

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Standing Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Spencer Thibodeau (D2), Chair
Councilor Belinda Ray (D1)
Councilor Jill Duson (D3)

Agenda
October 16, 2019
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

1. Review and approve minutes from September 18

- a. Review and approve minutes from September 18

2. Sustainability Program Updates

- a. Sustainability Updates

3. Presentation and Discussion

Public comment may be taken

- a. Discuss proposal to relocate the Portland Transportation Center

The current Portland Transportation Center is in need of significant investment to expand parking, improve facilities and improve train facilities. Currently in order to access the PTC, Downeaster trains need to back up and reverse into the station on a branch line, adding 15 minutes to the scheduled travel time between Brunswick and Portland. NNEPRA is looking at the potential to relocate the station to a mainline location, which would eliminate the reverse move and the time associated with it.

- b. Resolution to Support Youth Climate Strikers by Declaring a Climate Emergency

4. Other Business

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Standing Committee on Sustainability and Transportation

Councilor Spencer Thibodeau (D2), Chair

Councilor Belinda Ray (D1)

Councilor Jill Duson (At large)

Draft Minutes September 18, 2019

Members Present: Councilor Thibodeau, Councilor Ray, Councilor Duson

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Ashley Krulik, Bill Needelman, Christine Grimando, Christian Roadman

Meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM. Councilor Duson moves to approve the minutes from July 17, 2019. Councilor Ray, seconded. All those in favor of approving 3-0.

Sustainability Program Updates

Troy Moon reviewed the items on the Sustainability Program Update memo.

Coastal Resilience Overlay

Troy Moon reviewed memo issued by Sustainability Office.

Christine Grimando presented and spoke to memo issued by the Planning and Urban Development Department Planning Division.

Councilor Ray:

- Understand the goal and think it's important. This is very "carrot" centric and I feel that we may need some "sticks" to become more serious about this.
 - Ms. Grimando: yes, this was also discussed during the planning board session.
- Building heights were just changed one year ago on the Eastern waterfront - hard to embrace another change in that area
- Would want to know current building heights in every affected zones and dates of when last height changes were made to each zone and why.
- Max height allowed comes to 80.5 feet which is a significant increase - would like to see a clear comparison between current heights and new proposed increases
- Did planning board request that concerns be fleshed out?
 - Ms. Grimando - yes, second workshop next week and run by any changes by S&T Committee
- What sea level rise prediction are we preparing for?
 - Mr. Moon - Intermediate high to High

Councilor Duson:

- Interested in some discussion about differential of committing to 8.8 ft. and preparing for 8.8 ft - would like to see a difference in requirements between “committing to manage” and “preparing to manage”
- Agree that there is room for more discussion around mandate vs. incentive
- Would like to look more at how this rule change affects Bayside
- What about incentives for resiliency measures if you’re not looking to build a high building?

Councilor Thibodeau:

- My thought is incentivize, but also invest for resiliency - I would also want to see investment in resiliency efforts in affected areas
 - Councilor Ray - I agree that asking for investment in area would be a good idea.
- Generally OK with conversation about requirements

Public Comment

Tiqa Douglas - 11 Munjoy Street - Disappointed that we are incentivizing development along the waterfront - we need to control it rather than incentivize it. Old master plans show that the visibility of the waterfront of the street was a priority. Need to preserve water view and stay true to previous priorities.

Maggie Wolf - 28 St. Lawrence Street - Insurance companies require design changes to accommodate sea level rise - we should require it, not incentivize it. Also concerned about emergency preparedness with increased population on peninsula.

Barbara Vestal - 7 Fore Street - co-authored report called *Participatory Planning for Sea Level Rise Along Coastal Maine* - based on this work, oppose this measure. Agree that this should be required, not incentivized. Recommendations from her study: strengthen land use regulations, restrict uses, if development is allowed, propose performance standards to minimize cost to protect.

George Rheault - there are multiple projects that are currently underway that would benefit from this measure - feels like this process is being moved along very quickly to help these projects. Need to talk about retreat and think about how to prepare.

Cynthia Cochran - East Bayside - sent email - Troy confirmed that he received. Calculated maximum heights and think it’s very important to get analysis for every zone.

Ann Pringle - Neal Street - sea is reclaiming peninsula. Developers knew what they were doing. Stunned by 10ft. Projected sea level increase. Disparity between how to deal with existing vs. new buildings. Proposed height increases are very significant.

Jesse Thompson - Mellen Street - issue is that we are blending a story-based system and height-based limit. Should focus on stories and max height per story. Developers are not thinking about the future. In terms of working waterfront, tall first floors are a good idea. Building materials will also guide height decisions based on number of stories allowed.

Next steps:

- Go back to planning board
- All changes would come back to S&T Committee
- Review updated CRO during October meeting

Amendment to Chapter 12 of City Code, Garbage, Waste and Junk, re: banning plastic straws

Troy Moon and Ashley Krulik presented an overview of changes.

Councilor Ray

- Non-plastic alternatives definition - strike the "etc."
- Troubles me that we would not require school district to follow ordinance

Councilor Thibodeau

- Add Education and Outreach section?
 - Mr. Moon - that was a special case for the pesticide ordinance, do not suggest adding to this regulation.

Public Comment:

Chris Bettera - 3 Stevens Ave - Owns Po Boys and Pickles - alternative straws mean a large cost increase and would hurt small businesses. Not an effective approach - need to focus on cups, plates, and other larger issues. This helps large corporations and hurts small businesses.

Erin Pelletier - Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation - supports skip the straw. "Ask first" policy will cut down on quantities of straws that need to be purchased. Plastic straws cannot be recycled.

