



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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City Manager

SUSAN M. MOONEY
City Clerk

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RESOLVE #1-10/11

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of South Portland has expressed a desire to lead by supporting initiatives that reinforce the goal of creating a sustainable South Portland that benefits all people in the City through energy savings, cost benefits, and improving the health and welfare of the employees and people of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of South Portland signed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in 2007 that calls for focusing on "reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills [in residential, commercial and public buildings], green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies"; and

WHEREAS, following the Council's guidance in passing the Resolve #3-07/08 in 2007 that resulted in the signing of the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, the City Manager and City staff, in conjunction with citizen committees, have begun work on framing the tenets of sustainability as they can be applied in South Portland; and

WHEREAS, the City of South Portland, as a member of the Greater Portland Council of Governments, strongly endorses the Sustainability Principles adopted in 2008 by the GPCOG Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, buildings are the major source of demand for energy and materials that produce by-product greenhouse gases (GHG), slowing the growth rate of GHG emissions and then reversing it over the next ten years is the key to keeping global warming under one degree centigrade (°C) above today's level; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes and celebrates the initiatives that have already occurred that raise the level of awareness throughout the City for a sustainable approach to improving the quality of life for all of our citizens, while encouraging continued business vitality and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Department, in collaboration with a citizen committee, is in the process of updating the 1992 Comprehensive Plan, which will provide an opportunity for the City to incorporate and embed sustainable principles into an action plan for the City for the next five to ten years and beyond.

WHEREAS, the Executive Department initiated a department wide strategic planning process that includes sustainability principles and action steps; and

WHEREAS, City staff is working with the School Department on a sustainable procurement policy that will govern all purchases of supplies and equipment for the City. The City of South Portland is committed to policies that are fiscally sustainable for the City; and

WHEREAS, through a U.S. Department of Energy grant, the City has hired an Energy and Sustainability Coordinator to help move the City towards its sustainability goals. The City recognizes that the organizational commitment to more complex steps toward the evolution of a sustainable City requires the focus of a dedicated position or office and will seek funding to continue support of this process; and

WHEREAS, the City has engaged the services of an Energy Service Company first to perform a baseline audit of a number of municipal buildings, and then to make recommendations for energy improvements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to reduce energy usage, and to avoid additional expenditures from the General Fund, all of which will inform decisions on City facility planning; and

WHEREAS, a citizen-based Energy and Recycling Committee has begun a greenhouse gas inventory that will form the basis for a Climate Action Plan that can be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development office, through a public/private partnership, is seeking to develop combined heat and power facilities in a number of locations that would reduce energy use and costs; and

WHEREAS, the Mill Creek Transit Hub project and associated planned Transit Tax Increment Financing district illustrate the use of a creative multiple stakeholder process that is the foundation of achieving a sustainable transportation system in the City. This project is emblematic of the kind of efficiency of operations, incorporation of low impact stormwater design features, efficient energy use through realignment of transit schedules and routes to encourage greater use, and provide the public with an example of municipal leadership through accomplishment of cross-organizational goals; and

WHEREAS, in advance of the development of a PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Program, staff has begun discussion with the Efficiency Maine Trust, to develop a plan that will provide property owners with access to low-interest loans to allow residential and business energy upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the South Portland Bus Service has negotiated an agreement with Southern Maine Community College that will provide incentives for students during the 2010-2011 school year to ride public transportation. This goals of this program are to

reduce vehicle emissions with fewer single occupancy vehicles, reduce congestion on Broadway and other roadways, and increase ridership on public transportation; and

WHEREAS, automated curbside recycling, for residential solid waste customers, begun in 2008, in South Portland and now accounts for approximately 28% of residential waste. The Energy and Recycling committee is currently working on steps to move the recycling program to the next level. Recycling and Waste Reduction will also be part of the Climate Action Plan; and a goal will be set as part of the plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of South Portland has implemented various other initiatives throughout the City to reduce costs and to demonstrate the City's commitment to sustainability, such as, for example, replacing standard bulbs with 8,800 LED Christmas lights, installing LED lights in City traffic signals, redesigning motors and equipment at the wastewater treatment plant and pump stations to run more efficiently, thereby reducing the energy load from 2.7 million KWh/year to 1.9 million KWh/year; and

