

Attachment D - Staff Comments to Version 2, 9/30/2020



M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 30, 2020

TO: Redmond City Council

FROM: Jenny Lybeck, Environmental Sustainability Program Manager

SUBJECT: **Staff Comments on Draft Climate Emergency Declaration (version 2)**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the climate emergency declaration language. City staff and a diverse stakeholder group worked diligently over the past 11 months to develop the comprehensive Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP) and Council's support through a declaration helps to strengthen this work.

In reviewing the draft declaration language distributed on September 22, 2020, and the suggested edits from Councilmember Kritzer, staff's primary concern rests on the request to create a climate mobilization plan, which would likely duplicate findings from the ESAP, extend the planning process, and limit resources for implementation and tangible results.

We believe the intent of the motion language is to put urgency on actions that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and expedite implementation of these efforts. This can be addressed by using the motion to emphasize specific GHG reduction strategies and actions within the ESAP. This approach will encourage an efficient use of City resources, build on existing work by stakeholders, and facilitate a quick transition to implementation of actions with direct GHG reduction benefits.

The following list includes key climate mobilization elements within the ESAP that could be highlighted to support the declaration objectives.

- Decarbonization strategy. The City's decarbonization strategy is summarized on page 30 of the Sustainability Plan and includes the following five pillars:
 - o Advance building and transportation efficiency
 - o Electrify the building and transportation sectors (managed phase out of fossil fuels)
 - o Zero waste of resources
 - o Transition to 100% clean energy
 - o Pursue carbon sequestration opportunities
- GHG reduction analysis. The ESAP includes an analysis of the overall GHG reduction strategy, which informs the targets within the Plan and quantifies the path to reduce emissions by 89% (page 7, 16, 82). The Plan also includes commitments to update the quantitative analysis during the next refresh to achieve net zero emissions (page 28).
- GHG reduction metrics and targets. Performance metrics are summarized on page 27. Additional key performance metrics that will be tracked and progress made public annually are noted at the start of each focus area section. KPIs with specific GHG reduction connections include: Transportation and Land Use – page 39, Buildings and Energy –

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page 48, Materials Management and Waste – page 58, Climate and Resilience – page 81.

- Democratic participation. Commitments to transparency and community engagement throughout implementation are outlined on pages 89-92 of the Sustainability Plan, including the formation of a public advisory committee and annual public reporting.

If there are specific actions Council deems missing from the ESAP that support the climate mobilization objectives, those could be added into the declaration to provide direction for the pending Plan refresh.

Staff agrees that the climate crisis requires urgent action and Redmond is well positioned to lead in this space. These small modifications to the motion language support efficient implementation of foundational actions and strategies that pave the way for our transition to a clean energy economy.