George Rowe - like this initiative, but straws are not the biggest pollution issue. Concerned that this could be a broader discussion with more community involvement. Need to focus on bigger things.

Maggie Wolf - pick up a lot of straws on East End Beach. This regulation will help people start to think more about their everyday behaviors to lead to larger changes.

Follow Up Comments:

Councilor Duson

- Experienced new sippy cup top as straw alternative - researched it and found that they use more plastic but they are recyclable, which straws are not. Not sure of cost difference.
- Support the ban

Councilor Ray

- In regards to schools - they can reduce the use of straws to combat cost
- Understand Mr. Bettera's concerns
- Suggest longer phase-in period to allow for more education
- Businesses can offer reusable straws for purchase

Councilor Thibodeau

- Asked Chris Bettera to step back up - 12,000 straws cost \$100 - how long does 12,000 straws last? Mr. Bettera - a month and a half.
 - The paper straws are \$330 for 12,000, \$230 for 12,000 for biodegradable straws
 - San Francisco had issue with alternative straws for bubble tea businesses
 - There isn't an alternative straw that would work well for a milkshake

Councilor Ray moved passage of ordinance. Seconded by Councilor Duson.

- Councilor Ray moved to remove school district exemption. Seconded by Councilor Duson.
 - All those in favor of amendment: 3-0.
- Remove "etc." from non-plastic straw alternatives definition
- Push back dates? All in favor of keeping dates as-is.
- Request Press release from Communications about ban prior to full Council vote
- Further discussion around potential bubble tea issue
- Councilor Duson - thinks a sippy-cup lid could be used for a milkshake - would like to be provided with a couple of samples to test whether it would work.
- Councilor Thibodeau - invite Phoebe to vote if it comes to full Council

Vote: all in favor of passing straw ban: 3-0.

October Meeting Agenda Items:

- Tree ordinance
- Coastal Resilience Overlay
- NRCM
- Boyd Street

November Meeting Agenda Items:

- Solar RFP
- Green Building Ordinance

Motion was made by Councilor Ray to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 pm. Motion was seconded by Councilor Thibodeau. All in favor: 3-0.

Sustainability Updates

October 2019

Climate Action Planning

City staff, One Climate Future street team members, and citizen volunteers have been continuing to conduct extensive outreach to Portland and South Portland community members to educate residents on the OCF initiative and collect responses to survey #2.

We've developed posters to exhibit in public places that residents can record comments and ideas about climate change and how our community can prepare.

We continue to send our *One Climate Future* email newsletter to 759 contacts to keep them updated on OCF news, updates, and events.

Troy presented at the Maine Public Health Association Annual Conference on October 8 about why public health professionals need to be involved in climate action planning.

Troy and Julie Rosenbach presented about One Climate Future at the passivHaus Maine conference on October 10.

Energy Benchmarking

We've been in contact with representatives from the EPA, Central Maine Power, and others to participate in a training workshop for building owners subject to the May, 2020 reporting deadline. We're preparing a postcard to mail to affected businesses later this fall to remind them of the ordinance and alert them to the training opportunity. It seems to make sense to hold the workshop in February once the businesses will be able to access their 2019 data.

Solar

See separate memo.

Air Quality Testing

City staff visited locations on the waterfront to identify the best spots to install the sensors. We found one location on the western waterfront and another on the eastern waterfront. DEP will be installing the testing units within the next two weeks.

Ocean Avenue Landfill Water Testing

The Department of Public Works completed its water testing in July. Results were substantially similar to results from previous years.

Plastic Straw Ordinance

Council to vote on the straw ordinance on October 21.

Outreach and Events

See *Climate Action Planning* update for *One Climate Future* outreach events.

We continue regular social media posts. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram at @sustainableportlandme We invite people to participate in One Climate Future by visiting the webpage at www.oneclimatefuture.org



CITY OF PORTLAND
Sustainability Office
Troy Moon
Sustainability Coordinator

To: Councilor Thibodeau and Members of the Sustainability and Transportation Committee
From: Troy Moon, Sustainability Coordinator
Re: Solar Consortium RFP
Date: October 11, 2019

As we have reported previously, the solar legislation passed in the Maine Legislature last session has presented the City and other institutions with opportunities to explore cost effective solar projects. Our energy procurement consultant, Competitive Energy Services, has put together a consortium including many of their large customers that are interested in participating in a joint Request for Proposals for the development of solar projects. Participants include the City of Portland and Portland Schools, the UMaine System, LL Bean, Bowdoin College, New Balance, and other well-known companies. The combined electric load of all the consortium members is large with the City's electrical load contributing about 10% of the total. We hope this aggregation will attract many very competitive bids and that all benefit participants will benefit by being early participants in the market. We believe that later participants will receive substantially less attractive offers.

The timeline of CES's process is below:

Event	Date and time
RFP Release Date	September 19, 2019
Deadline for Bidder Questions	October 10, 2019 at 5 PM EDT
Consortium Response to Bidder Questions	October 18, 2019
Proposal Due Date via email	October 31, 2019 at 2 PM EDT
Expected Contract Execution Date	First quarter 2020

Once CES receives the proposals they will begin vetting the developers and their proposals. They will assign projects to consortium participants depending on the specific needs of each participant. We will have an opportunity to review the proposals that come to us and make decisions about whether to proceed on a case-by-case basis. I anticipate that we will have multiple proposals from a variety of developers to review. Ideally, we will find good proposals to cover up to 70% of the City and School electrical load. It will

depend on the number and quality of responses we receive whether it turns out that way. At this point we need to wait to see how the process unfolds.

