

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Action on Resolution No. 494 – Declaring a Climate Emergency
DEPARTMENT:	Recreation, Cultural, and Community Services
PRESENTED BY:	Cameron Reed, Environmental Services Program Manager
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

At the October 18, 2021, Council meeting, the City Council authorized the City to join the Cities Race to Zero/ICLEI150 campaign and committed to updated science-based emissions reduction targets reflecting the level of emissions reductions needed to keep global heating below the 1.5° Celsius goal of the Paris Climate Agreement and prevent the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. As part of this commitment, the Council also agreed to recognize the global climate emergency.

On August 1, 2022, the Council discussed proposed Resolution No. 494 (Attachment A), which would “declare a Climate Emergency and direct the City to take accelerated and comprehensive action to address the climate crisis.” Tonight, Council is scheduled to take action on proposed Resolution No. 494.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no immediate cost to adopting proposed Resolution No. 494. However, there will be costs associated with implementing the actions necessary to meet the City’s emissions reduction targets. For example, there will be implications related to the City’s fleet and facility investments, for capital project planning and prioritization, updates to City zoning, development, and energy codes, and programming to support building electrification. The Climate Action Plan update currently in development will outline the cost implications of key actions. The results of the Action Plan cost analysis will be provided for Council review along with the draft Plan in October 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 494 declaring a Climate Emergency.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**

BACKGROUND

At the [October 18, 2021, Council meeting](#), the City Council authorized the City to join the Cities Race to Zero/ICLEI150 campaign and committed to updated science-based emissions reduction targets reflecting the level of emissions reductions needed to keep global heating below the 1.5° Celsius goal of the Paris Climate Agreement and prevent the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. At this time, the City is not on track to reach these updated science-based greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. As part of this campaign, the City also committed to recognize the global climate emergency. Staff have provided proposed Resolution No. 494 (Attachment A) for Council consideration in fulfillment of this commitment.

At the [August 1, 2022, Council meeting](#), Council discussed proposed Resolution No 494. Several Councilmembers expressed support for the proposed Resolution, and no Councilmembers expressed opposition to it. Councilmember Mork expressed interest in amending the proposed Resolution to clarify the inclusion of trees in the phrase “natural assets”, as will be described later in this staff report. Several residents provided support for inclusion of this language during public comment, in addition to also expressing support for the City’s overall climate action goals and efforts to reduce emissions.

In alignment with Council Goal #2, Action Step 6, staff are updating the Climate Action Plan to identify key strategies the City can implement to achieve the 2030 and 2050 science-based emissions reduction targets and to increase community-wide resilience to climate impacts. Staff will present a draft of the Climate Action Plan update for Council discussion in October 2022.

DISCUSSION

Adopting the Declaration of Climate Emergency via proposed Resolution No. 494 is consistent with current City policy ([Comprehensive Plan Goal NE V](#), [Resolution No. 467](#), [Resolution No. 449](#)) and Council commitments and aligns with the actions of local jurisdictions in our region, across the nation, and internationally, including several local King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) member cities and the over 1,100 jurisdictions participating in the Cities Race to Zero across the world.

August 1st Council Discussion – Proposed Council Amendment

As is noted above, during the August 1st Council discussion of proposed Resolution No. 494, Councilmember Mork requested an amendment to the proposed Resolution to clarify the inclusion of established trees and other ecosystem elements in the phrase “natural assets.” Councilmember Mork worked with staff to develop the following amendment language to fulfill this request:

3. Ecosystems: protecting and restoring the health and functioning of local ecosystems by incorporating green infrastructure in community design, protecting all natural assets, including established trees, wetlands, waterways, soils, and other ecosystem elements, and actively restoring damaged ecosystems to maximize biodiversity, stormwater management, and carbon sequestration;

Staff recommend this amendment as it clarifies the definition “natural assets” as including trees and other ecological elements.

Amendatory Motion - If a Councilmember is interested in moving this proposed amendment, a Councilmember would need to move to modify proposed Resolution No. 494 as follows:

I move to amend Resolution 494, Section 2, Bullet #3, ‘Ecosystems’, to add the word “all” before the phrase “natural assets” and to add “including established trees, wetlands, waterways, soils, and other ecosystem elements” after that phrase.

Answers to Council Questions from the August 1st Council Meeting

Also at the August 1st Council meeting, Councilmembers asked the following questions about aspects of the 2021 Sustainability Report that staff could not answer during the discussion of the Report that night. Staff have provided the following responses below for Council’s information:

What are we doing to improve water quality?

