



City Council Referral Request

Tracking Number 2022-0051 Date of Referral 9/20/2022 Requester Lisa Parshley
(Provided by Susan) _____

- Referral To Study Session Work Session
 Staff Ad Hoc Committee on Public Safety
 General Government Committee Finance Committee
 Land Use & Environment Committee Advisory Committee Choose from Dropdown

Problem Statement

A clear concise description of the issue(s) that need(s) to be addressed.

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. 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.

In February 2021, Olympia City Council passed a Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency (Resolution No. M-2194); signaling that city council believes climate change has reached a critical point that will require more than simple actions and lack luster response to address our rapidly pending climate crisis.

Olympia has been a leader in climate mitigation and adaptation, with a long history of legislating actions and commitments towards being part of the solution. For example, in 2021 city council adopted the regional Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan (Resolution No. M-2192), and in 2019 passed a Resolution expressing a commitment to protect the youth of this Community from the Risks of Climate Destruction (Resolution No. M-2045). In January 2022 Olympia City Council passed an Electrification Resolution addressing construction of new buildings and city buildings/fleet. In April 2022 City Council adjusted our climate goals to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, pledged to reach net-zero by 2040 through establishing 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.

To achieve the high-impact actions necessary to accomplish these self-imposed targets including decarbonizing the electric grid, reducing vehicle miles travelled and shifting to electric vehicles, and decarbonizing existing and new buildings through electrification and energy efficiency the city will need a dedicated revenue stream. A dedicated revenue stream will ensure we have enough budgetary capacity to fund these actions as well as the staff to implement them and to seek out grant monies and state/federal programs available to cities and counties.

Request

What is being requested to assist in addressing the issue described in the problem statement?

- We request that staff research and provide the best legal and viable option to provide a revenue stream dedicated to achieving our adopted Climate Goals and to address our stated Climate Emergency. During this process staff should ensure that this revenue stream is fenced off from the rest of the general and capital budgets except in exigent circumstances.
 - Evaluate state law for the possibility of an excise tax, a property tax, or a sales tax devoted to climate actions*
 - If no specific Washington State option exists, work to develop and write legislation that could be potentially sponsored by LD 22 representatives in the 2024 session.**
- We request that finance staff work with our Climate Program Manager to develop a budget that will provide effective administration and funding of climate actions for the coming 1-5 years, including staffing, pilot studies, grant writing, and monies for incentives, revolving loans, and grants for climate work. Importance of this specific request is that it will inform what is the best the type and scope of revenue required to achieve effective climate action.*
- Recommend that the Finance Committee will add to their future work plans (2023 and 2024) these topics and report out to the entire council in 2023*

Relationship to City Business or Proposed City Business/Services

Describe how this will enhance what is already offered and/or what it will provide that is not currently available. Why is this the City's issue to address? How will this create a more adaptive and resilient organization? How will this enhance the City's work to further equity, climate, and social justice?

Currently there is not enough budgetary capacity to fully fund our declared climate emergency as a great deal of the disposable general fund, yearend, one-time monies, and capital budget has been dedicated to our declared homelessness emergency, working on our housing crisis, work on reimaging public safety, and the necessary work on diversity and equity work. All these actions are important to our community and cannot be interrupted. Therefore, to fulfill our own declaration of climate emergency and our state goals we must provide a new revenue stream that does not involve reducing these important actions by the city.

Connection to Comprehensive Plan

Community, Safety and Health

Inclusive, respectful, civic participation; a safe & prepared community; health and wellness; adequate food and shelter; a quality education

Downtown

Vibrant, attractive urban destination; a safe and welcoming downtown for all; a mix of urban housing options; a variety of businesses; connections to our cultural & historic fabric; engaging arts & entertainment experience

Economy

Abundant local products and services; a thriving arts and entertainment industry; sustainable quality infrastructure; a stable thriving economy

Environment

Clean water & air; a daily connection to nature; preserved quality natural areas; a toxin-free community; a waste free culture

Neighborhoods

Distinctive places & gathering spaces; nearby goods & services; neighborhoods that are engaged in community decision making; safe and welcoming places to live

Options

Describe proposed options for moving the idea or issue forward for the meeting body to consider.

Have staff develop options for timely actions during 2023 to be enacted directly by council or if further process or considerations are recommended have the Finance Committees work with staff to guide progress of developing a revenue stream.

Timing

Is this issue time sensitive, are there other timing factors to consider?

Start staff work in the first and second quarter of 2023 with a report out to Finance Committee by end of the first quarter and a report to the entire Council by end of the second quarter. Ultimate, goal would be to have a recommended course of action (whether sending a bill to state legislature or via action directly by Council) by first quarter 2024

Supporting Documentation (Work Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Parks Plan, etc)

Are there documents that support your request or that should be considered?

In our Comprehensive plan under "Our Natural Environment" values it clearly states: "Olympians value our role as stewards of the water, air, land, vegetation, and animals around us, and believe it is our responsibility to our children and grandchildren to restore, protect, and enhance the exceptional natural environment that surrounds us."

Comprehensive plan – subsection “Natural Environment Section” Clean Air and Cool Climate: It is stated that “...if we do not rein in local sources of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions and limit nighttime light, we will jeopardize the quality of this invisible but critical resource. As a community, we can commit to developing and adopting new and renewable solutions for commuting, heating our homes, powering our economy, fueling our vehicles, and lighting our streets, sidewalks, and businesses.”

(Yet only three goals and policies (GN7-9) are designed to address climate change – we need to make sure our upcoming comprehensive plan updates includes Thurston Climate Mitigation and adaptation Plans, Sea Level Rise Plan, Inheritance and electrification resolutions, our ICLEI Race to Zero commitments, our new stated goals (April 2022), and our declaration of a climate emergency)

Councilmember Signatures

Two Councilmembers must support the request including the Chair of the Committee of referral. (Cannot be a committee quorum unless discussed at an open public meeting of the committee.)

Lisa Parshley
Sponsoring Councilmember

1. _____
Clark Gilman
Councilmember

2. _____
Cheryl Selby
Councilmember

Staff Supplement

Staff will review the request to generate administrative impacts to be considered as part of proposal (staff to initial after their review):

Budget Impacts: Click or tap here to enter text.

Legal Review (to include regulatory authority): Click or tap here to enter text.

Policy implications: Click or tap here to enter text.

Implementation Considerations: Click or tap here to enter text.

Staff Liaison: Click or tap here to enter text.