

# Resolution



72  
(Revised)  
City Council  
City of Wilmington  
North Carolina

Introduced By: Sterling B. Cheatham, City Manager

Date: 10/20/2009

## Resolution Establishing a Goal for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Municipal Operations in Keeping with the Principles of the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Initiative

### LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

In 2005, the United States Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted a Climate Protection Agreement to encourage cities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. On November 21, 2006 Council passed a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. To date, 999 cities from all fifty states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC - representing a total population of nearly 86 million citizens - have joined Wilmington in endorsing the Agreement. The Mayors Council on Climate Protection was created to provide an opportunity for cities across the country to work together cooperatively to implement the activities specified in the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and to share information on best practices and successful city efforts.

The City of Wilmington already has initiatives and plans in place that demonstrate a commitment to many of the areas outlined in the Agreement. One important and major step is to inventory municipal operations and establish a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions from which to set reduction targets. This inventory has been completed by Planning staff and a proposed target is established based on benchmarking other municipalities in North Carolina, the Southeast, and across the country.

### THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the City Council hereby acknowledges and establishes a baseline measure of greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations of an estimated 9,708 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents following the Local Government Operations Protocol established in 2008,

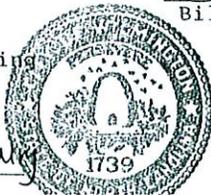
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council establishes a goal for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 58% by the year 2050 in keeping with the 2006 resolution to endorse the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Initiative, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council directs the City Manager to establish a protocol for tracking progress toward the goal on a regular basis and reporting back to City Council.

*Bill Saffo*  
Bill Saffo, Mayor

Adopted at a regular meeting  
on October 20, 2009.

ATTEST:  
*Helene Spicer Sidbury*  
City Clerk



CITY CLERK  
*Helene Spicer Sidbury*  
CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY

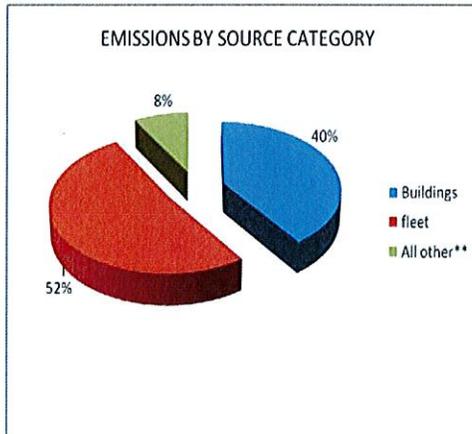
**About the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target**

A reduction target provides a tangible goal for Wilmington’s municipal emissions reduction efforts, fosters public and political will, and creates a framework that guides the planning and implementation of reduction measures. The emissions reduction target represents a percentage by which the City aims to decrease emissions, below the baseline, by a target year. The baseline year for this greenhouse gas emissions analysis is 2007, selected because it is the most recent year in which most of the data required by the Protocol could be readily obtained.

The following table displays the emissions for the City’s buildings, fleet, and other non building entities estimated in accordance with the *Local Government Operations Protocol*. The emissions are divided into CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O (metric tons), and their totals are reported in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent as suggested by the Protocol.

**Total Aggregated Emissions Summary**

Emission type	Emissions (metric tons)			
	Buildings	fleet	All other**	Total
CO <sub>2</sub>	3886.15	4946.69	807.89	9640.7
CH <sub>4</sub>	0.18	0.08	0.014	0.2
N <sub>2</sub> O	0.06	0.13	0.015	0.2
Grand Total (CO <sub>2</sub> e Equivalent)	3908.18	4988.19	807.92	9704.3



As shown, the greatest emissions come from the City’s transportation fleet. This was estimated from an aggregation of all the gallons of fuel used and mileage recorded for every department under the City’s control.

\*\*The category “All other” includes all non-building entities; these include diesel generators, parks and playgrounds, golf course, traffic signals, and street lights.

Many factors were considered when selecting the proposed reduction target. The suggested target is both aggressive and achievable given local circumstances. Several programs and policies currently in place, including efforts to reduce energy usage, fleet use policies, and higher efficiency building systems will enable Wilmington to immediately make progress towards this goal.

The International Panel on Climate Change IPCC research suggests that we would need to achieve as much as an 80% reduction below 1990 levels in order to reverse global warming and stabilize the climate.

Local factors considered in selecting the target reduction percentage include estimation of the effects of implemented and planned programs and policies, an assessment of future opportunities to reduce emissions, targets adopted by benchmark communities, and outside factors from regional energy providers that may contribute to reducing emissions.

A benchmark study was conducted in order to examine the goals and initiatives that other cities are establishing to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The cities that were chosen were those that are signatories of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. The cities that were chosen were either comparable in population size to Wilmington, or they demonstrated exemplary greenhouse gas emission management strategies. For the cities studied the percent reduction and target year established varied greatly, but the annual rate of reduction was very consistent with the most frequent percentage being 1.34% and the most frequent target year being 2050.

After reviewing the baseline data, benchmark study, and local factors, a goal of 58% reduction of municipal operations CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions by the year 2050 is recommended, which is based on a 1.34% per year rate of reduction. The table below shows effects of a 58% reduction from FY 2007 baseline emissions levels, with an average annual and total reduction of eCO<sub>2</sub> tons by the year 2050.

Year	2007 Baseline	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Emissions	9704	9314	8066	6985	6049	5238
% Reduction		4	17	31	44	58

This is rigorous, yet achievable and sets the City in step with other municipalities in the state and region. This framework is consistent with the APA Policy Guide on Planning and Climate Change, the recommendations of the NC Climate Action Plan Advisory Group, and draft federal legislative requirements. Communities participating in the ICLEI – a sustainability council of over 1100 local governments - have, on average, chosen between 1% and 2% reduction per year. Tracking of progress will be essential to determine progress toward the goal and whether it is necessary to adjust the goal in the future if conditions require it.