Several knowledgeable advisers indicated that we should enter the market quickly. Since CES has a lot of experience with this type of solar procurement we believe joining the consortium is our best opportunity to move to solar in a big way - up to 70% of the combined City and School load.

Projects that result from this procurement will be located remotely as we lack the space to build out the 15 - 20 MWs of capacity inside the city limits. We envision taking advantage of the new Net Energy Billing Tariff for Commercial and Industrial (C&I) energy customers. This would be similar to the Ocean Avenue Landfill but instead of receiving kWh credits for the energy we produce, we would receive financial credit that we could apply to any portion of our electric bills. This will make such projects much more financially attractive.

We will keep the Committee updated as the process unfolds.

SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN MAINE

What was once described as a climate change is now a climate *crisis*. A time of crisis must be treated as an emergency.

Young people throughout Maine, the U.S., and the world are currently engaged in confronting the climate emergency that threatens the future of our planet. Maine's youth want to define concrete action steps to resolve the perils of our continued existence.

The time to act is *now*.

We wish to acknowledge and commend our state and local governments that have already launched programs to address the climate crisis. For example, Portland and South Portland are collaborating to develop their *One Climate Future* action plan. But this is just the beginning. We do not believe these efforts are being undertaken with the sense of urgency that the climate crisis demands. Nor do we believe that these efforts have been adequately resourced and funded to meet the crisis at hand. **We call upon Portland and South Portland, to declare a climate crisis within the boundaries of their governmental jurisdictions.**

We implore these two cities, Portland and South Portland, to pass a **Climate Emergency Resolution** and to make this resolution the framework for their response to the climate crisis.

We have already lost valuable time in adequately addressing the climate crisis. In Maine we have suffered under 8 years of inaction by the LePage Administration. In Washington we are losing another 4 years of inactions and policy reversals. The time has come to see the climate crisis for what it is – the most serious threat to our generation living in a world plagued by extinctions, man-made economic and natural catastrophes, and wars. Please listen to our call for urgency, focus, and immediate action.

The **Declaration of a Climate Emergency** is being demanded because the scientific evidence of the crisis is overwhelming. Here in Portland and South Portland, future generations will no longer be able to experience the “Working Waterfront” as part of the fabric that binds our community together. There will be no Working Waterfront to support. It will be devoured by the relentless rise of sea level, and the continuous destructive forces of the warming of the Gulf of Maine.

We cannot allow this to happen.

ME Youth Strikes

Climate Emergency Resolution and Action

(To be submitted to the City Councils of Portland and South Portland, Maine.)

Preamble: We assemble to support our youth and demand action on the climate crisis that is overtaking our world, our nation, our state and the local communities we call home. It is a crisis that will affect each one of us regardless of age, economic status, political affiliation, or religious belief. The consequences of not acting with a sense of urgency will disproportionately fall upon the poor and most vulnerable members of our communities, and our youth.

The young people today are calling upon all of us to embrace the climate crisis as an emergency that requires:

- A set of bold policy responses that will in ten years bring an end to the era of fossil fuels. These policies demand our collective support and are on the scale of the actions that saved our world from the ravages of World War II.
- Immediate emergency funding will implement these climate crisis policies. This is not a time to proclaim, “no new taxes.” We must be bold, creative and focused to use our collective financial resources to implement in 10 years the end of the fossil fuel era.
- Immediate emergency actions that leads to implementation of a world no longer dependent on fossil fuels. This will require assembling the human organizational infrastructure to implement the emergency policies, funding and successful implementation.

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C,” which is in itself not safe for humanity;

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to the unsafe 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the 4th Annual National Climate Assessment was released and illustrates the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy, our environment and climate stability, and underscores the need for immediate action to address a climate emergency at all levels of government;

WHEREAS, the increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts and extreme weather brought on by climate change demonstrate that the earth is too hot to be a safe environment;

WHEREAS, humanity can no longer safely emit greenhouse gasses and must demand an emergency mobilization effort to rapidly reach zero emissions across all sectors within 10 years.

NOW, BE It Further Resolved that the cities of Portland and South Portland, Maine

Resolve: Commit to take immediate actions to safeguard against the current, inevitable and potential consequences of the climate crisis. This includes specific policy goals, emergency funding to address these goals, and the mobilization of their communities to implement these goals.

Resolve: Commit to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to the mobilization planning processes, and to invite and encourage such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs;

Resolve: Commit to educating their residents about the climate emergency and organizing and advocating for a 10 year just transition through the climate emergency mobilization.

Resolve: Commit to educating their residents about the financial and regulatory needed to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible - no later than 2030.

Resolve: The cities of Portland and South Portland, Maine demand that our Federal Government, and all governments and peoples around the world to initiate an immediate social and economic mobilization to reverse global warming and ecological destruction to:

- Immediately halt the development of all new fossil fuel infrastructure.
- Rapidly phase out the use of fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them.
- End greenhouse gas emissions within 10 years.

That the City Managers of Portland and South Portland, Maine are directed to send a copy of this resolution to their state and federal legislative delegations, and to the Governor of Maine and President of the United States.



Troy Moon <thm@portlandmaine.gov>

Re: Follow-up and thank you from the 20th rally!

1 message

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Oct 7, 2019 at 9:22 AM

To: Maine Strikes <maine@youthclimatestrikeus.org>

Cc: Troy Moon <thm@portlandmaine.gov>, Lena Geraghty <lgeraghty@portlandmaine.gov>

Hi Anna,

Thank you so much for your email. I share your enthusiasm for the thousands of young people who stood on the steps of City Hall a few weeks ago.

As you may know, we have moved the resolution forward to the City Council's Sustainability Committee for discussion later this month. We hope you will be able to attend the meeting. I am copying Troy Moon on this email as he is the staff person for the Sustainability Committee.

Thank you again for your leadership.

Jon

On Thu, Oct 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM Maine Strikes <maine@youthclimatestrikeus.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Jennings,

Thank you if you came to the Portland climate strike and rally last Friday. It was a powerful event, with over 2,000 in attendance. Speakers from middle school to college inspired the crowd, and chants echoed off the walls of City Hall.

Personally, I will always remember one moment: when two middle-schoolers handed Mayor Strimling and attending council members our demands and the Climate Emergency Resolution and then we shook hands. I felt as though we were making progress.

The climate crisis seems like a large-scale, abstract concept. How do you tackle such an issue? By local change, and local policy. Small steps to go miles. For those who were unable to make it to the rally on Friday, the Climate Emergency Resolution is an example of those steps. For reference it is attached to this email.

Thanks again for your consideration of this Resolution and your attendance at the rally.

Sincerely,

Anna Siegel
(She/her)
ME Strikes
US Youth Climate Strikes
(8th grade, Friends School of Portland)

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US Youth Climate Strikes
Maine Branch

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Jon P. Jennings
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Twitter: @portlandmanager

10/11/2010

10/11/2010

Re: Follow up and thank you from the 2010 rally

10/11/2010

Dear [Name],
I hope you are well. I was very happy to hear from you and to see that you were able to attend the rally. It was a great day and we were very glad to have you there. I will be in touch with you again soon.

10/11/2010

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10/11/2010

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Troy Moon <thm@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Why a Climate Emergency Resolution?

Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Oct 7, 2019 at 9:22 AM

To: Troy Moon <thm@portlandmaine.gov>, Lena Geraghty <lgeraghty@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Maine Strikes** <maine@youthclimatestrikeus.org>

Date: Thu, Oct 3, 2019 at 7:04 PM

Subject: Why a Climate Emergency Resolution?

To: <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Mr. Jennings,

These are our thoughts as to why we are asking you to support the Climate Emergency Resolution.

WHY THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF PORTLAND AND SOUTH PORTLAND

The declaration of a Climate Emergency is being demanded by our youth because the scientific evidence of the crisis is overwhelming. What was once described as climate change is now a climate crisis. This crisis must be treated as an emergency.

- Young people throughout the Portland area, the state and the world are confronting the climate emergency that threatens the future of our planet. Our youth want to define concrete action steps to resolve the perils of our continued existence.
- The time has come to see the climate crisis for what it is – the most serious threat to our generation living in a world plagued by extinctions, man-made economic and natural catastrophes, and wars.
- Here in Portland and South Portland, future generations will no longer be able to experience the “Working Waterfront” as part of the fabric that binds our communities together. There will be no Working Waterfront to support. It will be devoured by the relentless rise of sea level, and the continuous destructive forces of the warming of the Gulf of Maine.
- We implore the two cities, Portland and South Portland, to pass a Climate Emergency Resolution and to make this resolution the framework for their response to the climate crisis and the work that is being done through the One Climate Future project.
- Entering emergency mode is the critical first step to launching the comprehensive mobilization required to rescue and rebuild civilization, including a just transition. This declaration of a Climate Emergency calls upon all governments to reach zero emissions and begin carbon drawdown at emergency speed (10 years or less).
- We understand that this is faster and broader than the timeline currently proposed by our Governor who has pledged Maine will have a carbon-neutral economy by 2045. It is one of the most ambitious pronouncements by any governor in the country. However, it is not in alignment with the scientific evidence that Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager who spoke of this scientific evidence when she addressed the United Nations. She stated “... *cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5 degrees [Celsius], and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control. You are failing us. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. Right here, right now is where we draw the line.*”
- Portland and South Portland can create local solutions that eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and build a fairer economy, taking crucial steps toward a future of hope and community. You can break the deadly silence around the climate emergency by encouraging cities elsewhere to declare climate emergencies and commit to responding at emergency speed to restore a safe climate.

WHAT DOES THE RESOLUTION SAY?

- This resolution is a call for mobilizing and educating the South Portland community to respond to this emergency crisis.
- This resolution proclaims that South Portland is part of a global movement to deal with the climate crisis.
- This resolution proclaims solidarity with the [41 other US cities and towns](#) that have passed this resolution by expressing the aspirations of the community to deal with this crisis.
- This resolution proclaims we must end the era of fossil fuels and calls upon all governments around the world to act now to act upon this goal within the 10 year framework.
- This resolution calls for keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to the mobilization planning processes, and to invite and encourage such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs;
- This resolution calls for educating South Portland residents about the climate emergency and for the need to organize within a 10 year just transition framework.
- This resolution calls for educating South Portland residents about the financial and regulatory needs that will be required to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible within a 2030 framework.

WHAT DOES THE RESOLUTION NOT SAY?

- This resolution does not replace the current climate action and adaptation policy goals that have been formally adopted, or will be adopted, through the *One Climate Future* action planning process. Setting these local goals are not a part of this resolution. **But it does raise the question of whether the current goals are the right ones given the scientific evidence that demands a Climate Emergency.** The

discussion about goals and timeframes should be part of the community dialogue that is now taking place through the *One Climate Future* program.

- This resolution does not stand in the way of the Governor of Maine, Janet Mills, from setting targets that have goals to be reached by 2045. **But it does raise the question of whether the 2045 goals are vigorous enough to respond to the scientific evidence that demands a Climate Emergency.** Nothing prevents the cities of Portland and South Portland, and other local governments in Maine, from aligning their goals with the scientific evidence that demands actions by 2030.