The City’s [Surface Water Utility](#) oversees maintenance, capital improvement, and community education programs that protect and improve water quality in our streams, lakes, and other waterbodies in Shoreline. Many of these programs fulfill requirements of the City’s Phase II National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, the goal of which is water quality protection. Examples include:

- Construction sediment control (TESC) inspections to reduce risk of dirty water from construction sites,
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) – including spill response and cleanup,
- Inspection and required maintenance for both City-owned and privately-owned stormwater facilities and assets,
- Source control inspections, which is new City program starting in 2023, to inspect businesses and other sites deemed to be at high risk of creating stormwater pollution, and
- Education and outreach – to educate public and encourage behaviors to minimize stormwater pollution, such as picking up pet waste, no dumping in storm drains, reporting spills and water quality issues, proper car wash practices, vehicle maintenance, etc.

Many capital improvement projects also include facilities to improve water quality, such as: the NE 148th Street Infiltration Facilities, the 10th Avenue NE Stormwater Improvements, Hidden Lake Dam Removal, Pump Station 26 Replacement, and the 2022 surface water small projects. Additionally, several recent sidewalk projects (at 5th Avenue NE and 20th Avenue NW) are adding features to improve drainage and water quality by adding detention and infiltration features.

The City also goes above and beyond its NPDES permit requirements to protect water quality with the following activities:

- Fulfilling the City Salmon Safe certification, including more sustainable practices for snow/ice management, implementation of the integrated pest management policy, etc.,
- Prohibiting waterfowl feeding through a recent ordinance to stop waterfowl feeding in public park waterbodies,
- Street sweeping program (not NPDES required),
- Water quality monitoring (not NPDES required), including starting source tracking for some pollutants in some waterbodies, and
- Echo Lake Cyanobacteria Management Plan utilizing grant funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Water quality scores are typically poor for urbanized streams like the ones in Shoreline. They consist of many parameters subject to natural variability and the contribution of pollution from dispersed sources and are thus very difficult to directly influence through City activities, especially over short time frames. Due to these reasons, staff acknowledge that the Sustainable Shoreline goal of achieving a Water Quality Index score of 80 or higher for all streams by 2030 is likely not achievable for every stream in the City. The indicators for the Sustainable Shoreline program were set in 2017 but are due to be updated in line with the [Climate Action Plan update](#). After the Climate Action Plan is updated, staff will begin work on updating the Sustainable Shoreline goals and indicators, including the water quality index score goal.

What is our general watering plan for trees and what is the overall survival rate?

The Parks Maintenance Division puts trees installed by the City in Parks or the City's Rights-of-Way on a watering schedule for at least two years or until successfully established. Watering generally occurs once a week in the summer, depending on weather and precipitation. Parks has installed permanent irrigation at several restoration areas including Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, Shoreview Park, and Westminster Park, and has provided cisterns for volunteer watering at restoration sites in Twin Ponds Park and North City Park. While staff do not currently have complete data on mortality and survival rates of planted trees, their assessment is that survival rates are generally very good for City-installed trees. However, it is important to note that many factors influence tree survival in urban environments beyond watering. For example, Parks staff have observed tree mortality from mower error, from vehicle collisions, and from vandalism. Staff expect and plan for these and other difficulties when conducting street tree planting and urban forest restoration.

What does code require for trees planted by developers?

Many sections of the [Shoreline Municipal Code](#) (SMC) address requirements for maintenance of landscaping elements and replacement trees for private development projects. Generally, the City requires a performance agreement and bond for required replacement trees prior to permit issuance. Some of the key requirements include:

- SMC 20.50.360(H): All required replacement trees and relocated trees shown on an approved permit shall be maintained in healthy condition by the property owner throughout the life of the project, unless otherwise approved by the Director in a subsequent permit.

- SMC 20.50.360(L): A maintenance bond shall be required after the installation of required site improvements and prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or finalization of permit and following required landscape installation or tree replacement. The maintenance bond and associated agreement shall be in place to ensure adequate maintenance and protection of retained trees and site improvements. The maintenance bond shall be for an amount not to exceed the estimated cost of maintenance and protection measures for a minimum of 36 months or as determined by the Director. The Director shall exempt individual single-family lots from a maintenance bond, except where a clearing violation has occurred, or tree replacement is located within critical areas or critical area buffers.
- SMC 20.50.520(M): Trees and vegetation, fences, walls and other landscape elements shall be considered as elements of the project in the same manner as parking, building materials and other site details. The applicant, landowner or successors in interest shall be responsible for the regular maintenance of all landscaping elements in good condition.
- SMC 20.50.520(N): Applicants shall provide a landscape maintenance and replacement agreement to the City prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy.
- SMC 20.50.370(I): Includes requirements for preventative mitigation for tree retention, including a requirement for pruning of visible deadwood, mulching, and ensuring irrigation during the summer months.

