

Resolution No. 31346

A RESOLUTION in support of reducing greenhouse gas pollution, requesting the Environmental Protection Agency to use the Clean Air Act to enforce tighter controls on greenhouse gas emissions.

The City of Seattle – Legislative Department

Resolution sponsored by: Richard Conlin

Committee Action:

Date	Recommendation	Vote

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council. _____

Full Council Action:

Date	Decision	Vote
12.12.11	Adopted	8-0
		TR excused

Related Legislation File: _____

Date Introduced and Referred: Dec. 12, 2011	To: (committee): Full Council for Introduction and
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee): Adoption
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date of Final Action: 12.12.11	Date Presented to Mayor: 12.14.11
Date Signed by Mayor: Dec. 19, 2011	Date Returned to City Clerk: Dec. 19, 2011
Published by Title Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date Returned Without Concurrence:
Published in Full Text _____	

RESOLUTION 31346

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2 A RESOLUTION in support of reducing greenhouse gas pollution, requesting the Environmental
3 Protection Agency to use the Clean Air Act to enforce tighter controls on greenhouse gas
4 emissions.

5 WHEREAS, the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record, and 2005 and 2010 tied
6 for the hottest years on record; and

7 WHEREAS, the current level of CO2 in the atmosphere is approximately 392 parts per million
8 (ppm); and

9 WHEREAS, one of the world's leading climate scientists, Dr. James Hansen, stated in 2008: "If
10 humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to
11 which life on Earth is adapted, paleoclimate evidence and climate change suggest that CO2
12 will need to be reduced from its current 385 ppm to at most 350ppm"; and

13 WHEREAS, as early as the 1850s, scientists began predicting that greenhouse gases from burning
14 fossil fuels would eventually lead to the warming of the Earth's surface; and

15 WHEREAS, the current international pledges to address the climate crisis are so weak that they
16 could result in 770 ppm CO2 by 2100, a concentration of CO2 incompatible with human life
17 as we know it; and

18 WHEREAS, 97 percent of scientific experts are convinced that human activity is responsible for
19 climate change and there is a growing consensus among researchers that reducing
20 atmospheric concentrations of CO2 to 350 ppm or below as soon as possible is needed to
21 avoid risking catastrophic and irreversible climate change; and

22 WHEREAS, according to the Global Humanitarian Forum climate change is already responsible
23 every year for some 300,000 deaths, 325 million people seriously affected, and economic
24 losses worldwide of \$125 billion; and

25 WHEREAS, extreme weather events are striking with increased frequency, with
26 deleterious consequences for people and wildlife; in the United States alone:

- 27 • 2005 had the most hurricanes on record since 1851;
- 28 • blizzards plagued the Northeast during the winter of 2011;
- intense rainfall and snowmelt forced the Mississippi River to overflow its
banks across the Midwest and South in summer 2011;
- the unprecedented 2011 Texas drought lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture to
declare the entire state a natural disaster zone;
- heat waves scorched the Midwest and East in summer 2011, with many cities
hitting record-high temperatures and for example, Oklahoma on pace to break its
record for days over 100 degrees; and



1 WHEREAS, climate change is threatening food security as crop growth and yields diminish and
2 droughts, floods and changes in snowpack depth are disrupting water supplies; and

3 WHEREAS, scientists have concluded that by 2100 as many as one in 10 species may be on the
4 verge of extinction due to climate change with many animals and plants already losing their
5 habitats and food sources, struggling to move poleward and upward to keep pace with our
6 changing climate, shifting their timing of breeding and migration patterns, and disappearing
7 as populations die out; and

8 WHEREAS, the oceans have become 30 percent more acidic since the industrial revolution due to
9 their uptake of carbon dioxide, which is harming ocean life from shellfish to corals as they
10 struggle to build the shells and skeletons they need to survive; and

11 WHEREAS, the world's ice is rapidly melting, threatening water supplies, raising sea levels, and
12 jeopardizing ice-dependent animals, like the polar bear and walrus, so severely that Arctic
13 summer sea ice is half the area and thickness it was several decades ago, alpine glaciers are
14 in near-global retreat, and the giant Greenland and west Antarctic ice sheets are melting at
15 an accelerating pace; and

16 WHEREAS, according to Scientific American, sea level is rising faster along the U.S. East Coast
17 than it has for at least 2,000 years, and is accelerating in pace, threatening coastal wildlife
18 and the 40 percent of the world's population that lives within 60 miles of the coast; and

19 WHEREAS, for four decades, the Clean Air Act has protected the air we breathe through a proven,
20 comprehensive, successful system of pollution control that saves lives and creates economic
21 benefits exceeding its costs by many times; and

22 WHEREAS, with the Clean Air Act, air quality in this country has improved significantly since
23 1970, despite major growth both in our economy and industrial production; and