Thank you for your time,

Anna Siegel
(she/her)
ME Strikes
US Youth Climate Strikes

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US Youth Climate Strikes
Maine Branch

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Twitter: @portlandmanager



Troy Moon <thm@portlandmaine.gov>

Staff recommended climate resolution amendment question

Cassie Cain <cassie@350maine.org>

Mon, Oct 7, 2019 at 7:55 AM

To: jrosenbach@southportland.org, smorelli@southportland.org

Cc: Anna Siegel <annas@friendsschoolportland.org>, Cmorgan@southportland.org, klewis@southportland.org, mpride@southportland.org, acaricchio@southportland.org, ddhalac@southportland.org, shenderson@southportland.org, Mbeecher@southportland.org, jpi@portlandmaine.gov, THM@portlandmaine.gov, estrimling@portlandmaine.gov, bsr@portlandmaine.gov, sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov, bbatson@portlandmaine.gov, jcosta@portlandmaine.gov, kcook@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, nmm@portlandmaine.gov, jduson@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Julie and Scott,

I hope this email finds you both well. This is Anna Siegel, the state lead for Maine Youth Climate Strikes, and Cassie Cain, the youth organizer for the recent Portland Global Climate Strike.

We saw the agenda for Tuesday's City Council meeting and have read over the staff recommended Resolution Supporting Accelerated Climate Action. **We are requesting that a few amendments are made to this resolution before tomorrow evening so that it reflects messaging that youth feel comfortable with.** We do not feel comfortable supporting the staff resolution as it currently stands, as it lacks the important timeline of phasing out fossil fuels by 2030 and was drafted without youth consultation. We are especially concerned by this as we were given no notice of the staff resolution and that it's text could potentially replace the youth resolution. **Are there any procedures that can occur so that these amendments are adopted in the staff resolution and can be in front of the South Portland Council on Tuesday?**

The 2030 timeline is extremely critical to the youth climate movement, as it is the only timeline that gives youth a shot at a livable future. The 2030 timeline has not only been deemed necessary by Maine youth climate activists, but also backed nationally, as seen in the [national youth demands](#) released for the September climate strikes. This is part of the reason why youth demanded that a Climate Emergency Resolution with a 2030 timeline be passed in South Portland and Portland, to demand urgent climate action that reflects the well being of youth and frontline communities. As stated in the youth resolution's preamble, "The consequences of not acting with a sense of urgency will disproportionately fall upon the poor and most vulnerable members of our communities, and our youth." **We are making this request to ensure that youth voices will be truly centered in these conversations and that the urgency youth are demanding will be taken into account tomorrow.**

This is not "just another" call for climate action. Looking beyond the resolution, our goal is simple: to have the cities of South Portland and Portland declare a climate emergency. By doing so, we would be standing in solidarity with [41 other cities in the US, 1080 local governments around the world, and over 265 million people who have declared a climate emergency](#). To quote Aesop: "united we stand, divided we fall."

We have attached a document highlighting our amendments in red and hope to hear back from you soon about whether these changes will be made for tomorrow's meeting.

We sincerely thank you and the cities of South Portland and Portland for the work you have done so far for our climate. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like more information. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Best,

Anna Siegel and Cassie Cain

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Cassie Cain (she/her/hers)
Youth Engagement Coordinator
100% Clean Renewable Energy for Maine Campaign Coordinator
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Youth Amendments to Staff Recommended Resolution .pdf
23K

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Staff recommended climate resolution amendment question

The City of Portland is currently reviewing a proposed amendment to the City Charter, which would change the way the City Council is elected. The amendment would change the number of Council members from 12 to 15, and would change the way the Council is elected from a single district to a multi-member district. The amendment would also change the way the Council is elected from a single district to a multi-member district. The amendment would also change the way the Council is elected from a single district to a multi-member district.

What is the question?

The question is whether the City Council should be changed from 12 to 15 members, and whether the Council should be elected from a single district to a multi-member district.

The City Council is currently made up of 12 members, who are elected from a single district. The City Council is responsible for making decisions about the City's budget, and for overseeing the City's operations. The City Council is also responsible for making decisions about the City's policies, and for overseeing the City's programs. The City Council is currently made up of 12 members, who are elected from a single district. The City Council is responsible for making decisions about the City's budget, and for overseeing the City's operations. The City Council is also responsible for making decisions about the City's policies, and for overseeing the City's programs.

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Dear Mr. Thibodeau,
Ms. Ray, & Ms. Duson,

I support the Climate
Emergency Declaration
presented at the
Climate Youth Summit
this month. Taking steps
to secure a Carbon-neutral
city/state and country
should be at the fore-
front of our agenda!

Sarah Johnson
04096

Dear Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Duson & Ms. Ray,
I support the climate emergency
declaration presented by students
at the youth strike. I'm a
citizen of Portland and mother of
a three year old, and I urge you
to act quickly and decisively on
this issue. We're running out
of time to make the future
of Portland as wonderful as its
present.

Sincerely,
Lauren
Hamlin

Dear Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Ray,
Ms. Duson,

I support the Elingste
Emergency Declaration presented
by students at the Youth Climate
Strike. The kids have
spoken loud and clear - it is
time now to take real action
to end the fossil fuel era. Portland
is already doing good things!
Let's build on our success and
pass the Climate Emergency
Declaration. Sincerely,
101 Bay St
Portland ME 04107
Caitlin Hopfall

Dear City Councilors Thibodeau, Ray,
and Osion,

I am writing to voice my support
for the Climate Emergency
Resolution presented at the recent
climate strike. We need to take
bold actions in order to avert
catastrophic climate change, and to
ensure future generations can grow
up in a world that's worth inheriting.

Thank you,
Byron Marshall
101 Bay St
Portland ME 04107



member of the
Sustainability Committee
389 Congress St
Portland ME 04101

Dear Mr Costa,

I support the Climate Emergency Declaration presented by students at the youth Climate Strike - with the goal of making Portland carbon neutral by 2020. It's just exactly the kind of thing we can wearily say, 'well, it's just not realistic.' But in 10 years, my young kids will just be entering middle school. How will we answer them then? Sorry, kids, preparing responsible for your future just wasn't realistic, please pass the Climate Emergency for a thriving Portland then and now. Sincerely, Caitlin Morrill



CITY OF PORTLAND
Sustainability Office
Troy Moon
Sustainability Coordinator

To: Councilor Thibodeau and members of the Sustainability and Transportation Committee
From: Troy Moon, Sustainability Coordinator
Re: Climate Strike / Climate Emergency Declaration
Date: October 11, 2019

On September 20, 2019 youth activists around the globe participated in a strike to underscore the urgent need for climate action and to demand that governments at all levels take immediate action to work harder to ensure that future generations inherit a planet they can live on. Here in Maine, Climate Strikers have asked the City Council in both Portland and South Portland to declare a climate emergency. Their resolution asks both cities to accelerate the pace of local climate action and to advocate for policies at the State and Federal level to end carbon emissions by 2030. The South Portland City Council took up the proposed resolution on October 8, 2019, and declared a climate emergency. Our City Manager, Jon Jennings, has asked the Sustainability and Transportation Committee to take up the Climate Emergency resolution on October 16.

Current Climate Goals

The City of Portland, the City of South Portland, and the State of Maine have recently established goals for climate action:

City Goals and Timeline: Reduce citywide greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050 and transition to 100% clean renewable energy for municipal operations by 2040.

State Goals: Derive 80% of Maine's electricity from renewable resources by 2030; and 100% by 2050. Reduce gross annual greenhouse gas emissions to at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2030; and at least 80% by 2050.

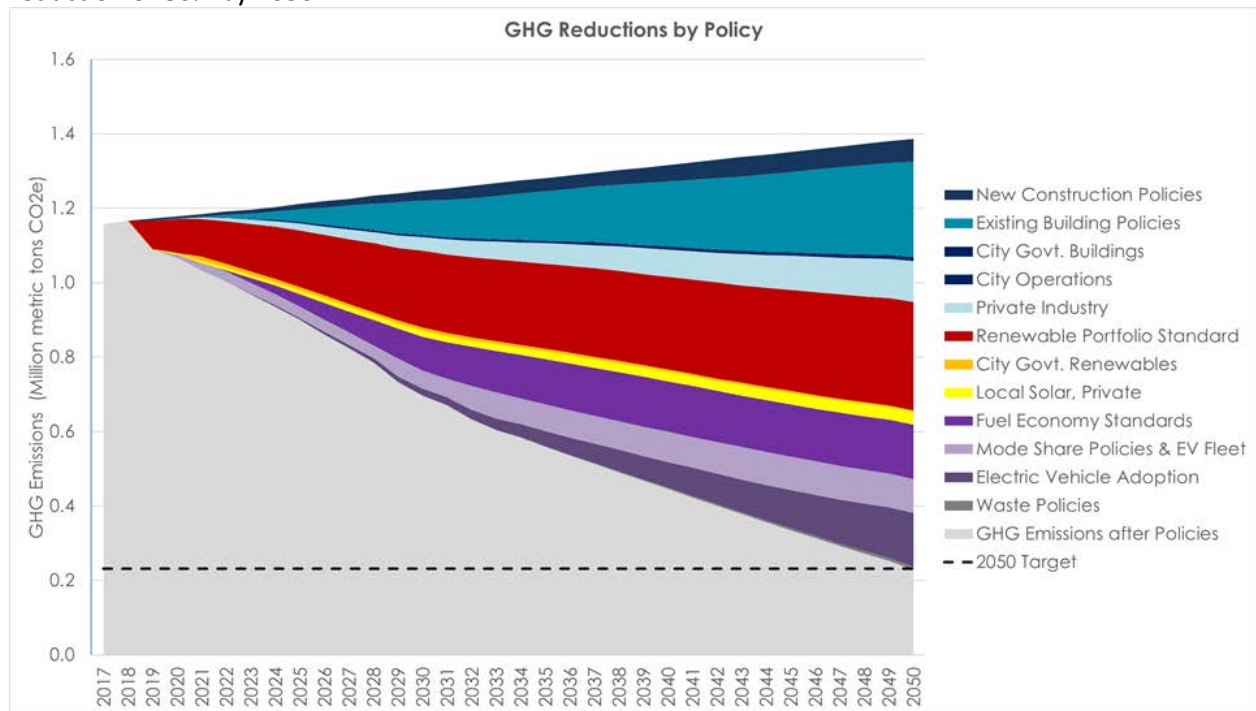
These goals are in line with the City's commitment to the Mayors National Climate Agenda, whereby both Cities pledged to take actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a manner consistent with the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement. The goals adopted at the City level are in line with state goals and are ambitious. They have already led to initiatives such as the conversion of the City's streetlights to energy efficient LED technology and the development of solar arrays on the Ocean Avenue Landfill, the Jetport Parking Canopy, and at the Riverside Golf Course. The goals also led to the creation of One Climate Future (OCF) -- the joint climate action and adaptation planning process with the City of South Portland designed to chart a course to achieve the climate goals established by the City Councils. This collaborative approach serves as a model for other communities by modelling a cross jurisdictional approach to climate action planning.

