



DATE: May 10, 2021

TO: Council Sustainability Committee

FROM: Director of Public Works

SUBJECT Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty & Cities Race to Zero

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Sustainability Committee (CSC) recommends that Council adopt two resolutions: 1) committing to policies opposing fossil fuel expansion, accelerating the clean energy transition, and endorsing the call for a global fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty; and 2) joining the Cities Race to Zero, a global coalition of cities committed to setting science-based targets and implementing inclusive and resilient climate action.

SUMMARY

Cities and counties around the world are joining the global network of communities known as “Standing Against Fossil Fuel Expansion” (SAFE) by passing policies that support climate action. The Cities of Berkeley and Richmond are local jurisdictions that have already joined the movement. Adoption of a SAFE Cities resolution would commit the City to policies opposing fossil fuel expansion, supporting acceleration of the clean energy transition and endorsing the call for a global fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty.

Similarly, the Cities Race to Zero is a global campaign seeking pledges from cities, institutions, and businesses to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. While the City already has a General Plan policy to strive for carbon neutrality by 2045, the Cities Race to Zero would commit the City to at least one inclusive and equitable climate action before 2022 to help Hayward meet the goals outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement. The campaign provides a variety of climate actions to constrain global temperature rise, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reach net zero carbon. The City of San Francisco and many others worldwide have already joined the campaign.

On January 11, 2021¹, the Committee requested that staff explore supporting the SAFE Cities Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

¹ <https://hayward.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829150&GUID=D542272A-5912-4201-A95F-1E564CB93C64&Options=&Search=>

BACKGROUND

The City of Hayward has been working to address global climate change for more than a decade. In 2009, Hayward adopted its first Climate Action Plan (CAP), which included aggressive goals for reducing GHG emissions. The CAP was amended and incorporated into the General Plan in 2014 and it includes a suite of actions necessary to meet Hayward's 2020 GHG reduction target. On June 16, 2020², Council adopted new reduction targets of 30% by 2025, 55% by 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2045. Later this year, staff will initiate an update to the CAP to address the new goals.

In addition to the CAP, the City has supported many climate change initiatives over the years. In 2016, Hayward joined CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project), an international network of cities and businesses using a common platform to report GHG data and climate action. In 2017, the City joined the US Climate Mayors³ to join a network of cities collaborating on climate action and to support the Paris Agreement and on January 15, 2019⁴, the City joined cities worldwide by adopting a resolution declaring a climate emergency. Hayward's previous goal to reduce emissions by 20% below 2005 levels by 2020 was achieved due in large part to the community's enrollment in East Bay Community Energy's (EBCE) Brilliant 100 electricity product, which is 100% carbon free. In order to help meet the 2025 goal, The City recently switched all municipal accounts to Renewable 100, which is EBCE's 100% renewable energy product. Additionally, on January 26, 2021⁵ Council adopted a resolution to establish a new review process for proposals for service stations that would sell fossil fuels.

The State of California and United States have also made policy decisions to support climate change initiatives. On September 23, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order requiring all new vehicles sold in the State be zero-emission vehicles by 2035 to combat climate change and reduce statewide emissions. On January 20, 2021, the United States rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, recognizing the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it. The main objective of the Paris Climate Agreement is to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. To meet this goal, cities must continue to implement policies and programs that reduce emissions.

DISCUSSION

SAFE Cities – SAFE Cities is a movement of individuals, local groups and elected officials working to keep their communities safe from fossil fuels⁶. SAFE Cities are connecting local efforts and supporting communities to adopt policies that support the phase out of fossil fuels and accelerate clean, more efficient energy solutions for all. The Cities of Berkeley and

² <https://hayward.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=789252&GUID=31184D90-F8E3-4A07-ADB8-6290332C3B3E&Options=info&Search=>

³ <https://climatemayors.org/>

⁴ <https://hayward.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=655077&GUID=C658C300-8AAA-4581-94DC-28AC5D713F7D&Options=info&Search=>

⁵ <https://hayward.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=831167&GUID=B7C25B22-4B19-450E-8E3B-5A69D0A3B61B&Options=info&Search=>

⁶ <https://www.stand.earth/SAFE>

Richmond have joined the movement by passing SAFE City policies along with many other cities in the greater Bay Area. The SAFE Cities website already recognizes Hayward for the adoption of the reach code in March 2020. The code's requirements for new residential buildings to be all-electric is considered a SAFE policy.

SAFE Cities are also supporting resolutions that endorse the need for a global fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty. A global fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty would end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, and accelerate equitable transition plans. The Cities of San Francisco and Vancouver, British Columbia⁷ have formally endorsed a global fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty in October of 2020.

