

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILPITAS DEVELOPING AN ACTION PLAN REGARDING THE REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

WHEREAS, scientific consensus has developed that carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere have a profound effect on the Earth’s climate; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that it is very likely that most of the observed increases in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century are due to human-induced greenhouse gas emission; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 the U.S. National Climatic Data Center confirmed clear evidence of human influences on climate due to changes in greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorsed the 2005 U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement initiated by Seattle Mayor Nickels and signed by more than 750 mayors in the United States as of February 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Environmental Accords adopted by local government delegates during UN World Environment Day 2005 call for reduced emissions through energy efficiency, land use and transportation planning, waste reduction, and wiser energy management; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 the American Geophysical Union adopted a Statement noting that human activities are increasingly altering the Earth’s climate and that natural influences cannot explain the rapid increase in near-surface temperatures observed during the second half of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, at the request of the Administration, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reviewed and declared global warming a real problem likely due to human activities; and

WHEREAS, the 2000 U.S. Global Change Research Program’s (USGCRP) First National Assessment indicated that global warming has begun; and

WHEREAS, 162 countries including the United States pledged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, energy consumption, specifically the burning of fossil fuels, accounts for more than 80% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, local government actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for the local government, its businesses, and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Cities for Climate Protection[®] Campaign sponsored by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability has invited the City of Milpitas to join ICLEI and become a partner in the Cities and Counties Climate Protection Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Milpitas as follows:

The City of Milpitas, California will join ICLEI as a Full Member and pledges to take a leadership role in promoting public awareness about the causes and impacts of climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Milpitas will undertake ICLEI's five milestones to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions throughout the community, and specifically:

- Conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast to determine the source and quantity of greenhouse gas emissions in the jurisdiction;
- Establish a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target;
- Develop an action plan with both existing and future actions which when implemented will meet the local greenhouse gas reduction target;
- Implement the action plan; and
- Monitor and report progress; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City of Milpitas requests additional assistance from ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign as it progresses through the milestones.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Mary Lavelle, City Clerk

Jose S. Esteves, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael J. Ogaz, City Attorney