

**DRAFT Current as of June 25, 2018**

Proposed Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_

BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF CORVALLIS, OREGON AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SERVE AS TRUSTEES OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND ESTABLISHING SCIENCE-BASED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION TARGETS.

WHEREAS, climate change is caused by human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, emissions of greenhouse gases; especially CO<sub>2</sub> are already causing large-scale problems including but not limited to ocean acidification, ocean warming, warming of the Earth's surface, rising seas, more severe weather events, such as storms, heavy rainfall and flooding, heat waves and drought, wildfires, disrupted ecosystems and agriculture, more disease, famine, conflict, and loss of human life<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the state has a sovereign obligation over "All the earth and air within its domain,"<sup>2</sup> thus placing on all governments, including municipal, a duty to act as trustees of the environment, including essential natural resources and the atmosphere, for current and future generations, and to take science-based climate action; and

WHEREAS, Corvallis can set an example of policy commitment to climate recovery for other communities in Oregon and across the United States; therefore,

THE CITY OF CORVALLIS ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1 - Climate and Future Generations**

The City recognizes its duty to protect vital public resources, including the atmosphere, and to do its share to address climate change in order to protect present and future generations from irreparable harm.

The City of Corvallis will ensure that all residents, including historically underrepresented populations, such as communities of color, receive equitable support in adapting to climate extremes and other deleterious climate impacts. In climate adaptation and mitigation endeavors, the City will consciously apply the equity principles laid out in the Municipal Code (see, Chapter 1.23) and the City Charter (see, Chapter 2, Section 4).

The City will take necessary actions to protect present and future generations, including but not limited to, maintaining staff dedicated to managing climate recovery efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> Current sources for the science of climate change and its likely impacts on the Pacific Northwest include:

IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp.

Melillo, Jerry M., Terese (T.C.) Richmond, and Gary W. Yohe, Eds., 2014: Climate Change Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment. U.S. Global Change Research Program, 841 pp. doi:10.7930/J0Z31WJ2

Dalton, M.M., P.W. Mote, and A.K. Snover [Eds.]. 2013. Climate Change in the Northwest: Implications for Our Landscapes, Waters, and Communities. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Abatzoglou, J. T., D. E. Rupp, P. W. Mote. 2014. Seasonal climate variability and change in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. *Journal of Climate*, 27, 2125-2142, doi: 10.1175/JCLI-D-13-00218.1.

Vano, J. A., B. Nijssen, and D. P. Lettenmaier. 2015. Seasonal hydrologic responses to climate change in the Pacific Northwest. *Water Resources Research*, 51, 1959-1976, doi:10.1002/2014WR01590

<sup>2</sup> See *Georgia v. Tennessee Copper Co.*, (1907)

## **Section 2 – Emission Reductions Targets**

The City of Corvallis commits to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents and ecosystems by achieving the following:

- a. Conducting biennial inventories of Community and Municipal greenhouse gas emissions; and,
- b. Reviewing the Corvallis Climate Action Plan (CAP) and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals on five-year intervals; and ,
- c. Ensuring, at each review, that emissions reductions goals are correlated with the City’s proportional global responsibility to return to the maximum safe atmospheric level of no more than 350 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> by the year 2100, OR aligned with the most up-to-date recommendations of the global scientific community; and,
- d. Eliminating municipal reliance on fossil fuels as quickly as is reasonably possible.

## **Section 3 – Community Review**

The citizens of Corvallis have a right to publicly comment on the Climate Action Plan.

If community and municipal targets are not being met at the end of each review period, a series of special public hearings will be held by the Climate Advisory Board. At these meetings, the public will be invited and encouraged to participate in reassessment of strategies for meeting upcoming targets.