Pathway to Achieve Our Climate Goals

Over the past 10 months, the Cities have made significant progress on the development of OCF. The work began with a vulnerability assessment using recent downscaled climate models to identify local infrastructural, environmental, and socioeconomic vulnerabilities. The Cities also conducted community-wide greenhouse gas inventories to better understand the amount of CO₂ emitted by each sector of the community. The OCF consulting team and City staff are using this data to model future emissions based on an initial set of carbon mitigation strategies. While this work is currently in draft form, staff can report that the assumptions used in the model include but are not limited to:

- Adoption of a Net Zero Energy Stretch Code
- Energy efficiency retrofit rates for existing buildings in line with best programs and plans (1-2% per year, depending on building type)
- Near-complete replacement of fuel oil in residential buildings, with most converting to ASHP or other electric technologies
- 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard for electricity by 2050
- Municipal procurement of 100% renewable electricity by 2030
- Transition to all new car purchases being electric by 2050.
- Mode shift to only 50% of trips using cars (down from 82%)
- 80% waste diversion rate

Based on this, the OCF team has identified a pathway to achieve a community-wide GHG emission reduction of 80% by 2050.



As noted in the graph above, achieving an 80% reduction in carbon emissions relies on adoption of policies at the local, State, and Federal level that encourage or require residents, property owners, businesses, and industries to make their buildings highly efficient and move away from modes of transportation that require the use of fossil fuels. City level actions and policies will play important roles in achieving our goal but many actions fall outside municipal government's sphere of control. We will need to convince our partners in both the government and private sectors to take action as well. As we move forward with mitigation and adaptation strategies we should look

for opportunities to adopt clean energy systems and dramatically reduce municipal emissions in the short term.

Working together, Portland and South Portland have been successful in advocating for important new policies at the state level. Last session the Legislature and Governor Mills adopted sweeping reform of energy policy that will make large scale adoption of solar power affordable to municipalities. The State also adopted a 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard that will require Maine's electricity to be generated using 100% renewable power by 2050. These important changes will be linchpins for strategies recommended by OCF. We will also need federal-level change to achieve our goals. Additionally Portland and South Portland will need to continue working with the Federal delegation to push for similar national policies.

The (New) Climate Imperative

Predictions about the pace and expected impact of climate change grow more dire with the release of each new scientific report. The IPCC Special Report on 1.5C Global Warming, the 4th National Climate Assessment, and now IPCC Special Report on the Oceans and the Cryosphere all show that the pace of climate change is happening faster than previous studies anticipated and the impacts of climate change will challenge our ability to adapt to them. Globally, CO2 emissions continue unabated despite a clear understanding that carbon emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels are the cause of climate change. Without a rapid global transition away from carbon based fuels to carbon free and renewable energy, it will soon be impossible to cap global temperature rise at 2.0 degrees C which will lead to severe consequences for people in all parts of the world.

Climate hazard analysis conducted on behalf of the City of Portland demonstrates the anticipated local impacts of unabated carbon emissions on sea levels -- an important consideration for a coastal community. The table below, prepared as part of the Bayside Adapts study in 2017, recommends that the City commit to manage nearly 1.5 feet of sea level rise by 2050 and prepare to manage nearly 3.5 feet of sea level rise by 2100. The study further recommends that the City commit to manage nearly 4 feet of sea level rise by 2100 but be prepared to manage over 9 feet.

Year 2050		Year 2100	
	Rise in Sea Level		Rise in Sea Level
Commit to Manage	1.5 ft.	Commit to Manage	3.8 ft.
Prepare to Manage	3.4 ft.	Prepare to Manage	8.8 ft.
		Be Aware of	10.8 ft

**Source: The 'Rise in Sea Level' values are the Relative Sea Level rise values for the Intermediate, High, and Extreme scenarios for Portland, ME reported by a NOAA publication titled "Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States" (Sweet et al, 2017).*

This level of sea level rise will profoundly change the geography of Portland, particularly on the Peninsula. The map below shows the areas of the City of Portland that would face inundation by 2100 under these scenarios (which correspond to the IPCC models RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5). The green area of the map above demonstrates 4 feet of sea level rise on the Portland Peninsula while the area in blue demonstrates 9 feet of sea level rise. The red shading demonstrates areas that would be inundated under an extreme scenario where the melting of glaciers in Greenland and Antarctica accelerates rapidly leading to 11 feet of sea level rise.

DAILY HIGH TIDE LEVELS IN 2100



Limiting sea level rise to 2' - 4' by 2100 requires a concerted global effort to achieve the emissions reductions imagined in the Paris Climate Accords. It requires close to zero carbon emissions by 2050 and using carbon capture and sequestration technology to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere after that. Our current "business as usual" level approach imagines that global carbon emissions stabilize by 2100 but that emissions continue at high levels until mid century. This is a pathway that could lead to nearly 9 feet of sea level rise and a 5 degree C increase in the global average temperature.

Sea level rise is only one aspect of climate change that will impact Portland and South Portland. Others include:

- Continued warming of the Gulf of Maine and Casco Bay that will disrupt the marine environment and fisheries
- Increasingly hot weather with up to 14 days above 95 degrees F by 2050
- Increases in tick and mosquito borne diseases
- More severe storms
- Flooding resulting from storms dropping extreme amounts of precipitation in a short period of time.

Aggressive action is needed now to blunt that impact.

