



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 30, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Jordan Klein, Director, Department of Planning and Development
 Subject: Cities Race to Zero Campaign: 2030 emission reduction target

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution for the Cities Race to Zero Campaign to establish a 2030 emission reduction target that reflects Berkeley's fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO₂e, committing to reduce emissions 60.5% from 2018 levels by 2030.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are no direct fiscal impacts to adopting a 2030 emission reduction target. Funding will be needed to develop and implement programs and policies to meet the ambitious science-based target.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The establishment of a science-based 2030 emission reduction target for the Cities Race to Zero Campaign¹ is consistent with the Strategic Plan Priorities of advancing our goal to be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

The Cities Race to Zero campaign requires Cities to adopt a 2030 science-based interim target in line with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. Science-based climate targets must be:

- **Science-driven** – led by the latest climate science
- **Equitable** – consider the different historical contributions of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and account for differences in socio-economic development, requiring wealthier countries, who have contributed more CO₂e emissions historically, to achieve additional reductions beyond a 50% reduction
- **Complete** – comprehensive and robust, covering city-wide emission sources and multiple greenhouse gases

¹ https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/cities-race-to-zero?language=en_US

Berkeley's 2030 science-based target was created by ICLEI, a global network of local and regional governments, using the One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) Methodology² and the 2018 community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory. To meet its fair share of the 50% global reduction of CO₂e, Berkeley must **reduce absolute emissions 60.5% from 2018 levels by 2030 (which is a 63.3% per capita reduction)**. "Fair share" reflects a distributed responsibility based on the human development index.

Staff completed the 2019 GHG emissions inventory, which shows that in one year Berkeley reduced total emissions by 4% from 2018 levels. Reaching a 60.5% emissions reduction from 2018 levels by 2030 will be challenging for Berkeley to achieve on its own, requiring collective action at the local, state, and federal levels. Staff will conduct further analysis on the 2030 target and identify necessary actions and funding required to achieve significant emission reductions in line with the 2030 interim target.

BACKGROUND

On May 11, 2021, Berkeley City Council adopted a resolution³ committing the City of Berkeley to the C40 Cities Race to Zero Campaign. Cities Race to Zero Campaign is a global campaign run by the COP26⁴ Presidency and High-Level Climate Champions to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions and investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon transition that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth. There are five requirements for cities 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.
5. Publish your target and action to a reporting platform and report progress annually.

Council's action on May 11, 2021, endorsed the four principles of Cities Race to Zero, pledged to reach net zero emissions by 2045, and committed to setting an interim 2030 target consistent with a fair share of 50% global emission reductions.

² Science-Based Climate Targets: A Guide for Cities - <https://sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SBTs-for-cities-guide.pdf>

³ Commit to Race to Zero Council Report and Resolution, May 11, 2021: https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2021/05_May/Documents/2021-05-11_Item_19_Commit_to_C40_Race_to_Zero_Campaign.aspx

⁴ The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties: <https://ukcop26.org/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Adopting the proposed 2030 emission reduction goal will further the City's commitment to its climate goals and efforts to become a Fossil Fuel-Free City.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of the resolution further supports the commitment the City made when it joined the Cities Race to Zero Campaign.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could withdraw from participation in the Cities Race to Zero Campaign.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:

1: Resolution to Establish a 2030 Emission Reduction Target

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A 2030 EMISSION REDUCTION TARGET

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2009, the Berkeley City Council adopted the Berkeley Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of Berkeley's 2000 emissions level; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley's Strategic Plan sets the goal of being a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2016, the City of Berkeley released its Resilience Strategy; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2018, the Berkeley City Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a goal of becoming Fossil Fuel-Free City; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2021, Berkeley City Council adopted a resolution committing the City of Berkeley to the C40 Cities Race to Zero Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the Cities Race to Zero Campaign is a global campaign run by the UN COP26 Presidency and High-Level Climate Champions to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions and investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon transition that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth; and

WHEREAS, the objective of this campaign is to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy ahead of 26th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26), where governments must strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement; 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
5. Publish your target and actions to a reporting platform and report progress annually; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has already taken actions on the other Cities Race to Zero requirements.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley City Council commits to the establishment of a 2030 emission reduction target that reflects Berkeley's fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO₂e committing to reduce emissions 60.5% from 2018 levels by 2030.