

DRAFT FOR EQC REVIEW (2/9/17)

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO COMPLETE THE CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING PROCESS LEADING TO A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

WHEREAS, in 2005 the City Council adopted Resolution 2005-103 committing the City of Northfield, Minnesota to participate in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign to undertake the Cities for Climate Protection Program's five milestones to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions throughout the community. Milestone 1 was completed in 2005 by RENew Northfield; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the City council adopted Resolution 2007-052 to establish the Northfield Energy Task Force (NETF) to research and make recommendations concerning the community's energy future. These recommendations are consolidated in *With Hope: A Resilient Community* - several have been instituted; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's Next Generation Energy Act of 2007 set targets for energy conservation, renewable energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. The Next Generation Energy Act set a goal that would reduce GHG emissions in 2015 to a level 15% below the 2005 level, and also for 2025 and 2050 emissions levels to be 30% and 80%, respectively, below the 2005 emission levels (Minn. Stat. § 216H.02); and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Session Laws 2008, Chapter 356, Section 13 directed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Office of Energy Security in the Department of Commerce, in collaboration with Clean Energy Resource Teams to recommend municipal actions and policies that work toward meeting the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals; and,

WHEREAS, in 2008 the City Council adopted Resolution 2008-139, the 2008 Comprehensive Plan, which contains 32 environmental strategies to implement to achieve better conservation and energy efficiency practices to reduce greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 and 2011 the City Council of the city of Northfield, Minnesota approved Resolution 2010-049 and Resolution 2011-041 to participate in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Clean Energy Resource Teams Minnesota GreenStep Cities program, whereby the city of Northfield has taken significant steps using cost-effective sustainable development best practices to work toward reducing Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, in January 2014 Northfield community groups, colleges, local and state elected officials hosted a regional climate summit with over 900 registrants resulting in community-wide discussion and actions including creation of the Greater Northfield Sustainability Collaborative (GNSC); and

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield, Carleton and St. Olaf colleges, residents, churches, and businesses have significantly mobilized in the direction of energy efficiency, conservation, and clean and renewable energy acquisition, demonstrating our community's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Our community has, in effect, already begun the climate action planning process; and

WHEREAS, in August of 2016, the City of Northfield's Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) approved creation the Northfield Energy Working Group (NEWG) in order to renew efforts to secure a sustainable energy future for generations to come. The NEWG is updating annual carbon emissions calculations, working to advance public education and awareness of building energy use in

DRAFT FOR EQC REVIEW (2/9/17)

Northfield, and has presented an initial summary of a climate action plan comparison study to the EQC that outlines best practices; and

WHEREAS, in January 2017, the EQC passed a resolution and submitted it to the Mayor recommending that she sign the Compact of Mayors on behalf of the City of Northfield; and

WHEREAS, in January 2017, the EQC directed the NEWG to draft a resolution outlining the steps that need to be taken for the City of Northfield and community members to write their own Climate Action Plan (CAP). A plan that will reduce Northfield's greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, while generation of a successful community-wide climate action plan (CAP) and its implementation will take significant time and effort from the City of Northfield staff and dedicated community groups, the City of Northfield and community continue to take actionable steps now to reduce greenhouse gases.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTHFIELD CITY COUNCIL TO DIRECT CITY STAFF AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION (EQC) TO WORK WITH QUALIFIED COMMUNITY GROUPS TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AS FOLLOWS:

PHASE I PREPLANNING

Core city and community groups (e.g. EQC, NEWG, GNSC) shall gather to:

- A. Build city, community, and regional commitment and partnerships. The development of a successful plan requires committed city staff and resources as well as broad community expertise and engagement.
- B. Establish the goals of the plan. Ensure that they fit within the State of Minnesota and ICLEI/Compact of Mayors greenhouse gas reduction targets and standards.
- C. Invite and assemble the Climate Action Team (CAT), to include expertise from City staff, City boards and commissions, the environmental, social services, religious, business and education communities, subject matter experts, and other key participants.
- D. Facilitate climate action planning education for all CAT members.
- E. Define CAT member roles and sub-committees as required.
- F. Develop timeline and logistics of the plan such as funding, staff allocations, consultant use, and other support structures.
- G. Audit existing state and community-wide policies and programs to highlight successes and build upon climate action progress to date.
- H. Conduct community-wide emissions inventory using the Compact of Mayors standard.

PHASE II DEVELOPING THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Climate Action Team will:

- A. Review the community-wide emissions inventory and establish a forecast.
- B. Refine plan vision and goals and establish emissions reduction targets.
- C. Develop strategies that are linked to forecasts and targets.
- D. Identify how each strategy will be accomplished with a defined timeline, cost, and lead entity(s).

PHASE III IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING

The Climate Action Team will:

- A. Identify by whom, how, and when each strategy will be implemented.
- B. Create a monitoring plan
- C. Create a reporting schedule, including who, what, when and how.
- D. Periodically update and revise the plan as needed.