

MOTION ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

We are in a climate emergency, and have precious little time to take corrective action. Teen climate activist, Greta Thunberg, has made clear the need to increase climate leadership: "The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say – we will never forgive you."

Otherwise necessary and even routine City activities remain responsible for an unsustainable amount of climate and toxic pollution. While the City has made strides to reduce pollution from its own fleets and facilities, it also relies on a wide variety of contracting to complete its work, which may not be directly constrained by or consistent with the City's pollution reduction goals.

To comprehensively address the City's contribution to climate and toxic pollution, standards should be established that reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions from activities directly or indirectly related to City contracts, toward an ultimate goal of carbon neutrality without offsets.

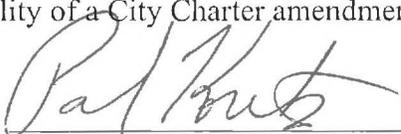
As set forth in the City's actions toward creating the City's Climate Emergency Mobilization (CEMO), efforts to reduce climate pollution must be paired with an awareness of the environmental justice impacts of the past and proposed future actions, the urgency of reducing toxic pollution in frontline communities, and the intentional pursuit of a "just transition" to a fairer economy through aggressive workforce development.

Strategies for embedding carbon and toxic pollution reductions into City contracts may include:

1. Pre-qualifying contractors that inventory and minimize or otherwise offset their emissions, or achieve negative emissions through drawdown;
2. Bid requirements that prioritize the use of all-electric and zero-emission equipment;
3. Scoring bidders/proposers during the evaluation process on their commitment and implementation to address environmental justice and to benefit frontline communities;
4. When feasible, include a robust package of emissions reductions, reliable offsets and/or carbon drawdowns into the bid requirements;
5. Performance incentives and other recognition for the achievement of emissions reductions above minimum standards;
6. Facility certification; and/or
7. Hiring expectations for companies operating in fossil fuel industries to bring on green industry partners, to help signal and effectuate the transition to green jobs and a green economy.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the Chief Procurement Officer to work with the Bureau of Contract Administration, with the assistance of other City departments as necessary, to report to Council on the opportunities and recommended strategies to establish contracting standards that help to reduce carbon emissions to zero as soon as possible and that account for and prioritize co-benefits to environmental justice and toxic emissions reductions, including, but not limited to, the possibility of a City Charter amendment.

PRESENTED BY:

  
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