

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING THE	)	RESOLUTION NO. 25-5532
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE	)	
COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN	)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
FOR THE PORTLAND-VANCOUVER	)	Marissa Madrigal in concurrence with
METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	)	Council President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, climate change is a threat to people’s health and to the region’s natural areas, clean air, and the economy; and

WHEREAS, climate change is already impacting the region through increased wildfire smoke, hotter summers, flooding and stronger storms; and

WHEREAS, leading on climate change and minimizing contributions to global warming is one of Metro’s six desired outcomes for the greater Portland region; and

WHEREAS, the states of Oregon and Washington have recommended targets to reduce climate pollution that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 95 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050; and

WHEREAS, research and experience demonstrate that climate pollution has a disproportionate effect on marginalized communities, including Black, Indigenous and people of color, people with limited English proficiency, people with low income, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities, who typically have fewer resources and more exposure to environmental hazards caused by climate pollution, and are the most vulnerable to displacement, adverse health effects, job loss, property damage and other effects; and

WHEREAS, research and experience demonstrate that many of the actions that local and regional agencies can take to reduce climate pollution have the potential to also save people and businesses money, create more resilient communities, create new jobs, help improve people’s access to opportunities, and preserve natural areas; and

WHEREAS, many plans that guide Metro’s work – including the Regional Framework Plan, Climate Smart Strategy, Regional Transportation Plan, Regional Waste Plan, and Metro Sustainability Plan – include goals, policies and actions to reduce climate pollution; and

WHEREAS, nine cities and four counties in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area have created climate action plans that guide efforts to reduce climate pollution in their communities; and

WHEREAS, nine cities, three counties, and several community-based organizations in the Metro region have created climate action plans that guide efforts to reduce climate pollution in their communities; and

WHEREAS, there is no existing comprehensive plan to reduce climate pollution from all major sources neither within the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area nor within the greater Portland region; and

WHEREAS, Metro received a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2023 that provided funding to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) to qualify for federal CPRG funding; and

WHEREAS, the PCAP, submitted to EPA in March 2024, provided a foundation for the CCAP and identified nine high-priority, implementation-ready climate pollution reduction actions that can be implemented and can significantly reduce climate pollution in the next five years, and have been endorsed by public agency partners and the public through the climate action plans that are in place throughout the metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the focus of the PCAP and CCAP, as required by the grant that funds them, is on reducing climate pollution, and as a result the PCAP and CCAP do not include actions that solely focus on preparing for or protecting people from the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the geographic scope of the planning effort was, by the requirements of the CPRG, the seven-county Portland-Vancouver metropolitan statistical area, including Clark and Skamania Counties in the state of Washington, and Columbia, Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties in the state of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Partners' Forum, a multi-disciplinary group convened by Metro that includes representatives of over 35 public agencies, community-based organizations, and environmental non-profits from throughout the metropolitan statistical area who are currently engaged in climate work, supported the development of the PCAP and the CCAP; and

WHEREAS, Metro staff coordinated and consulted with cities, counties, agencies, tribes, and other organizations through the Climate Partners' Forum and other engagement efforts throughout the process to identify the most beneficial climate actions that local and regional agencies can lead, and facilitated collaboration and coordination among these organizations; and

WHEREAS, Metro staff participated in monthly coordination calls with other EPA staff and CPRG grantees in the Pacific Northwest, including the State of Oregon, the State of Washington, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, to align their respective CPRG-funded plans, processes, and outreach and education efforts; and

WHEREAS, agencies, partner organizations, and members of the public provided feedback that shaped the CCAP through two online open houses held during Winter 2024-25 and Summer 2025; and

WHEREAS, the CCAP identifies 23 actions that collectively address the major sources of climate pollution within the metropolitan area (i.e., transportation, buildings, and food, goods and services) and make substantial progress toward meeting Oregon and Washington's targets to reduce climate pollution; analyzes the costs, greenhouse gas reductions, and co-benefits of these actions; and includes recommendations for successful implementation; and

WHEREAS, the CCAP was developed in collaboration with the Climate Partners' Forum and reflects input from regional committees and elected bodies, such as the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee, the Metro Technical Advisory Committee, the County Coordinating Committees, the Metro Policy Advisory Committee, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation, and the Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, recent shifts in federal policy and funding programs for climate action suggest the CCAP may need to be implemented differently than originally planned; and

WHEREAS, by endorsing the CCAP, the Metro Council recognizes the plan identifies the actions needed to make significant progress toward state climate targets and provides a framework, guidance, and up-to-date information to support climate efforts across the region; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Metro Council hereby endorses the greenhouse gas inventory, projections, actions and recommendations contained within the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, attached as Exhibit A.
2. Metro Council encourages partner agencies to incorporate the greenhouse gas inventory, projections, actions and recommendations into their climate-related plans where relevant, and to continue to collaborate with Metro and each other to ensure coordinated climate action.
3. The Metro Council hereby directs Metro's Chief Operating Officer to:
 - a. Work with Metro Council to identify priority climate actions for Metro to implement in the next five years to help reduce climate pollution, build resilience, and address the impacts of climate change on our communities, infrastructure and natural systems.
 - b. Consider the greenhouse gas inventory, projections, actions and recommendations in the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan to inform future updates to other Metro-led plans that address goals or requirements to reduce climate pollution, including the Climate Smart Strategy, Regional Transportation Plan, Regional Waste Plan, and Regional System Facilities Plan.
 - c. Pursue resources to implement the actions in the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.
 - d. Pursue resources to update the greenhouse gas inventory, projections, and cost/benefit analyses of actions included in the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.
 - e. Report on Metro and partner agencies' progress in implementing the actions in the plan within Metro's jurisdictional boundary as part of future updates to Metro-led plans that aim to reduce climate pollution.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 13th day of November 2025.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney