



## **CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

### **AGENDA ITEM**

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Report: City Pledge to the Race to Zero Campaign

1. Motion Recommending City Council Pledge to Participate in the Race to Zero Campaign

### **COMMISSION/COMMITTEE ACTION**

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**Item Type:** Action Item

**Approved for** June 3, 2021 **calendar**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends the City of Glendale join the Race to Zero pledging to reach (net)-zero in the 2040's or sooner.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

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On January 12, 2021, City Council asked staff to prepare an information report regarding the Race to Zero. Race to Zero is a global campaign from the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth.

City Council at their April 27, 2021 meeting, directed staff to bring the Race to Zero report to the Sustainability Commission to review the Race to Zero campaign and for the Commission to make a recommendation to City Council regarding joining this effort.

By joining Race to Zero a City pledges to do the following:

1. Publicly endorse the Race to Zero principles.
2. Pledge to reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner.
3. Set an interim 2030 target to achieve in the next decade.
4. Immediately proceed to planning at least one inclusive and equitable climate action.
5. Report progress annually, beginning no later than 2022.

### **Who is C40?**

C40 is a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. C40 supports cities to collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change. Representing 700+ million citizens and one quarter of the global economy, mayors of the C40 cities are committed to delivering on the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement at the local level, as well as to cleaning the air we breathe. C40 also provides numerous programs and network support groups like the City Business Alliance program which supports cities in setting joint climate goals between the public and private sectors as well as many topic-based networks like Food, Waste, and Water.

Because the City of Glendale is much smaller than these metropolises, we will not be able to join C40. However, C40 offers local cities, like Glendale, opportunities and resources to tackle climate change effectively.

### **What is the Race to Zero Coalition?**

One of C40's partner programs is the Race to Zero Coalition which is a global campaign from the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) to rally

leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth. It mobilizes a coalition of actors, representing 452 cities, 22 regions, 1,101 businesses, 45 investors, and 549 universities. Collectively, the group represents nearly 25% of the global CO2 emissions and over 50% of global GDP.

The objective of Race to Zero is to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy ahead of COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference), where governments must strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement. This year, COP26 takes place in Glasgow, United Kingdom from November 1st to the 12th.

In order to join the Race to Zero campaign, The City of Glendale Mayor shall be required to:

1. Publicly endorse the following Principles:
  - *We recognize the global climate emergency.*
  - *We are committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement.*
  - *We are committed to putting inclusive climate action at the center of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone.*
  - *We 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.*
2. Pledge to reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°Celsius.
3. In advance of COP26, explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero, especially in the short- to medium-term. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°Celsius.
4. Immediately proceed to planning at least one inclusive and equitable climate action as listed on [www.citiesracetozero.org](http://www.citiesracetozero.org) that will help to place The City of Glendale on a resilient pathway consistent with the 1.5°Celsius objective of the Paris Agreement and begin implementation no later than 2022.
5. Report progress annually, beginning no later than 2022 to a recommended reporting platform. The City of Glendale 1.5°Celsius target and action commitment(s) should be shared through regular channels of reporting.

Once the City has **pledged**, Glendale must **plan**. In advance of COP26, the City of Glendale will need to explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero, especially in the short-to medium-term. It is essential that Glendale sets an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius. For cities, this means setting a science-based climate target.

Science Based Targets for Cities enables cities to become sustainable organizations that will thrive in an equitable, nature positive, net-zero future. They provide guidance to help cities set climate science-based targets through their Climate Guide which details why cities are best equipped to address climate change, how ambitious a city's goals should be, how science-based climate targets are essential, and which methodology to choose.

Setting targets through the Science Based Targets Network(s) means Glendale can be confident of doing enough to help restore balance to the global commons and harness the opportunities this presents.

The next step Glendale will have to take is to proceed. Glendale must take immediate action toward achieving net zero, consistent with delivering interim targets specified. The City Glendale will also need to develop or update the climate action plan to incorporate science based targets and integrate them with other planning instruments.

