



**CITY OF HOBOKEN
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING HOBOKEN'S COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE
ACTION**

CITY OF HOBOKEN

No.: 1

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Date: April 22, 2019

WHEREAS, the present level of global warming has triggered catastrophic changes to the earth system, including the acceleration of ice mass loss from the Greenland Ice Sheet, threatening to raise sea levels 23 feet according to NASA;

WHEREAS, as sea levels rise, coastal citizens will be forced to move inland, creating a national refugee crisis which would be especially devastating to the greater New York City area;

WHEREAS, sea level changes also increase the vulnerability to flooding in Hoboken;

WHEREAS, continued global warming would further intensify droughts, heat waves, hurricanes, nor'easters, super storms, flash flooding, the migration of mosquito-borne diseases, the melting of glaciers, polar ice sheet collapse, accelerating sea level rise, and water and food shortages,

WHEREAS, humanity can no longer safely emit greenhouse gases if we wish to avoid reaching irreversible climate tipping points;

WHEREAS, virtually all sectors of our economy, including energy, industry, food, transportation, buildings, and land use produce greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, the planet must be, on average, cooled in order to restore climate stability;

WHEREAS, restoring a safe climate will require, at a minimum, the elimination of global net greenhouse gas emissions within a decade and a simultaneous effort to remove tremendous quantities of carbon from the atmosphere;

WHEREAS, in present day Hoboken, we can employ local workers in a climate mobilization by building and installing renewable energy infrastructure, insulating homes, growing local food, expanding our parks, and upgrading our electric grid and transportation systems;

WHEREAS, approximately 70% of the entire city is located within the FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and is susceptible to local (rain events) and coastal flooding (Hurricanes & Nor'easters);

WHEREAS, the destruction wrought by Hurricane Sandy should have served as a rallying point in the fight against runaway climate change, the city of Hoboken sustained over \$100 million worth of damage to private property, greater than \$25 million in public property, more than 1,750 flooded homes and businesses, and more than 1,000 destroyed cars;

WHEREAS, 53% of Hoboken's population, including 57% of all residents of color, live in areas of the city less than 5 ft above the average sea level and 66% of Hoboken's first responder stations, libraries, community centers, transit hubs, sewage plants, and major hazardous waste sites are also located less than 5 ft above average sea level;

WHEREAS, the people of Hoboken cannot wait for another devastating superstorm to begin a climate mobilization;

WHEREAS, the threat of heat waves, rising sea levels, the spread of vector-borne diseases such as Zika, increased frequency and severity of superstorms, and the long-term inundation of our city should motivate an immediate, community-wide climate mobilization effort;

WHEREAS, by denying, downplaying, and failing to respond robustly to the global climate emergency, our federal and state government officials have placed the people of Hoboken in danger;

WHEREAS, the City of Hoboken, along with 362 US mayors, have joined the Climate Mayors and agreed to honor and uphold the goals of the Paris Agreement to meet the 2.7°F (1.5°C) reduction target;

WHEREAS, the UNFCCC Paris climate agreement, as currently framed, allows for national emissions reduction pledges that would raise global temperatures a devastating 6.3° F (3.5° C) by 2100, not the 2.7°F (1.5°C) to 3.6°F (2°C) pledged in the agreement;

WHEREAS, Hoboken must be a leader in the fight to protect our country by embarking on a climate mobilization;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hoboken ("Hoboken") adopted a resolution ("resolution") endorsing the mobilization of Hoboken to restore a safe climate and create a Green

Team subcommittee dedicated to adequately addressing climate change on November 1, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Board of the City of Hoboken adopted the Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Element of the Hoboken Master Plan (“Sustainability Element”) on December 5, 2017;

WHEREAS, both the aforementioned resolution and Sustainability Element endorsed a citywide mobilization to attempt carbon-neutrality by 2027 and initiate an effort to reduce and remove greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, both the aforementioned resolution and Sustainability Element further encouraged the City of Hoboken to conduct a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory and devise and propose a path forward to achieving community-wide carbon-neutrality by 2027;

WHEREAS, for these reasons, the City of Hoboken has completed a Climate Action Plan and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories for community-wide and municipal government operations;

WHEREAS, for these reasons, the City of Hoboken has completed a Climate Action Plan and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (“GHG”) Inventories for community-wide and municipal government operations;

WHEREAS, after reviewing the GHG inventories that established the City’s baseline for emissions reductions, it was determined that community-wide carbon neutrality would not be feasible by 2027, but would be feasible by 2050;

WHEREAS, the community-wide goal for carbon neutrality included in the Climate Action Plan was therefore revised to be achieved by 2050;

WHEREAS, the City of Hoboken is optimistic that community-wide carbon neutrality may be feasible before 2050, pending factors beyond the City’s control such as advancements in technology, global economy, or policy at other levels of government;

WHEREAS, the City of Hoboken will therefore re-evaluate its Climate Action Plan every five (5) years because it still remains committed to its original goal of carbon neutrality by 2027;

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Plan establishes the following goals/targets for community-wide GHG emissions reductions:

