



Charlotte City Council  
Environment Committee  
Summary Minutes  
June 4, 2018

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**COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS**

- I. Energy Resolution

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**COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

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**Committee Members Present:** Dimple Ajmera (Chair), Larken Egleston (Vice Chair), Matt Newton, Greg Phipps, Braxton Winston

**Guest(s):** Tariq Bokhari

**Staff Resources:** Kim Eagle, City Manager's Office  
Rob Phocas, Sustainability Office

**Meeting Duration:** 12:04 PM – 1:02 PM

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**ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Agenda – June 4, 2018
2. Presentation – Low Carbon Future Resolution
3. Document – Draft Resolution of the City of Charlotte City Council in Support of a Sustainable and Resilient Charlotte by the Year of 2050
4. Handout – City Lab Article – Bloomberg Challenge

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**DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS**

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Chairwoman Ajmera called the meeting to order at 12:04pm and asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. She also provided a brief historical overview of how the energy resolution conversation took shape throughout the past year.

**Energy Resolution**

Kim Eagle then discussed the vision and goal of the meeting prior to Rob Phocas beginning the Energy Resolution presentation. Rob Phocas presented information on the Energy Resolution history, the requirements of the strategic plan as well as the context for why the City set this as an organizational goal. Mr. Phocas defined specific terminology within sustainability and resiliency as a means of standardizing the conversation in accordance with global cities. Staff also referred to a recent article about a Bloomberg competition for sustainability requiring the Mayor to write a letter of intent by June 16 if interested.

Staff provided information on the feedback received and the corresponding proposed edits. City staff gave the Committee two options for the final clause of the draft resolution:

1. “Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that, the City will strive to source 100% of its energy use in its buildings and fleet from zero carbon sources, including renewables and nuclear, by 2030.” OR
2. “Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that, the City will strive to source 100% of its energy use in its buildings and light duty vehicle fleet from zero carbon sources, including renewables and nuclear, by 2030.”

Vice Chair Egleston asked staff about the achievability of the resolution if the Committee incorporated heavy-duty vehicles in the fleet goal. Mr. Phocas acknowledged the difficulty in achieving the goal, but did not deem it impossible to fulfill as a City. Council member Winston asked what decision the Committee needed to make about the proposed edits as well as what marginal difference existed in emissions between heavy- and light-duty vehicles. Council member Newton inquired about if “zero carbon” excludes coal and natural gas in addition to what type of federal funding and grant opportunities existed for the City to pursue. Vice Chair Egleston reiterated his initial question about how realistic and attainable of a goal it is to incorporate heavy-duty vehicles in the strategic plan. Council member Phipps asked where the resolution defined the difference between the municipality and City proper as it pertains to reaching the strategic energy goals. Council member Bokhari then inquired about the energy resolution’s financial implications and how it would affect the City’s future budgets. Discussion was had around those posed questions and the Committee voted on the resolution.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Motion made by Council member Winston and seconded by Council member Newton to make a recommendation to the full City Council for consideration at a future Council meeting to adopt the energy resolution with the “Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that, the City will strive to source 100% of its energy use in its buildings and fleet from zero carbon sources, including renewables and nuclear, by 2030” as the final clause. Committee members voted 3:1 with Council member Phipps opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.