

MOTION

Decades earlier than commonly expected, climate-exacerbated and record-shattering storms, wildfires, floods, and droughts are devastating communities, costing lives and trillions of dollars in clean up, including: the Woolsey Fire, the Dixie and Caldor Fires, and Hurricanes Sandy, Maria, and Ida. Meanwhile, the last two decades in the Western U.S. rank as the driest 22-year period in 1,200 years, causing an ongoing megadrought impacting Western Cities.

The recent U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report is described by U.N. leadership as “a Code Red for Humanity,” highlighting the likelihood of serious impacts to the City’s habitability by 2100.

To respond to climate change, the City has already set aggressive 2050 goals through the climate action plan-certified Los Angeles Green New Deal, which includes the “Five Zeroes” of climate and clean air action: a zero-carbon grid, zero carbon ground transportation, zero carbon buildings, zero waste and zero wasted water.

Yet, if we are to avoid irreversible ecological tipping points, climate scientists tell us we must achieve by 2030 what humanity is trying to accomplish by 2050. To do this, the City and the world must drastically accelerate their goals.

Steps are already afoot. Via Council action, the Department of Water and Power has provided various pathways in the groundbreaking “LA100 Study” to reach 100% renewable energy by 2035 -- ten years earlier than planned -- which will achieve 80% renewable and 97% carbon free energy by 2030, a project the U.S. Secretary of Energy calls “a roadmap for other cities and states to follow.”

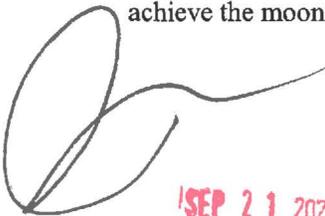
The Mayor and Council acknowledged the growing threat of climate breakdown by creating the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) and the Climate Emergency Commission, both centered on environmental justice and addressing climate and toxic pollution matters citywide, as well as enacting a biodiversity protection effort to reduce impacts to nature, and launching RegenerateLA to sequester carbon from food waste in soil via composting.

The Cool City Challenge (CCC), supported by the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance in partnership with CEMO, is an initiative that seeks to empower neighborhoods to meet carbon reduction, water conservation, and emergency preparedness goals, and commit the City to a goal of carbon neutrality by 2030 without offsets; California cities which develop the most innovative programs and are able to recruit 200 Cool Block leaders will receive \$1 million in funding to support climate mitigation efforts. Potential funding derived from the CCC would augment local climate change resilience efforts, thereby protecting the health, welfare, and habitability of the City.

A 2030 carbon neutrality without offsets goal has already been set by the country of Norway and the cities of Irvine, Petaluma, Ann Arbor, and others, and proposed by the European Commission for 100 cities in Europe, also Governor Newsom has directed the California Air Resources Board to evaluate statewide pathways to carbon neutrality by 2035 and the California Public Utilities Commission to establish a more ambitious GHG reduction target for electricity procurement by 2030. The City’s success will be integral to the State’s.

The City successfully piloted the CCC’s Cool Blocks predecessor in 2016-2017 and, as one of the leading global cities on climate action and influence, should pursue the aggressive carbon neutrality by 2030 without offsets target.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City’s Departments, including proprietaries, be directed/requested to work with, as needed, the City’s Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, and the LA Cool City Challenge team, and report back before the end of 2022 on a robust, world-leading plan to achieve the moonshot goal of carbon neutrality without offsets in Los Angeles by 2030.



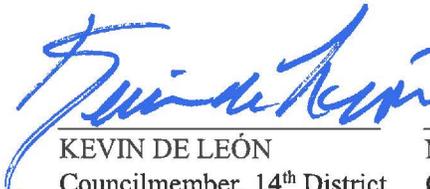
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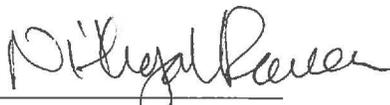
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I FURTHER MOVE that the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office and the Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission, assisted by the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Administrative Officer, be directed to work with community stakeholders and Neighborhood Councils participating in the Cool City Challenge Initiative; and assess their local climate change mitigation plans to ensure equity, environmental justice, and protection of the long-term habitability of the City.

I FURTHER MOVE that community stakeholders and Neighborhood Councils (NC) in the City be encouraged to participate in the Cool City Challenge, and NCs be requested to provide at least two (2) Cool Block leaders for each NC district, to implement hyper-local climate change mitigation and neighborhood resilience efforts.

PRESENTED BY: 
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SECONDED BY: 