- (1) 1% average annual emissions reductions over three years by 2022 to achieve the Sustainable Jersey Gold Star in Energy,
- (2) 16% emissions reductions by 2027 to exceed the goals of the Paris Agreement,
- (3) Net zero energy by 2030,
- (4) Carbon neutral by 2050;

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Plan establishes the following goals/targets for GHG emissions reductions from municipal government operations:

- (1) 3.6% average annual emissions reductions over three years by 2022 to achieve the Sustainable Jersey Gold Star in Energy,
- (2) 16% emissions reductions by 2027 to exceed the goals of the Paris Agreement,
- (3) Net zero energy by 2025,
- (4) Carbon neutral by 2035;

WHEREAS, the City has already taken steps to achieve these community-wide emissions reduction goals with recent efforts including but not limited to the expansion of bike-share programs, free HOP service, launch of an electric scooter sharing program, and free composting for businesses, schools, and residents;

WHEREAS, the City has already taken steps to achieve these municipal emissions reductions goals with recent efforts including but not limited to purchasing 100% renewable energy for municipal facilities, energy efficiency upgrades in municipal facilities, purchase of certain hybrid and electric vehicles, and LED lighting upgrades in certain parks and on Washington Street.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ravinder S. Bhalla, Mayor of the City of Hoboken, New Jersey by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Statutes of this State and the laws of the City of Hoboken, do hereby, **ORDER, DIRECT AND ISSUE THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER:**

Section 1. Authority and Purpose.

Pursuant to my authority as Mayor of Hoboken and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of the State of New Jersey, including but not limited to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2 and N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118, I declare that Hoboken will seek to achieve carbon neutrality community-wide by 2050, or sooner. As such, Hoboken shall immediately take the following steps

Section 2. Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan shall become a guiding policy document for the City of Hoboken. All City Departments shall review the goals and actions included in the Climate Action Plan, and make every effort to complete the actions applicable to their Department.

The Climate Action Plan, including the GHG emissions inventories, goals/targets, and actions, shall be re-evaluated every five (5) years to ensure that the City achieves carbon neutrality as soon as possible, considering feasibility and cost-effectiveness for the taxpayers of Hoboken.

Section 3. Climate Mitigation Goals

The City shall seek to achieve the following goals/targets for community-wide GHG emissions reductions:

- (1) 1% average annual emissions reductions over three years by 2022 to achieve the Sustainable Jersey Gold Star in Energy,
- (2) 16% emissions reductions by 2027 to exceed the goals of the Paris Agreement,
- (3) Net zero energy by 2030,

- (4) Carbon neutral by 2050;

The City shall seek to achieve following goals/targets for GHG emissions reductions from municipal government operations:

- (1) 3.6% average annual emissions reductions over three years by 2022 to achieve the Sustainable Jersey Gold Star in Energy,
- (2) 16% emissions reductions by 2027 to exceed the goals of the Paris Agreement,
- (3) Net zero energy by 2025,
- (4) Carbon neutral by 2035;

Section 4. Climate Actions

To achieve the GHG emissions reduction goals referenced in Section 3, the City shall seek to prioritize climate actions recommended in the Climate Action Plan that address the following factors:

- (1) Feasible and cost-effective implementation
- (2) Maximize benefits while minimizing costs
- (3) Foster significant emission reductions identified in the GHG inventories to help achieve targets and goals
- (4) Recommended by Hoboken Master Plan
- (5) Account for Hoboken's uniqueness as described via community engagement

The City shall seek grants and low-interest financing wherever possible to complete climate actions.

Section 5. Measuring Progress

The City shall complete a brief annual report on climate action progress, to be available on the City website.

They City shall seek to update the GHG emissions inventories annually, but not less than every five (5) years.

Section 6. Clerk of Hoboken to Transmit Copies of This Chapter, Informing Municipal Agencies and Employees.

Within 30 days, the Clerk of Hoboken shall send copies of this Chapter, including any future amendments thereto that may be made, to every department, agency and commission in Hoboken. Each appointing officer in Hoboken shall all employees under her or his jurisdiction of the prohibitions in this Executive Order, the duty of all of her or his employees to comply with the prohibitions in this Executive Order, and that employees who fail to comply with the prohibitions of the Executive Order shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Section 7. Severability.

If any part of this Executive Order, or the application thereof, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this Executive Order shall not be affected thereby, and this Order shall otherwise continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order, and each of them, are severable.

Section 8. Cooperation.

All city agencies and employees shall fully cooperate with this Executive Order.

Section 9. Effective Date.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and supersedes all inconsistent Executive Orders.

[Signature Page Follows]

APPROVED:



RAVINDER S. BHALLA
MAYOR

4/22/19
DATE

AS TO FORM:



BRIAN ALOIA
CORPORATION COUNSEL

4/22/19
DATE

ATTESTED TO AND AS RECORDED BY:



JAMES J. FARINA
CITY CLERK

4/22/19
DATE

This Executive Order shall remain in the custody of the City Clerk. Certified copies are available upon request.