WHEREAS, the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating systems, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to encourage market transformation of the process for building design and construction, are not intended for use as a municipal code, and there are also numerous standards, usually in the form of allied building codes that, if they are added to existing codes, can result in confusion and conflicts, adding to the complexity of meeting the goals and metrics to reduce Greenhouse Gases, energy consumption, and reliance on fossil fuels. The City will continue to explore ways to encourage and support the use of LEED criteria in renovation and construction of both municipal and private sector projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council, City Manager, Staff and stakeholders of the City of South Portland pledge themselves to complete the implementation of policies and actions that will meet the goals for greenhouse gas reduction initially set by the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and the completed South Portland Climate Action Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an in-house team, consisting of at least one City Counselor, representatives of City Departments, in conjunction with established municipal committees, shall serve as the municipal sustainability champions to develop and implement policies for all City projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will develop stakeholders' groups of residents, business owners, school officials, and other interested parties to implement the action agenda provided by the Climate Action Plan in the following building sectors – municipal, schools, residential, commercial, and industrial; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that once the Climate Action Plan is completed, steps will be taken by the In-house Team and stakeholders' groups to develop implementation strategies to meet the goals recommended in the Climate Action Plan, in conjunction with the ongoing Comprehensive Plan process, in the following areas - Land Use, Transportation Planning, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Building Practices, Water and Wastewater Management, Recycling and Waste Reduction, and Education and Outreach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by the time the current City electrical supply contracts begin to expire in 2012, the City will have in place the legal and operational framework for a nonprofit Municipal energy supply company or an equivalent vehicle. The goals of this action are to reduce the power costs for the residents, businesses, and the municipality, and to provide funding outside of the General Fund for future municipal projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that education of the citizens of the City is a critical component of the increasingly complex actions that will be necessary to keep moving toward a sustainable and resilient South Portland. After providing education in the techniques of sustainable thinking with municipal staff and departments, the City will expand the education process to the residents and business owners to ensure the public is receiving sufficient information, guidance, and support to provide the incentives for all to act with a sustainable intent. Over time the goal is that citizens will educate each other about the latest thinking and the effect of the myriad decisions that we each make in our lives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of South Portland will accomplish the aforesaid goals according to the following schedule.

- Late Fall, 2010 – Implement an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy for all City departments.
- Fall, 2010 –Establish the In-house team with the charge of achieving three interdepartmental projects by the middle of 2012, in addition to the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy, that are outside the scope of the Energy Services company audit and Climate Action Plan, but are creative solutions to existing issues in the City that inhibit the City’s ability to move in sustainable directions.
- Late Fall, 2010 - Energy Services Company audit completed to provide the basis for prioritization of projects in City buildings.
- Spring, 2011 – Prioritize and begin implementation of the projects that have been identified through the audit by the Energy Services Company.
- Spring, 2011 – Completion of the first phase (i.e. municipal buildings, infrastructure and fleets) of the Climate Action Plan for the City. Once this plan is completed, the stakeholder groups will be activated to assist the City in the implementation of the initial action steps. This will include a timeline for implementing or achieving the steps.
- Fall, 2011 – Implement a plan, developed by the City staff (the In-house team and others), and led by the City Council members and executive staff, to provide incentives for all City employees to commute another way at least two days per week, as an example of the City’s commitment to reducing single occupant vehicles on South Portland roads. The plan will be based on the assumption that with creative, sustainable thinking, ways to accomplish this goal can be found.

- Spring, 2012 - Develop procedures and parameters for on-going data collection to evaluate the success of the program and policies and to develop the next set of action items as an ongoing process to keep moving South Portland to an ever more sustainable level of operation. This will be the work of the City Council, the Energy and Recycling Committee, the In-house team and the stakeholder groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager or his/her designee shall prepare quarterly/semi-annual progress reports for City Council. These reports will identify project implementation and emission reductions.