Outlined below are examples of immediate actions area that are identified in the Race to Zero network. Each action area includes action that are being taken or maybe taken by the City of Glendale that may meet the Race to Zero requirements.

Immediate actions to be taken may include:

**Creating a more inclusive society**, an example would be:

- Collect information on the needs of frontline communities with respect to climate planning and/or implementation.

**City of Glendale Actions:**

- Community dialogues on City of Glendale Climate Action Plan.

**Crete Green and Healthy Streets**, examples include

- Pilot test and procure, with partners as necessary, zero emissions buses by 2025.
- Expand and improve walking, cycling and integrated transit access and identify potential areas for future zero emission zones by 2025.
- Implement pilot measures that restrict internal combustion engines in parts of the city by 2025 and ensure that a major area of our city is zero emission by 2030.

**City of Glendale Actions:**

- Bicycle Transportation Plan - Between 2014 and 2016, the Public Works Department implemented Phase I and Phase II of Glendale's Bicycle Transportation Plan. Construction of Phase III included the installation of

expanded bike lane network or “sharrows” on over six centerline miles on eight different Glendale streets.

**Reduce Air Pollution and Ensure Clean Air**, an example would be:

- Establish baseline levels and set ambitious reduction targets for air pollutants that meet or exceed national commitments.

**Develop Zero-Carbon Buildings**, examples include

- Develop a roadmap to achieve net zero carbon new buildings from 2030.
- Implement pilot efficiency programs and incentives for building energy efficiency with tools in place that facilitate data access and data analysis (benchmarking) of building energy use by 2025.
- Develop a roadmap to achieve net zero carbon municipal buildings by 2030 and policy approval by 2025 to deliver a commitment to own, occupy and develop net zero carbon municipal assets by 2030.

**City of Glendale Actions**

- Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Public Disclosure Program
- Energy efficiency upgrades in municipal buildings

**Move Towards Resilient & Sustainable Energy Systems**, examples include

- Lead by example with municipal renewable energy projects maximizing the potential of municipal assets for onsite generation with the aim to cover municipal electricity demand by 100% renewables by 2025.
- Make sure your policies follow the rule of “energy-efficiency” first so take all actions to increase the efficiency of end-use sectors.
- Develop financial support programs to incentivize deployment of building-scale renewables and mandate the use of renewables through building codes, while engaging residents and other stakeholders in the process.

**City of Glendale Actions**

- City of Glendale has residential and business energy reduction programs in place. Examples are the Smart Home Upgrade Program, Plant a Beautiful Water-wise Garden and the Energy Saving Tips programs.
- Installation of solar PV on municipal buildings.

**Advance Toward Zero Waste**, examples include:

- Progressively phase out organics disposal to landfill and incinerators, i.e. at least 25% by 2025.
- Ensure all operating and closed landfills have landfill gas capture and at least flaring (ideally local landfill gas utilization for power generation) by 2025.

- Ensure all waste generated in the city is being collected and residual waste is disposed of adequately in at least an engineered sanitary landfill.

### **City of Glendale Actions**

- The City of Glendale provides garbage, recycling, and yard trimming collections to single family homes, multi-family development and businesses.
- Zero Waste Plan.

### **Create Sustainable Food Systems**, an example would be:

Regulate or activate programs for food businesses to minimize food related carbon emissions.

### **City of Glendale Actions**

- Food recovery program.

### **Divest from Fossil Fuels & Invest in A Sustainable Future**, examples include:

- Advocate for fossil-free and sustainable finance by other investors and all levels of government, including by promoting the importance of strong, long-term climate policies and demanding greater transparency.
- Call on our pension funds to divest from fossil fuel companies and increase financial investments in climate solutions to help promote decent jobs and a just and green economy.
- Take all possible steps to divest our city assets from fossil fuel companies and increase our financial investments in climate solutions to help promote decent jobs and a just and green economy.

Lastly, the City will need to publish their progress. Starting in 2022 Glendale must commit to report progress at least annually, including via, to the extent possible, platforms that feed into the UNFCCC Climate Action Portal. For Cities, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and ICLEI offer guidance and platforms that meet the required reporting standards.

