

MOTION TO WRITE A COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY COUNCIL MOTION TO DEVELOP PLANS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Full Proposal

Severe weather patterns caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have resulted in the loss of life, billions of dollars annually and with severe destabilizing consequences globally.

UCLA's Climate Report for the City of Los Angeles predicts that unless GHG emissions are reduced, by 2050 Los Angeles will have triple the number of extreme heat days and these numbers will quadruple by the end of the century. In addition, by 2050, we will see up to a 43% reduction in snowfall, and up to 66% by the end of the century. A 2014 UN report on climate change indicated that only an intensive push to reduce GHG emissions over the next 15 years will divert these scenarios. The scientifically accepted minimum GHG reduction target is 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

These targets can be met. Several city departments are well on their way to meeting these goals including the DWP. However it will take a well planned commitment to energy efficiency, retrofits, education, rooftop solar, transportation fuel conservation and cleaner fuels, landfill waste reduction, waste conversion technologies, cool roof technologies, tree coverage, and water conservation to reduce energy needs to import water.

The motion asks for city agencies and the DWP to report back in 90 days with feasibility studies on how to meet these goals after consulting with UCLA and other experts. It recommends that the City Council ask our sister cities to adopt these targets, ask DONE to engage the neighborhood councils in these efforts, and ask the City Administrative Officer to report on the financial impact on Los Angeles of climate scenarios as temperatures rise from 3-6 degrees versus if they are held at 1990 levels, and 80% of 1990 levels.

Proposed Motion

To write a Community Impact Statement in Support of Motion 14-0907 instructing various city departments and the DWP to develop plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to determine the cost of these plans if implemented and the cost to the City if these plans are not implemented. (Full motion and community impact statement attached.)

Committee Review: For : unanimous (6)

Financial Impact: Not known

Arguments for:

#1 Argument for: To those who argue that India and China are not doing enough to cut their emissions, they should be aware that the US has a higher Co2 emissions per capita than India and China combined, according to data gathered by the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee.

Emissions per metric tons per person compiled by the World Bank 2010-2014, for the three countries are:

China 6.2 metric tons per person

India 1.7 metric tons per person

United States 17.6 metric tons person

http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC?cid=DEC_SS_WBGDataEmail_EXT

#2 Argument for: Climate change for Los Angeles is a reality as we experience our current drought. To insure that these conditions do not worsen, planning is essential to meeting GHG reductions goals. It is prudent that City departments and the DWP develop strategies and determine costs going forward.

Criticism: The motion does not specifically ask for the studies to include interim progress reports into the design of the plans.