

Resolution No. 671-2021

**By Council Member Kelley
(by departmental request)**

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Acknowledging that the City of Cleveland will become a Power A Clean Future Ohio Community and reaffirming the City's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

WHEREAS, Power a Clean Future Ohio ("PCFO") is an expansive, diverse coalition engaging with cities and local governments across the state of Ohio to build a clean future for our communities, and empowers local leaders with tools and resources to create carbon reduction plans and implement them in ways that are achievable, measurable, equitable, and economical; and

WHEREAS, steps taken toward carbon emissions also aim to improve community quality of life, build community capital and increase government efficiency, accountability and transparency; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the unique opportunity to achieve both energy use and carbon emission reductions and cost savings through building and facilities management; land use and transportation planning; and through economic and community development; and

WHEREAS, efforts to address energy and climate issues provide an opportunity to move toward energy self-reliance and greater community resiliency and quality of life; provide environmentally healthy and cheaper-to-operate public buildings; encourage new economic development and local jobs; and support local renewable energy production; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2018, the City of Cleveland reaffirmed its commitment to climate action along with 400 "Climate Mayors" across the country, by releasing an updated version of its 2013 Climate Action Plan, that retained the greenhouse gas reduction goals (80% below 2010 emissions by 2050 and 40% reduction by 2030), while elevating the actions that neighborhoods and residents can take every day and became the first city in the state of Ohio to commit to powering itself with clean energy and combating climate change by transitioning to 100 percent clean and renewable energy sources by 2050; and

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WHEREAS, uncertainty in energy prices and the transition away from fossil fuel energy sources present new challenges and opportunities to both the City of Cleveland and to the economic health of its citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, climate changes have been observed in Ohio and have the potential to negatively impact local, regional and state economies; infrastructure development; habitat; ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose flooding, drought and health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, PCFO assists in facilitating technical assistance for the implementation of these carbon reduction policies; and

WHEREAS, the PCFO provides cost-effective sustainable development policies in the following four categories: (1) Renewable Energy; (2) Energy Efficiency; (3) Transportation Electrification; and (4) Land Use.

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure providing for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health or safety in that passage of this resolution allows the City to be recognized as a Power a Clean Future Community; now therefore,

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

Section 1. That this Council acknowledges that the City of Cleveland (“the City”) will join PCFO, which offers a free, voluntary continuous improvement framework.

Section 2. That the City agrees to the following:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the City of Cleveland by 40% by 2030 below 2010 levels;
2. Will work to advance lowest cost measures identified in the plan to meet the energy and greenhouse gas saving savings targets, while being mindful of the use of taxpayer dollars and impact to the resident’s bottom line;
3. Will facilitate the involvement of community members in an equitable way in the planning, promoting and/or implementing of PCFO policies;

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4. Will provide feedback to PCFO once a year on how well PCFO is serving the city and on city needs from the program; and
5. Will report progress to PCFO on achieving these goals and will work at its own pace towards implementing policies from the PCFO policy categories that will result in carbon emission reductions, cost savings, and quality of life improvement.

Section 3. That this resolution is 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.

CH:nl
8-18-2021
FOR: Interim Director Gentile