The maintenance bond is held until a maintenance landscaping inspection is complete. The City can and does fail developers for not maintaining landscaping, and their funds are held until it is corrected. Violations of these and other Code sections relating to tree protection, retention, and replacement can trigger code enforcement action.

Do we have any metrics besides the canopy study that would include information on forest biomass?

As part of the Climate Action Plan update, Cascadia Consulting Group conducted a sequestration analysis of Shoreline’s urban forest using the USDA Forest Service’s I-Tree Canopy Tool. This study provided a high-level estimate of the sequestration potential of Shoreline’s urban forest, which is a measure of biomass based on an average assumed rate of sequestration per area of forest. Results indicated that Shoreline’s urban forest sequesters an estimated 13,890 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (MT CO₂e) from the atmosphere every year and stores an estimated 413,840 MT CO₂e in biomass. The City does not currently have more specific data on biomass for the entire urban forest beyond what is in this study, the [2018 Urban Tree Canopy Assessment](#), and the [2014 Urban Forest Strategic Plan](#).

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

Staff from the City’s Environmental Services Team communicated via phone and email with a representative of the Save Shoreline Trees organization to answer questions about the 2021 Sustainability Report and Climate Emergency Declaration prior to the August 1st Council meeting. At that time, staff clarified that the phrase “natural assets” was intended to include trees as well as other ecosystem elements and provided the results of the Sequestration Analysis and other information in response to questions

about the 2021 Sustainability Report, Climate Action Plan Update, and proposed Resolution No. 494. Staff continue to respond to questions from community members about these items as they are received. Staff conducted more extensive public engagement related to the Climate Action Plan update from November 2021 through July 2022. More details about this engagement can be found on the [City's Climate Action Plan Update webpage](#). As is noted above, in-depth results will be provided to the City Council along with presentation of the draft Climate Action Plan update in October 2022.

COUNCIL GOAL(S) ADDRESSED

This action addresses City Council Goal #2: Continue to deliver highly-valued public services through management of the City's infrastructure and stewardship of the natural environment.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no immediate cost to adopting proposed Resolution No. 494. However, there will be costs associated with implementing the actions necessary to meet the City's emissions reduction targets. For example, there will be implications related to the City's fleet and facility investments, for capital project planning and prioritization, updates to City zoning, development, and energy codes, and programming to support building electrification. The Climate Action Plan update currently in development will outline the cost implications of key actions. The results of the Action Plan cost analysis will be provided for Council review along with the draft Plan in October 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 494 declaring a Climate Emergency.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Proposed Resolution No. 494 Declaring a Climate Emergency

RESOLUTION NO. 494

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND DIRECTING THE CITY TO TAKE ACCELERATED AND COMPREHENSIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

WHEREAS, climate change is an urgent unfolding crisis that presents a serious threat to the survival of human, animal, and plant communities and ecosystems around the world, including the City of Shoreline; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its Sixth Assessment Report on climate change building on previous special reports and these special reports denote the need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, total and per capita, by approximately 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, achieve 'net-zero' emissions by 2050, and achieve and maintain net-negative emissions after that to hold atmospheric warming to 1.5° C so as to avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, global temperatures have increased approximately 1.1° C above late 19th century levels, demonstrating that climate change is causing damage to ecosystems and communities both locally and globally as demonstrated by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, homelessness, species extinctions, food and potable water shortages, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, if unchecked, climate change will bring increasingly drastic declines to the health and prosperity of future generations, particularly for the most vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, the longer a delay taking definitive action to reduce carbon pollution, the greater the threat posed by climate change to current and future generations and the more costly it will be to protect and maintain the community from the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted its first Climate Action Plan in 2013 and since that time has endeavored to reduce both community-wide and municipal greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of Resolution No. 449 on April 6, 2020, the City adopted the 2019 version of the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Joint Commitments and continues to work collaboratively with regional partners to advance shared actions to reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, On October 18, 2021, the City Council authorized the City Manager to execute the necessary paperwork for the City to join the Cities Race to Zero/ICLEI150 campaign and, committed to updated science-based emissions reduction targets representing Shoreline's fair share of the emissions reductions needed to limit global warming to 1.5° C; and

WHEREAS, an inventory of 2019 greenhouse gas emissions for Shoreline and its municipal operations demonstrates Shoreline is not on track to meet the Cities Race to Zero/ICLEI150 targets, with the largest emissions sources being transportation fuel use and fossil fuel-based building heating systems; and

WHEREAS, the City's Comprehensive Plan includes Goal NE V. "Protect clean air and the climate for present and future generations through significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, to support Paris Climate Accord targets of limiting global warming to less than 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels;" and

WHEREAS, efforts to mitigate climate change will have many "co-benefits," such as cleaner air and water, improved health, local employment, cost savings for households, businesses, and the City, and the creation of a stronger and more resilient community; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted Resolution No. 467 in 2020, declaring the City's commitment to building an anti-racist community, and the City recognizes that vulnerable and marginalized communities have historically borne the brunt of long-standing environmental injustice, including fossil-fuel created degradation, and the City acknowledges that these communities must actively participate in the planning, decision making, and implementation of climate action and must benefit from a just transition to a sustainable and equitable economy; and

WHEREAS, the City is currently updating its Climate Action Plan to identify the most impactful actions the City can implement to reduce emissions to meet the Cities Race to Zero/ICLEI150 targets and to protect the Shoreline community from the impacts of climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Declaration of Climate Emergency. The City Council of the City of Shoreline declares that a Climate Emergency threatens the health, safety, and welfare of human, animal, and plant communities within the City of Shoreline, the Puget Sound region, Washington State, the United States, and all nations.

Section 2. City Department Directive. The City Council directs all City departments, boards, and commissions to identify and implement the strategies necessary to reach Shoreline's updated science-based emissions reductions targets and to protect Shoreline's community from the impacts of climate change in alignment with the Climate Action Plan update currently underway, including but not limited to:

1. **Transportation, Mobility and Connectivity:** developing and enhancing infrastructure, programs, and land use patterns to reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled, accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, and foster safe, multimodal, accessible, equitable, and clean motorized and non-motorized travel options;
2. **Building Energy:** swiftly and equitably replacing carbon-intensive, fossil fuel-based, heating sources and appliances with efficient, energy-saving systems

- powered by clean, renewable electricity, increasing efficiency of new and existing buildings and increasing access to renewable energy;
3. **Ecosystems:** protecting and restoring the health and functioning of local ecosystems by incorporating green infrastructure in community design, protecting natural assets, and actively restoring damaged ecosystems to maximize biodiversity, stormwater management, and carbon sequestration;
 4. **Zero Waste:** reducing per capita waste generation, promoting food waste recovery, and increasing reuse, recovery, and recycling to achieve zero waste of resources with economic value by 2030; and
 5. **Resilience and Preparedness:** incorporating climate resiliency measures where appropriate in all City plans and projects and providing community resources and programs to protect vulnerable populations from climate impacts.

Section 3. Commitment to Resource Allocation. The City Council commits to allocate the necessary resources and directs City departments to update plans, codes, and policies as needed to align with the soon to be updated Climate Action Plan and the goal of net zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, including through city department planning, budgeting, procurement, and other activities.

Section 4. Participation by All. The City Council urges and invites action from all levels of society and government to address the climate emergency, recognizing that the full participation, inclusion, support, and leadership of community organizations, faith communities, youth, labor organizations, academic institutions, indigenous groups, and racial, gender, family, immigrant and disability justice organizations and other allies are integral to the climate emergency response and mobilization efforts. The City Council commits to keeping the concerns of frontline and marginalized communities central to all Climate Action Plan implementation activities and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in the planning and implementation of all climate mobilization efforts.

Section 6. Corrections by City Clerk. Upon approval of the City Attorney, the City Clerk is authorized to make necessary corrections to this Resolution, including the corrections of scrivener or clerical errors; references to other local, state, or federal laws, codes, rules, or regulations; or ordinance numbering and section/subsection numbering and references.

Section 7. Severability. Should any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution or its application to any person or situation be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution or its application to any person or situation.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon passage by the City Council.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON AUGUST 15, 2022.

Mayor Keith Scully

ATTEST:

Jessica Simulcik Smith
City Clerk