

Resolution of the City of Jersey City, N.J.

City Clerk File No. Res. 15.485

Agenda No. 10.Z.27

Approved: JUN 24 2015

TITLE:



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY TAKING ACTION TO FIGHT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Council as a whole, offered and moved adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, our climate is rapidly changing, leaving New Jersey families and businesses vulnerable to the impacts of more frequent and severe storms; and

WHEREAS, Jersey City ("City") is extremely vulnerable to sea-level rise and storm surges from increased and more intense storms due to a changing climate; and

WHEREAS, our community is deeply concerned about the adverse impacts of climate change, including rising sea-levels; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Sandy alone was estimated to cost the State of New Jersey \$36.8 billion; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Sandy alone resulted in over \$10 million in damages to City owned facilities [Source: JC Risk Management] and over \$38 million in lost wages to Jersey City residents [Source: Rutgers University, School of Public Affairs and Administration]; and

WHEREAS, the City is dedicated to taking serious steps to reduce carbon pollution within our borders and have already taken significant steps to reduce green house gas emissions including but not limited to:

- Creating a bike-share program
- Creating a job-training program around building retrofits and solar installation
- Applying to the NJ Board of Public Utilities ("BPU") "Direct Install" program to implement energy conservation measures ("ECMs") in City owned buildings
- Issuing a Request for Proposals to implement a demand response program
- Achieving Sustainable Jersey Certification
- Constructing LEED® Certified buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Legislature of New Jersey have a responsibility to address climate change in the Garden State by improving energy efficiency, addressing the cumulative impacts of concentrated industrialization, promoting adaption to climate change and sea-level rise, increasing our production of clean energy, and promoting renewable installations in brownfields and landfills; and

WHEREAS, the families and businesses in Jersey City are suffering from inaction in Trenton; and

WHEREAS, immediate action on climate change is essential to prevent the loss of property and life and ensure continued economic success.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council of Jersey City that the City:

1. will audit its current greenhouse gas emissions within one (1) year; and
2. commits to increasing the use of renewable energy 80% community-wide by 2050; and

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3. commits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% community-wide by 2050; and
4. will set a goal of purchasing or producing at least 50% of its energy from renewable sources by the year 2025; and
5. will work to incentivize the use of renewable energy purchases for City residents and businesses; and
6. will work to incentivize the installation of solar technology by easing the permitting process; and
7. will install renewable energy technology on City facilities where feasible; and
8. will commit to broad energy efficiency goals that prioritize reducing building energy use by updating the municipal code to promote sustainable construction method, including but not limited to:
 - Amending Jersey City Green Ordinance 09-001 to require LEED® Silver certification for all building projects that receive City funding
 - Amending Jersey City Green Ordinance 09-002 to include additional efficiency standards including but not limited to PassiveHouse, ENERGY STAR® or Living Building Challenge – so as to incentivize the use of those standards through expedited permitting and to extend incentives to residential construction
 - Following the example of other cities such as New York City’s Local Law 84, to mandate the benchmarking of all large buildings in Jersey City utilizing ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager; and
9. will continue to address climate change, ensure continued economic security, improve public health and enhance public safety.

APPROVED: _____

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM

APPROVED: _____

Business Administrator

Corporation Counsel

Certification Required

Not Required

APPROVED 9-0

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE 6.24.15											
COUNCILPERSON	AYE	NAY	N.V.	COUNCILPERSON	AYE	NAY	N.V.	COUNCILPERSON	AYE	NAY	N.V.
GAJEWSKI	✓			YUN	✓			RIVERA	✓		
RAMCHAL	✓			OSBORNE	✓			WATTERMAN	✓		
BOGGIANO	✓			COLEMAN	✓			LAVARRO, PRES.	✓		

✓ Indicates Vote

N.V.-Not Voting (Abstain)

Adopted at a meeting of the Municipal Council of the City of Jersey City N.J.

Rolando R. Lavarro, Jr., President of Council

Robert Byrne, City Clerk

RESOLUTION FACT SHEET – NON-CONTRACTUAL

This summary sheet is to be attached to the front of any resolution that is submitted for Council consideration. Incomplete or vague fact sheets will be returned with the resolution.

Full Title of Ordinance/Resolution

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY TAKING ACTION TO FIGHT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Initiator

Department/Division	Mayor's Office	Mayor's Office
Name/Title	Robert Field	Research Supervisor
Phone/email	(201) 547- 5200	RField@jenj.org

Note: Initiator must be available by phone during agenda meeting (Wednesday prior to council meeting @ 4:00 p.m.)

Resolution Purpose

Jersey City has felt the effects of climate change first hand in the forms of Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, severe snowstorms, and nor'easters.

These events caused power outages, flooding, and property damage for residents and businesses resulting in millions of dollars in losses and lost wages.

This resolution states some of the actions already taken to fight global climate change and proposes new, strong initiatives to further fight global climate change and to establish Jersey City as a leader in this battle.

I certify that all the facts presented herein are accurate.

Signature of Department Director

Date