24 WHEREAS, between 1970 and 1990, the six main pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act —
25 particulate matter and ground-level ozone (both of which contribute to smog and asthma),
26 carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur and nitrogen oxides (the acid gases that cause acid rain) —
27 were reduced by between 47 percent and 93 percent, and airborne lead was virtually
28 eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at \$2 trillion or 30 times the
cost of regulation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Massachusetts vs. EPA (2007) that greenhouse gases
are "air pollutants" as defined by the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection
Agency has the authority to regulate them; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act can work immediately to curb greenhouse gas pollution without new
climate legislation or in conjunction with new climate legislation; and



1 WHEREAS, The City prides itself on being a leader in the fight against climate change and for
2 clean air, including:

- 3 • In 2005, the City showed national leadership by launching the Mayor's Climate
4 Protection Agreement through the U.S. Council of Mayors, with over 1,000 cities
5 signing to date that they would strive to meet the greenhouse gas reduction targets of
6 the Kyoto Agreement;
- 7 • In 2005, the City's municipally-owned electric utility became the nation's first
8 carbon neutral utility;
- 9 • In 2006, the City adopted its first Climate Action Plan with a goal of reducing
10 emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012, and that the City had reached that
11 reduction target by 2008;
- 12 • In 2010, the City Council adopted a goal to become a carbon neutral city by 2050.

13 NOW THEREFORE,

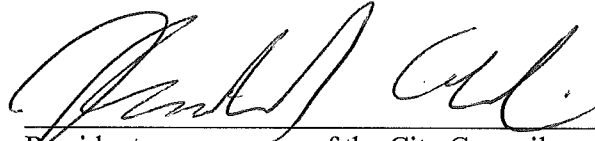
14 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
15 **MAYOR CONCURRING:**

16 Section 1. Climate change is not an abstract problem for the future or one that will only
17 affect far-distant places but rather climate change is happening now, we are causing it, and the
18 longer we wait to act, the more we lose and the more difficult the problem will be to solve; and we,
19 the Seattle City Council, on behalf of the residents of Seattle, do hereby urge the Environmental
20 Protection Agency to move swiftly to fully employ and enforce the Clean Air Act to do our part to
21 reduce carbon in our atmosphere to no more than 350 parts per million.
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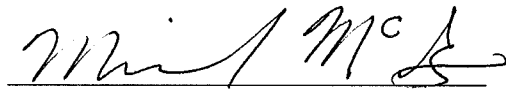
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Adopted by the City Council the 12th day of December, 2011, and signed by me
in open session in authentication of its adoption this 12th day of December, 2011.




President _____ of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:



Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this 19th day of December, 2011.



City Clerk

(Seal)



FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Legislative Department	Ben Noble/684-8160	

Legislation Title: A RESOLUTION in support of reducing greenhouse gas pollution, requesting the Environmental Protection Agency to use the Clean Air Act to enforce tighter controls on greenhouse gas emissions.

Summary of the Legislation:

This legislation requests that EPA use the Clean Air Act as a regulatory mechanism to control greenhouse gas emissions.

Background:

The City has taken a number of steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a local level, but also recognizes that comparable measures need to be taken at both the state, national and international level.

Please check one of the following:

X **This legislation does not have any financial implications.**

(Please skip to "Other Implications" section at the end of the document and answer questions a-h. Earlier sections that are left blank should be deleted. Please delete the instructions provided in parentheses at the end of each question.)

 This legislation has financial implications.

(If the legislation has direct fiscal impacts (e.g., appropriations, revenue, positions), fill out the relevant sections below. If the financial implications are indirect or longer-term, describe them in narrative in the "Other Implications" Section. Please delete the instructions provided in parentheses at the end of each title and question.)



STATE OF WASHINGTON – KING COUNTY

--SS.

279523
CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

No.

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:31340,43&46 TITLE ONLY

was published on

12/30/11

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ 40.95, which amount has been paid in full.



Affidavit of Publication

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

12/30/11

Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle

The full text of the following legislation, passed by the City Council on December 12, 2011, and published below by title only, will be mailed upon request, or can be accessed at <http://clerk.seattle.gov>. For information on upcoming meetings of the Seattle City Council, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/council/calendar>. Contact: Office of the City Clerk at (206) 684-8344.

RESOLUTION NO. 31340

A RESOLUTION setting forth the 2012 State Legislative Agenda of the City of Seattle.

RESOLUTION NO. 31343

A RESOLUTION revising certain City Council rules and procedures; adopting a new set of Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council to supersede those adopted by Resolution 31171 and amended by Resolution 31205.

RESOLUTION NO. 31346

A RESOLUTION in support of reducing greenhouse gas pollution, requesting the Environmental Protection Agency to use the Clean Air Act to enforce tighter controls on greenhouse gas emissions.

Publication ordered by the City Clerk
Date of publication in the Seattle Daily
Journal of Commerce, December 30, 2011.
12/30(279523)