Staff recommends that the CSC recommend to Council the adoption of a resolution to reaffirm the City's commitment to climate action by endorsing a global fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty, opposing rollbacks of climate policy, and supporting the Paris Climate Agreement. The resolution suggested by SAFE Cities would also explicitly state the City's intent to implement policies that limit or prevent fossil fuel expansion and promote electrification. This action could help guide the policies and programs to be included in the updated CAP, tentatively scheduled to be completed by December 2022.

The Cities Race to Zero – The Cities Race to Zero is a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, and investors for a zero-carbon recovery that prevents future threats and encourages sustainable growth. This campaign is being promoted by CDP, the US Climate Mayors, and cities around the world as a way to spur renewed commitments and accelerated action leading up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which will take place in Scotland in November this year. Over 471 cities worldwide have joined, including the City of San Francisco, but the campaign aims to reach 1,000 cities by November 2021.

There are five requirements for cities to join the campaign:

1. Publicly endorse the following principles.
 - Recognize the global climate emergency.
 - Commit to keeping global heating below the 1.5° Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement.
 - Commit to putting inclusive climate action at the center of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone.
 - Invite our partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join us in recognizing the global climate emergency and help us deliver on science-based action to overcome it.

⁷ <https://council.vancouver.ca/20201007/documents/pspc11.pdf>

2. Pledge to reach net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest and set an interim goal of a 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. In 2020, Hayward adopted goals to reach carbon neutrality by 2045 and to reduce GHG emissions 55% by 2030.
3. Plan the steps that will be taken toward achieving net zero. (See below.)
4. Proceed to take immediate action toward achieving net zero.
5. Publish progress at least annually. The City reports annually to CDP, one of the recognized reporting platforms. The City was recognized by CDP as an A-List city in 2018 and 2020. Staff will continue to report to CDP and will meet this year's deadline of July 29, 2021.

As referenced in the second requirement above, the campaign requires cities choose at least one of the Cities Race to Zero's inclusive and equitable climate actions. The actions aim at helping cities on a resilient pathway consistent with Paris Climate Agreement objectives and must begin implementation prior to 2022. The following actions could be implemented by Hayward and may be incorporated into the upcoming CAP update. A complete list of the actions and resources to implement each action can be found online⁸ at www.citiesracetozero.org.

- Adapt Hayward to extreme heat
- Create a more inclusive society
- Manage food waste and organics on the path towards zero waste
- Move toward resilient and sustainable energy systems
- Develop Zero Carbon buildings
- Divestment from fossil fuels

Hayward is already making progress on several of the recommended actions. To prepare for extreme heat, Alameda County has already created a vulnerability map and a collection of community resources⁹. The City is continuing on a path toward zero waste by working with StopWaste and improving operations and outreach in our partnership with Waste Management of Alameda County. We are creating resilient and sustainable energy systems in our work with East Bay Community Energy, and we are developing zero carbon buildings with the adoption of reach codes that require all-electric construction. While staff intends to continue working on each of these initiatives, staff recommends, for the purposes of this pledge, a commitment to creating a more inclusive society. With the update of the CAP, staff will also prepare a new Environmental Justice element of the General Plan which will seek to address inequities pre-existing to and exacerbated by climate change. The Environmental Justice element will help to reduce unintended consequences of climate mitigation and adaptation efforts and build trust among the community. Staff recommends that the CSC recommend to Council the adoption of a resolution to join the Cities Race to Zero.

⁸ https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/race-to-zero-thank-you?language=en_US

⁹ <https://acphd.org/phep/heat-and-health/>

ECONOMIC IMPACT

In the short term, staff does not expect these commitments to have a significant impact on the local economy. However, the development of the Environmental Justice element of the General Plan, will seek to provide improved economic opportunities – especially for disadvantaged members of the community.

FISCAL IMPACT

There would be no impact on the City's General Fund as implementation of the commitments would be accomplished with existing, budgeted staff.

STRATEGIC ROADMAP

In January 2020, Council adopted six Strategic Priorities as part of its three-year Strategic Roadmap. This agenda item is not specifically called for in the Roadmap, but it does support the priority of Combat Climate Change and the implementation of the following projects:

Project 1: Reduce Dependency on Fossil Fuels

Project 4: Adopt and Implement 2030 GHG Goal and Roadmap

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

If adopted by Council, these resolutions would renew Hayward's commitment to addressing climate change and would help to guide the policies and programs to be included in the updated CAP.

NEXT STEPS

If recommended by the CSC, staff will present to Council the resolutions for the SAFE Cities and Cities Race to Zero campaigns, tentatively scheduled for the Council meeting on June 1, 2021.

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Approved by:



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