

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

RESOLUTION ENDORSING REGIONAL CLIMATE MITIGATION AND RESILIENCY GOALS

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, metropolitan Washington is already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate, including increases in temperature and sea-level rise; 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, the Board of Directors in Resolution R60-08 adopted the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* and its recommendations in 2008, including goals 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 R18-09 established the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) in 2009 to collaboratively work toward the report's goals; 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, CEEPC has reviewed the updated IPCC guidance and GCoM protocols and recommends COG establish an interim 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, CEEPC recognizes that strong actions are still needed by the federal and state governments, in addition to local governments to avoid the most severe climate impacts and is developing a 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan to include recommended actions to meet the region's climate mitigation and resiliency goals; and

WHEREAS, CEEPC recognizes that educating the public about the risks from climate change and the value of emission reduction and resiliency efforts is a critical action in addition to direct actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors in Resolution R26-2020 affirmed that equity will be woven into COG's programs and priorities.

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

- 1) The board endorses an interim climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030; and
- 2) The board endorses climate resilience goals of becoming a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030; and
- 3) The board reinforces the need to incorporate equity principles and expand education on climate change into CEEPC and COG members' actions to reach the climate mitigation and resiliency goals, and
- 4) Directs CEEPC to report back a mid-point evaluation of the progress towards these goals and make recommendations for any new actions needed.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolutions were adopted by the COG Board of Directors
October 14, 2020
Janele Partman
COG Communications Specialist**