Transitioning away from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy will require changes at all levels of society. The course set by the City Council and Governor Mills corresponds closely with the one demanded by the Climate Strikers. They differ mainly on the timeline needed to achieve deep carbon reductions. The most recent scientific reports, however, argue that the sooner we reduce carbon emissions, the more likely we will be to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. Therefore, we should seek every opportunity to accelerate progress toward our established goals and work to implement the most impactful reduction strategies as quickly as possible. Because some of the things that must occur for the City of Portland to achieve carbon neutrality fall

outside of the municipal government's sphere of direct influence, we do not recommend that the City Council commit the City to achieving that goal by 2030. We recommend, instead, that the City commit to strengthening its efforts to educate the public about the need to reduce carbon emissions as quickly as possible. We further recommend that the City Council use its influence to advocate aggressively for climate action at the national level.

Summary of recommendations.

1. Declare a climate emergency.
2. Continue to make significant and urgent progress on our climate goals and explore options for accelerated pathways.
3. Allocate funding and resources to these goals as necessary.
4. Ensure a just planning process by engaging traditionally underrepresented groups.
5. Incorporate climate resilience into all City plans.

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)
BELINDA S. RAY (1)
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)
BRIAN E. BATSON (3)
JUSTIN COSTA (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

KIMBERLY COOK (5)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE YOUTH STRIKES FOR
EMERGENCY CLIMATE CRISIS ACTION IN MAINE**

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C,” which is in itself not safe for humanity; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the 4th Annual National Climate Assessment was released and illustrates the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy, our environment and climate stability, and underscores the need for immediate action to address a climate emergency at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to the unsafe 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years; and

WHEREAS, the increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts and extreme weather brought on by climate change demonstrate that the earth is too hot to be a safe environment; and

WHEREAS, current trends and projections show that Cumberland County can expect more frequent extreme precipitation events categorized as coastal floods, flash floods, heavy rain and tropical storms- and increased months of drought alike; and

WHEREAS, waters in Casco Bay and the Gulf of Maine are warming at a rate faster than 99% of the world’s ocean, which is projected to shift marine species, contribute to ocean acidification, and disrupt traditional fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the past five years are collectively the warmest in modern history and according to the National Weather Service, July 2019 was the hottest month on record in the Portland area, with temperatures 3.6 degrees above the average for the month; and

WHEREAS, these climate changes have cascading effects on the City’s economy, infrastructure, public health and safety, and other critical systems; and

WHEREAS, humanity can no longer safely emit greenhouse gasses and must demand an emergency

mobilization effort to rapidly reach zero emissions across all sectors; and

WHEREAS, building a climate-resilient and adaptive society will have positive impacts on the health and wellbeing of residents and businesses, and will offer protections from the adverse potential consequences of climate change to Portland's ecosystems and economies; and

WHEREAS, just climate action means that efforts must simultaneously address the specific experiences, vulnerabilities and needs of marginalized communities, and that these members of our community must be included and supported in actively engaging in climate action planning, policy, and actions; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the City has already demonstrated leadership in climate action by leading the State to restrict the use of single use packaging, adopting the Pesticide Ordinance, developing municipal solar arrays, conducting energy upgrades in municipal buildings, deploying electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, implementing an Energy Benchmarking Ordinance, undertaking neighborhood scale resiliency planning with Bayside Adapts; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2018, the Portland City Council adopted the goal of reducing citywide greenhouse emissions 80% by 2050 and on May 11, 2017, adopted the goal of using 100% clean energy in municipal operations by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is partnering with the City of South Portland to develop a regional plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the resiliency of our communities that will provide strategies to transition each community from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy, recommend a path to a zero-waste economy, prepare each City for anticipated impacts of climate change, identify policy opportunities at the state, regional and federal level to accelerate the transition to clean energy, and ensure that all strategies incorporate the needs of all members of the community in order to achieve equitable outcomes;

WHEREAS, the City Council firmly believes that Portland and the surrounding communities have the insight, drive, capacity, and resources to work for environmental justice and make transformative change, fully understanding that when we work together across social and city borders, we can build stronger networks to combat climate change in our region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is joined by a coalition of city, state, and national governments, and community and private sector leaders across the world who have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate emergency, and recognize the importance of actions to protect and enhance the well-being of current and future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Portland hereby declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, our region, our state, our nation, humanity, and the natural world and reaffirms its commitment to local climate action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council continues to support immediate actions to safeguard against the current, inevitable, and potential consequences of the climate crisis; and will set specific policy goals, provide emergency funding to address these goals, and mobilize our community to implement these goals once the *One Climate Future* plan is completed in 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs staff to continue its development of the *One Climate Future* plan, and provide options for aggressive interim targets to accelerate the reduction pathway by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The City of Portland re-commits to ensuring that the City's actions remain in alignment with the most current scientific findings regarding climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Portland City Council commit to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to the *One Climate Future* planning process, and invites and encourages those communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is directed to incorporate climate resilience policies identified in the *One Climate Future* plan in all updates of the Portland Comprehensive Plan and other City plans to ensure climate change and resiliency efforts are strong, effective, and aligned; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is directed to promote inter-departmental coordination to ensure that emergency management plans offer an aligned approach to the threats of the climate crisis and natural hazards, including but not limited to sea level rise and flooding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Portland City Council commit to educating our residents about the financial and regulatory actions needed to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible - with a priority focus on putting in place policies, programs and actions within the 2030 timeframe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council commits to educating our residents about the climate emergency and advocating for a just and accelerated transition away from fossil fuels at the local, regional, state, and national level through the climate planning process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Portland City Council demand that our federal government, and all governments and peoples around the world initiate an immediate social and economic mobilization to reverse global warming and ecological destruction by:

- Immediately halting the development of all new fossil fuel infrastructure;
- Rapidly phasing out the use of fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them; and
- Dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions within the next 10 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Portland City Council ask the City Manager to send a copy of this resolution to Portland's state and federal legislative delegations, to the Governor of Maine, and to the President of the United States.