

Resolution No. 735-2025

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

By Council Members Spencer, Howse-Jones,
Maurer, Gray and Jones

Supporting the City of Cleveland's 2025
Climate Action Plan Update.

FOR ADOPTION
June 2, 2025

WHEREAS, climate change represents the greatest environmental threat the City has ever experienced, due to deteriorating air quality, such as from the wildfire smoke in June 2023; extreme heat that occurred with the record heatwave in June 2024; heavier precipitation and more severe storms, such as the tornadoes in August 2024; and more harmful algal blooms on Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are already negatively affecting the City which experienced its warmest year on record in 2024; its worst air quality on record in June 2023; damaging tornadoes in 2023 and 2024; and its mildest winter on record in 2023-2024; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's 2025 Climate Action Plan Update is a community-based roadmap to achieve measurable equity in health and economic benefits for community members, lower energy costs, expand access to clean energy, improve public health and quality of life, create good quality jobs, and increase resilience to make Cleveland a green city on a blue lake, while tackling the climate crisis and achieving net zero emissions of climate pollution within the City by 2050; and

WHEREAS, implementing this Climate Action Plan will enhance equity by providing tangible health and economic benefits for community members who are more routinely exposed to air pollution, historically have had limited access to quality housing, have lower average life expectancies, have less access to trees and green space, and have less household wealth than the rest of our community; and

WHEREAS, the United States' *Fifth National Climate Assessment* concluded that evidence that the climate is changing is "incontrovertible," and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has reported that human activities "have unequivocally caused global warming" of 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted ambitious Science-Based Targets, which call for a 63.3% reduction in climate pollution by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050, establishing Cleveland as a national leader on climate action; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Ohio's residents, businesses, and governments already have the power to act and tools we need to solve climate change, as the cost to install solar power has fallen by nearly 50% over the past decade, clean energy made up 92% of all new energy generation installed in the U.S. during 2024, and sales of electric vehicles (EVs) have increased by 500% in Northeast Ohio since 2019; and

WHEREAS, the City has worked for more than a decade to address this climate crisis, adopting Climate Action Plans in 2013 and 2018 and the Sustainable Cleveland-Municipal Action Plan (SC-MAP) in 2013, with emissions of climate pollution falling by 25% citywide and by 45% across City operations since 2010, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland is determined to honor its longstanding commitment to protecting the health, safety, and quality of life of all residents; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland engaged more than 150 stakeholders from a broad array of nearly 100 partner organizations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland conducted extensive public engagement for the development of this Climate Action Plan, gathering input and feedback from more than 1,000 Clevelanders from every neighborhood, with a focus on residents in low-income and disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, more than 85% of Clevelanders surveyed in 2023-2024 said that climate hazards have already made it difficult for them to complete daily tasks, such as getting to work and buying food; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council supports the City of Cleveland’s 2025 Climate Action Plan Update.

Section 2. That the Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Climate Justice

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

JS:rns
6/2/2025

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REPORT
after second Reading

By Council Members Spencer, Howse-Jones, Maurer, Gray and Jones

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Supporting the City of Cleveland’s 2025 Climate Action Plan Update.

READ FIRST TIME
and referred to

REPORTS

READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on JUNE 2, 2025

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR