

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, TO ESTABLISH A 2030 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET**

**WHEREAS**, climate change is an existential crisis posing one of the most serious threats to the existence of humanity and all species on the planet; a threat that intersects and compounds all other crises facing humanity and our earth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C from October 2018, states that limiting warming to 1.5°C offers the greatest chance of avoiding the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, and irreversible impacts to Earth’s climate; and

**WHEREAS**, the most recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC; AR6) warns that the window to limit global warming to 1.5°C is rapidly closing, and that without drastic action, limiting warming to 2°C might also be impossible; and

**WHEREAS**, every fraction of a degree of warming leads to more dangerous and costly impacts, and humanity must take immediate, drastic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 2021, Olympia City Council passed a Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency (Resolution No. M-2194); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the City of Olympia accepted the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan as a regional framework to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent below 2015 levels by 2030 and 85 percent below 2015 levels by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to working on the regional Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, in 2019, Olympia City Council passed a Resolution Expressing a Commitment to Protect the Youth of this Community from the Risks of Climate Destruction (Resolution No. M-2045) and to achieve net zero emissions by 2040; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2021, the City of Olympia joined the Cities Race to Zero Campaign; and

**WHEREAS**, the Race to Zero is a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions and investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon transition that unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the objective of this campaign is to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy, and inspire action from cities around the world to cut emissions in half by 2030 and achieve net-zero by 2050 or sooner; and

**WHEREAS**, there are five requirements to join the Race to Zero:

1. Endorse the four principles of the Race to Zero Campaign;
2. Pledge to reach net zero in the 2040s or by mid-century at the latest and limit warming to 1.5°C;
3. Plan to set an interim 2030 target consistent with a fair share of 50% global emission reductions;
4. Begin at least one inclusive and equitable climate action; and
5. Publish your target and actions to a reporting platform and report progress annually; and

**WHEREAS**, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA is providing technical assistance to participating governments to develop a 2030 science-based target and identify high-impact actions necessary to achieve this target; and

**WHEREAS**, equitably reducing global emissions 50% by 2030 requires that high-emitting, wealthy nations reduce their emissions by more than 50%, and ICLEI calculated Olympia’s “fair share” to be a 59% reduction below 2019 emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the high-impact actions necessary to achieve this interim target include decarbonizing the electric grid, reducing vehicle miles travelled and shifting to electric vehicles, and decarbonizing buildings through electrification and energy efficiency;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Olympia City Council is committed to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, and in support of this commitment, pledges to reach net-zero by 2040; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Olympia City Council commits to the establishment of an interim 2030 target that reflects Olympia’s fair share of a 50% reduction in global emissions, and pledges to reduce emissions 59% below 2019 levels by 2030.

**PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2022.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**Mark Barber**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY ATTORNEY