce greenhouse gases can
4 alleviate health burdens made worse by pollutants, and reduce added stressors that greatly impact
5 residents in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty. While it is possible for cities to achieve
6 their interim carbon reduction targets through incremental improvements to existing systems,
7 achieving carbon neutrality requires robust, transformative changes to core city systems.

8 Baltimore cannot wait. The costs of delay are too great. Our City is resolved to act now.
9 Climate change threatens our City, as it does the world. Baltimore must become a Carbon
10 Neutral City.

11 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
12 Council calls on the Mayor, the Baltimore City Administrator, the Baltimore Office of
13 Sustainability, and the Baltimore Commission on Sustainability to take all necessary actions to
14 make Baltimore a carbon neutral city by 2050 achieve a 30% reduction in City carbon emissions to
15 by 2025, a 60% reduction in City carbon emissions by 2030, and to make Baltimore a carbon
16 neutral city by 2045, while minimizing carbon offsets.

17 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
18 Baltimore City Administrator, the Director of the Baltimore Office of Sustainability, the
19 Baltimore Commission on Sustainability, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City
20 Council.