THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: March 28, 2023

Subject: Municipal Climate Action Plan

Staff Resource(s): Bridget Herring, Sustainability Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution adopting the Municipal Climate Action Plan for Municipal Sustainability Goals and Initiatives

Background:

- The purpose of the Municipal Climate Action Plan (MCAP) is to update the City's 2009 Sustainability Management Plan with updated and newly adopted resolutions around climate mitigation and adaptation.
- The scope of the MCAP is municipal operations where there are significant opportunities to impact climate adaptation and mitigation.
- On June 8, 2021, City Council authorized the City Manager to execute a contract with AECOM to update the Sustainability Management Plan into a Municipal Climate Action Plan.
- AECOM reviewed existing City sustainability goals, plans and resolutions as well as interviewed staff and the Sustainability Advisory Committee to gain additional feedback on accomplishments and barriers.
- AECOM used this information to perform a gap analysis and best practice research to inform a list of high impact opportunities for climate action.
- AECOM also conducted a high level resource assessment on the final recommended actions.
- The MCAP recommends 22 high-impact activities – and an estimate of associated fiscal impacts to build a more resilient organization; and continue to address the City's goals for carbon mitigation.
- The 22 high-impact activities were selected based on three prioritization factors: impact, feasibility and the opportunity to advance equity.
- The MCAP suggests an implementation sequence to make the most out of limited resources and multiple priorities.
- The MCAP is a result of engagement with the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and City Staff from multiple departments.
- There were four opportunities between July 2022 - February 2023 for public input to be received on the MCAP during the SAC meetings.

Council Goal(s):

- A Clean and Healthy Environment
- Improve and Expand Core Services

Committee(s):

- Sustainability Advisory Committee - February 21, 2023 - Voted 8 - 0 to recommend adoption of the Municipal Climate Action Plan
- Environment and Safety Committee - March 28, 2023

Pro(s):

- Prioritizes Asheville's internal climate and sustainability activities
- Establishes a roadmap for continued sustainability and climate action progress

Con(s):

- The MCAP is a guiding document that provides policy, program, planning direction and high level resources needs but does not include a detailed scope for individual projects.

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for the activities recommended in the MCAP will be considered during annual budget development processes.
- New activities being considered for funding in the FY 2023-24 budget development process include a Solid Waste Master Plan and fleet maintenance that would support carbon reduction and fleet electrification goals.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt the Municipal Climate Action Plan for Municipal Sustainability Goals and Initiatives.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- 2023 Municipal Climate Action Plan

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MUNICIPAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AND INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2009 the City adopted Resolution 09-135, a Sustainability Management Plan as its strategic plan for municipal sustainability goals and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, since that time the City has adopted resolutions establishing a waste reduction goal, food policy action plan, and 100% renewable energy goal; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2020 the City declared a climate emergency and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Climate Action Plan updates the 2009 Sustainability Management Plan to include the before mentioned resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Climate Action Plan creates a roadmap to accomplish goals adopted by the City and identify high impact activities to mitigate or adapt to climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The Asheville City Council adopts the Municipal Climate Action Plan as the plan for municipal sustainability goals and initiatives.

Read, approved and adopted this the 28 day of March, 2023.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney