



Legislation Text

File #: Res. 2020-102, **Version:** 1

City Council Meeting Date: October 20, 2020

To: Mayor and City Council
City Administrator

From: Beth Kallestad, Program Coordinator

Consider Resolution Establishing Carbon Reduction Fund.

Action Requested:

The Northfield City Council approves the attached Resolution - Approving the Creation of a Carbon Reduction Fund.

Summary Report:

Climate Change Impacts is one of the six priorities of the City of Northfield's 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. The Northfield City Council adopted the Climate Action Plan (CAP) on November 5, 2019 with a goal of being 100% carbon free by 2040. For the purposes of the CAP carbon free refers to a carbon neutral scenario where carbon dioxide emissions from human activity are eliminated and/or offset by removing emissions from the atmosphere through sequestration in trees and soil, as well as using energy sources that are considered carbon neutral.

In order to fund some of the strategies in the CAP, especially those focused on carbon sequestration, staff are proposing the creation of a Carbon Reduction Fund through the City Finance Department. Establishment of this Fund would allow for an alternative source of revenue for projects and not put an additional burden on the general operating fund. Residents, business, and any other interested parties, including the City, could make contributions into this fund. The funds would be used to finance projects such as tree planting, turf to native plants and, and other projects as they arise to help Northfield achieve our 100% carbon free by 2040 goal.

As an example, in 2019 the City applied for a grant, which was not awarded, to help fund the cost of replacing trees on public land/boulevard areas that are dead or diseased. The estimated cost is approximately \$500 per tree when installed using a commercial contractor. On average there are 100 trees that need replacement per year. At this time the City budget is not able to support replacing all of them.

The Environmental Quality Commission reviewed this resolution at their September 16, 2020 meeting and passed a motion of support recommending Council approve the resolution.

Alternative Options:

No fund is established. Continue to use general operating funds and seek grants to potentially fund projects.

Financial Impacts:

Staff time to administer collection and distribution of funds.

Tentative Timelines:

Creation of fund after Council approval - October 31, 2020

Develop policies outlining use of funds - November 30, 2020

Begin promotion of funds in the community - December 2020

Begin to receive fund contributions - January 1, 2021