### **Next Steps:**

Joining automatically qualifies City of Glendale to be a part of the Race to Zero run by the COP26 Presidency and High-Level Climate Champions, ensuring formal recognition for our efforts by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As a member of the Race to Zero campaign the City will have access to a range of tools and resources will be available to more quickly identify the type, scale and pace of action needed.

By joining the Race to Zero the City will also have access to the forthcoming Race for Resilience.

If City Council elects to join the Race to Zero program actions required are:

1. The Mayor of the City of Glendale will sign the Race to Zero pledge
2. Update the City's greenhouse gas inventory
3. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030
4. Immediately proceed to planning at least one inclusive and equitable climate action

Table 1: List of alternative commitments:

Name	Commitment	Targets
Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy	<p>Specifically, within three years of this commitment, we pledge to develop, adopt, use and regularly report on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community-scale GHG emission inventory, following the recommended guidance;</li> <li>• An assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities;</li> <li>• Ambitious, measurable and time-bound target(s) to reduce/avoid GHG emissions;</li> <li>• Ambitious climate change adaptation vision and goals, based on quantified scientific evidence when possible, to increase local resilience to climate change;</li> <li>• An ambitious and just goal to improve access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy; and</li> <li>• A formally adopted plan(s) addressing climate change mitigation / low emission development, climate resilience and adaptation, and access to sustainable energy.</li> </ul>	meet and exceed the Paris Agreement objectives.
Climate Mayors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory Setting near- and long-term targets to reduce emissions</li> </ul> <p>Developing a Climate Action Plan aligned with the city's targets</p>	Paris Agreement Targets Commit to keeping global temperature rise to well below 2oC with efforts to

		reach 1.5oC and meet zero emissions by 2050 or earlier
Under 2°	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Built Environment</li> <li>• Industry</li> </ul>	Commit to keeping global temperature rise to well below 2oC with efforts to reach 1.5oC and meet zero emissions by 2050 or earlier
Sierra Club Ready for 100	<p>Our Approach to 100% Policies</p> <p>When crafting a commitment to 100% renewable energy, Ready For 100 recommends that the adopted goal includes the following elements:</p> <p>Community-wide Electricity Use: A full transition of the electricity sector to clean, renewable energy;</p> <p>By 2035: A target year for when this commitment will be achieved no later than 2035 for electricity and 2050 for all energy sectors;</p> <p>Ensure Justice, Equity, Affordability, and Access: A commitment should include measures that prioritize equity affordability, and access for all members of the community, prioritizing low income communities, environmental justice communities and communities burdened by the fossil fuel industry.</p> <p>Clean and Renewable Resources Only: This includes carbon and pollution free energy sustainably collected from renewable sources including wind, solar, tidal, and geothermal. Low-impact, small hydro and some forms of biomass may be included after being evaluated for sustainability and environmental justice implications. Nuclear, natural gas, coal, oil based, or any other forms of carbon-based energy production are not included as clean or renewable sources of energy. Check out Sierra Club's complete energy policy.</p> <p>A Transparent and Inclusive Planning and Implementation Process ensuring that the community members and local businesses have an opportunity to participate.</p>	



## **FISCAL IMPACT**

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There is no fiscal impact to join the Race to Zero Campaign. However, there will be fiscal impacts associated with other activities associated with the Race to Zero campaign such as updating the greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan.

The greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan are projects that will be pursued independent of the City joining the Race to Zero. Staff recommend the City of Glendale join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). ICLEI is a Race to Zero network partner and assists cities in establishing the science based targets and assists in reporting requirements. ICLEI membership for the City of Glendale is \$2,500.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

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Alternative 1: Sustainability Commission recommend that the City of Glendale sign up to alternate public climate commitments.

Alternative 2: Sustainability Commission may recommend that the City does not join the Race to Zero campaign at this time. Alternative 3: The Sustainability Commission may recommend any other alternative not proposed by staff.

## **EXHIBITS**

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None.