

RESOLUTION NO. 21-29

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CLEARWATER, FLORIDA APPROVING CLEARWATER GREENPRINT 2.0, PROVIDING A FOUNDATION FOR REDUCED ENERGY CONSUMPTION, POLLUTION AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS WHILE STIMULATING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE; ESTABLISHING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS FOR 2035 AND 2050; IDENTIFYING STRATEGIES FOR LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: EDUCATION AND AWARENESS, GREEN ENERGY AND BUILDINGS, TRANSPORTATION, LIVABILITY, WATER CONSERVATION, WASTE REDUCTION, LOCAL FOOD, AND GREENECONOMY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Clearwater has a history of being environmentally friendly and energy efficient both in its internal practices and in community-wide initiatives with green programs, energy conservation policies, and upgrades in municipal buildings and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City is dedicated to the mutually compatible goals of economic prosperity, environmental quality, and community quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Clearwater Greenprint 2.0 constitutes a sustainable community vision and framework for action including short and long-range strategies and actions to enhance mobility, increase energy efficiency and conservation, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions citywide; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the municipal government should assume a leadership role in promoting sustainable environmental practices that are critical to the economic development future and long-term financial stability of Clearwater and the health of its citizens and that it has a responsibility to the Clearwater community and future generations to be an environmental steward and leader in promoting green practices to reduce energy use and costs to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City is one of over 1,000 cities that signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to express the City's commitment to addressing environmental issues that impact our cities; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 and 2019 the City completed greenhouse gas inventories of its government operations; and

WHEREAS, the Clearwater community achieved the initial Clearwater Greenprint goal of a ten percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the United States rejoined the Paris Agreement, an accord signed by nearly 200 nations in a commitment to lower global greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, local government actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits, including reduced energy cost, green space preservation and brownfield redevelopment, air and water quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, economic development, energy conservation and job creation through new energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, the Clearwater community offers a unique combination of innovation and technical expertise that can be utilized to develop long-term sustainable solutions and facilitate all sectors and organizations in Clearwater in taking action to reduce emissions; and

WHEREAS, Clearwater Greenprint 2.0 will remain a living document intended to guide future planning that allows for change over time as the city evaluates the success of specific strategies;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEARWATER, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The City Council approves Clearwater Greenprint 2.0, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and directs the City Manager to implement the goals and strategies and provide updates to the City Council regarding implementation and effectuation.

Section 2. The City Council hereby establishes the targets of reducing Clearwater's citywide greenhouse gas emissions 25 percent below 2007 levels by the year 2035 and 80 percent below 2007 levels by 2050.

Section 3. City government must lead by example in this area by minimizing greenhouse gas emissions in its own operations through establishment of policies and directions that will lead the community to a sustainable future, and, most importantly, by inspiring community involvement in the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Such policies and directions include the impact of regulation and cost (both direct and indirect) and provide for City Council approval in the event of a significant adverse impact.

Section 4. The City Council hereby recognizes that new data, scientific findings, mitigation technologies, and quantification methodologies may emerge over time and that future City Councils may choose to update the city-wide greenhouse gas goal to take into account evolving science, technology or other opportunities.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this day 5th of August, 2021.

Frank V. Hibbard
Mayor

Approved as to form:

Owen Kohler
Assistant City Attorney

Attest:

Rosemarie Call
City Clerk