

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

RESOLUTION ENDORSING REGIONAL CLIMATE MITIGATION AND RESILIENCY GOALS

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides regular assessments to inform policymakers on the current state and knowledge of climate change and the assessments laid the groundwork for the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement entered into force in 2005 for countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and monitor progress towards emission targets, and the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement sought pledges of Mayors from all 50 states to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors in Resolution R60-2008 adopted the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* and its recommendations in 2008, including goals that align with the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent below business as usual by 2012, 20 percent below the region's 2005 baseline by 2020, and 80 percent below the 2005 baseline by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors in Resolution R18-2009 established the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) in 2009 to collaboratively work toward the report's goals; and

WHEREAS, COG's Region Forward Vision includes a sustainability goal that calls for a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, with substantial reductions from the built environment and transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change updated its guidance to recognize that the world is already experiencing the impacts of global warming and to avoid most severe climate impacts greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by at least 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and to carbon neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, COG and its members were recognized by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) in 2019 as a U.S. Metro-Scale Climate Leader and CEEPC became a GCoM Signatory committing to follow global best practices in climate planning; and

WHEREAS, in October 2020 the COG Board passed Resolution R45-2020 endorsing an interim climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030 and requested CEEPC to report back a mid-point evaluation of the progress towards these goals and make recommendations for any new actions needed; and

WHEREAS, in November 2020 CEEPC approved the Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan including guiding principles and strategies to meet the 2030 climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas reduction below 2005 and climate resilience goals of becoming a Climate Ready Region by 2030 and fully Resilient Region by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the region has seen a 24 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, exceeding the 2020 climate mitigation goal of 20 percent greenhouse gas reduction below 2005; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

- 1.** The COG Board commends the actions taken at the local and state levels to meet and exceed the greenhouse gas reduction goal set for 2020 and putting the region on a promising path to work towards achieving the region's greenhouse gas reduction goals for 2030.
- 2.** The board recognizes that achieving the next regional climate goal to reduce emissions 50 percent by 2030 below 2005 levels, to avoid the most severe climate impacts, will require aggressive cross-sectoral action by the federal and state governments, in addition to local governments.
- 3.** The board reinforces that local jurisdictions must lead by example and redouble the efforts to implement strategies that reduce greenhouse gases to reduce the climate impacts of internal operations.
- 4.** The board recommits to equitable action within and across local communities through collaboration to implementation solutions at scale and leverage the impact.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors
October 12, 2022
Janele Partman
COG Communications Specialist**