

RESOLUTION
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND
REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the City of Bowie is committed through its actions and policies to work in partnership with its citizens, businesses and schools as active and informed stewards of the environment; to promote clean air, water and land and protect wildlife, in furtherance of the physical, environmental and economic health of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Region is experiencing the effects of climate change with rising temperatures, drier summers and a warmer Chesapeake Bay; with uncertain and possibly severe consequences to the future health and well-being of the citizens of Bowie; and

WHEREAS, both the State of Maryland and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments have issued reports on the status of climate change in Maryland, calling for local governments to lead by example; and these reports rely in part on the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which concluded that industrialized nations need to take substantial early action to stem the growth of and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, governmental bodies around the country, in partnership with the private sector, have adopted climate change and green fleet policies, and are providing public leadership benefitting the environment, operating fleets more efficiently, improving public health, and providing positive examples to the private sector; and

WHEREAS, transportation source emissions have been linked to increased incidents of asthma, exposure to benzene and other harmful chemicals, and the formation of ground level ozone all of which negatively impact the public health; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that it plays a role in improving local air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by improving the energy efficiency of its buildings and vehicle fleet and reducing emissions from fleet operations, and that encouraging participation from the public and private sectors in these areas will contribute to energy use reductions, efficiency improvements and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the City can and should reduce its contributions to these climate effects by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, thereby creating greater budgetary and operational flexibility; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that energy use associated with the operation of its motor vehicle fleet exacerbates local air quality problems and results in greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change; the City maintains a fleet of vehicles which are routinely replaced; and by improving the energy efficiency of its fleet, monetary savings will result in the long term; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted policies in Green Infrastructure Planning, Wildlife Habitat Protection and Green Building; and has developed services such as recycling and composting (through the Leaf Collection Program), and other active environmental stewardship efforts such as growth limits, bicycle trails, transit studies, hybrid car purchases, cooperative purchases of renewable energy, energy efficiency initiatives and tree planting; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to establish a "Climate Change" policy, in addition to its Green Infrastructure policy, addressing energy efficiency, consumption and alternative sources, transportation, recycling, tree canopy expansion and land use planning; and wishes to establish a "Green Fleet" policy addressing the management, operation and procurement of fleet vehicles under the control of the City of Bowie, in order to improve the energy efficiency of its fleet, reduce emissions from its fleet, and increase the capacity of the fleet to save municipal tax dollars; and by exercise of its power as a participant in the marketplace to ensure that purchases and expenditures of public monies are made in a manner consistent with the policy of improving local air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland, that the City Council commits to the following goals:

1. Build on existing policies and programs to make progress toward achieving consistent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the vulnerability of its citizens, natural resources and built environment to environmental damage and other climate change impacts; and
2. Inventory global warming greenhouse gas emissions from City operations and create an action plan to achieve reductions in City greenhouse gas emissions and develop a long-term goal for carbon neutrality for all government buildings; and

3. Identify best practices to support reducing overall local government energy use by 15% by 2015; place priority on the purchase Energy Star equipment for all appropriate City uses; directing staff to provide a phased plan for retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and heating systems by fall 2010, including future street lighting retrofits, and urging employees to conserve energy and save on energy costs; and
4. Manage the operation and procurement of fleet vehicles under the control of the City of Bowie in order to improve the energy efficiency of its fleet, reduce emissions from its fleet, and increase the capacity of the fleet to save municipal tax dollars and direct staff to investigate conversion of City diesel vehicles to alternative fuels and report by the next budget cycle on the cost and schedule to make such a conversion of all appropriate vehicles; and
5. Establish a municipal goal of 20% renewable energy purchase by 2015 in cooperation with other local governments in the Washington Metro area through regional cooperative purchase, to facilitate green power implementation and use and to encourage investments in clean low greenhouse gas emitting energy sources; and
6. Continue to practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program to ensure all new City facilities meet "LEED Silver" or higher standard; and make energy efficiency a priority in site plan review; and
7. Promote transportation options such as bicycle/pedestrian trails, commuter trip reduction programs, and incentives for car pooling and public transit; encourage-existing and develop new programs to enhance use of public transit and alternative transportation modes, commuter connections, guaranteed ride home, telework programs, park and ride lots and smart bike programs.
8. Promote increased citizen and business participation in all areas of recycling, increasing the rate of recycling waste as a percentage of total waste at a rate of at least 2% per calendar year, for the next five years; and
9. Maintain healthy a urban forest and street tree population through the adoption of a community canopy goal in 2009 and by adopting incentives to promote tree planting on private lands to increase shading, energy savings and to absorb CO₂, and within one year of adoption of that goal consider the establishment of a "Community Greening Fund" for tree purchase reimbursement of up to \$25 for trees costing over \$50 for any native tree purchased and planted by a homeowner on their property outside of the BGE utility corridor; and

10. Adopt, refine and follow land-use guidelines that reduce sprawl, preserve open space and create a cooler, compact and walkable community by identifying practices for Bowie that include greenhouse gas reduction, energy efficiency and renewable energy as an element in the local planning review process. Council directs the Environmental Advisory Committee to recommend criteria which include practices that address climate change and energy efficiency for use in the City's Development Review Guidelines; and

11. Conduct public outreach and promote current efforts through its web site, staff and the Environmental Advisory Committee to educate the public, schools and local businesses about the benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; to encourage the purchase of more efficient and alternative-fueled vehicles by both public and private entities, and to encourage the provision of energy audits and retrofits for individuals and businesses through regional cooperative efforts; and

12. Ensure that these policies will further dictate procurement procedures and management changes to be reported to the Council within one year of enactment of this Resolution unless otherwise specified and each year in the City's State of the Environment Report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City shall actively pursue Federal, State, and other incentive and cooperative programs and grants to assist in achieving the goals and policies in this Resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City Council shall review this Resolution on a biennial basis.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a Regular Meeting on August 3, 2009.

G. Frederick Robinson
Mayor

Attest:

Pamela A. Fleming
City Clerk