

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 384

Approved September 25, 2023

WHEREAS, The science of climate change is real and undeniable, and we have limited time to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from our society; and

WHEREAS, The Act on Climate commits the state to carbon neutrality by 2050, with 45% below 1990 emissions levels by 2030 and 80% by 2040; and

WHEREAS, The Climate Justice Plan - a nationally recognized plan - was released by Mayor Elorza and recognized by the City Council in 2020 and was written in partnership with frontline communities of color and the Racial & Environment Justice Committee (REJC) of Providence and centers our climate response on those most impacted by climate change; and

WHEREAS, The Climate Justice Plan commits the city to carbon neutrality by 2050, a Just Transition, and principles of racial justice and equity including deep democracy and collaborative governance; and

WHEREAS, Climate Jobs Rhode Island was created in 2020 and "is a broad and growing coalition of labor, environmental, and community partners committed to a just transition to an equitable, pro-worker, pro-climate green economy." They envision a world where "we can simultaneously address climate change, create thousands of good union jobs, and advance racial and economic equity throughout the state."; and

WHEREAS, As the City invests in decarbonizing its economy, it is imperative to leverage this opportunity to increase local, equitable access to family-sustaining jobs with good wages and benefits, so that this transformation maximizes its investments in our local communities and strengthens economic opportunity and justice for Providence residents that need it most; and

WHEREAS, The City will need to pass bold policy and implement aggressive programs and take advantage of federal funding over the next decade to both mitigate against and also adapt to unavoidable changes from climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence commits to becoming America's first Climate Jobs City. This entails a commitment to implement our climate policies in ways that ensure:

- (1) Just Transition. Mandating the inclusion of voices of stakeholders in the labor movement, the environmental movement, the racial justice movement, residents of Providence, along with voices of private industry throughout the planning and decision-making process. Integrating the principles, process, and practice of a Just Transition to a regenerative economy within City agencies and ensuring plentiful resources to frontline communities in its implementation.
- (2) Workforce Development. Investing in carbon neutral and climate friendly infrastructure at the scale science demands, while integrating prevailing wage, project labor, labor peace, and community benefits as well as pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship utilization, and local hiring provisions.
- (3) Resilience, Adaptation, and Emergency Preparedness. Removing any unnecessary and counterproductive administrative and/or legislative barriers obstructing the creation of resilient Providence neighborhoods. Maintaining language-appropriate preparedness education programs and emergency alert systems to help protect the community in the face of flooding and extreme heat events, while also investing in green infrastructure to facilitate adaptation and resilience to climate change.
- (4) Building Decarbonization. Decarbonizing and retrofitting all existing buildings, to eliminate emissions and create healthy environments in places where people live, work, learn, and play, by 2050, with significant measurable progress by 2030.
- (5) Renewable Energy. Facilitating the switch to a 100% clean energy supply by 2033, with a focus on local generation and equitable and reliable access to its supply. Ensuring that the generation benefits are maximized for Providence residents.

- (6) Mobility. Establishing a comprehensive and sustainable approach to personal mobility through the entire city of Providence and encouraging transit-oriented development.
- (7) Climate Literacy and Environmental Education. Infusing clean, renewable energy and environmental awareness education programs in all Providence public schools, charter schools, and mayoral academies.
- (8) Green Infrastructure. Creating and implementing plans to increase equitable neighborhood access to green infrastructure and spaces.
- (9) Healthy Neighborhoods. Ensuring healthy vibrant neighborhoods with equal access to open and recreational space that are free from air, water, and soil pollution. Increasing the availability of qualified cooling centers and increasing access to public pools and urban forests.
- (10) Implementation. Working together with Climate Jobs Rhode Island and other stakeholders to identify federal funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and all other federal funding programs. Align all necessary investments and resources to further the goals within this resolution and establish a regular reporting system on the progress toward these goals.

IN CITY COUNCIL
 SEP 21 2023
 READ AND PASSED

Rachel M. Miller
 RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT
Jina Z. Mastrosimone
 CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Butt P. Smith
 Mayor

Date: 9/25/2023