

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Notice of Motion given October 5, 2021	(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	
Date of Council Meeting: October 19, 2021		
Subject: Race to Zero		
Motion for Council to Consider:		
That Halifax Regional Council direct:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the Mayor to sign on to the following city climate commitments as part of an UN-led campaign in the lead up to COP26 in Scotland in November 2021: Cities Race to Resilience and Cities Race to Zero; and2. the Chief Administrative Officer to direct staff to identify appropriate actions as part of the sign-up process for each Race that are in keeping with previous motions of Halifax Regional Council and complete reporting requirements as required by each race.		
Reason:		
<p>The next decade will decide the future for humanity. Delivering a green and just recovery to the COVID-19 crisis; creating strong, fair economies that serve everyone; and cutting greenhouse gas emissions quickly enough to limit global heating to the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement must all be done hand in hand. Success in all is the only way to prevent a catastrophic crisis.</p> <p>The Race to Zero is a global initiative led by the COP26 Presidency and High-Level Climate Champions to rally leadership and action from businesses, cities, regions and investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon transition that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth. Together, this coalition will build momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy ahead of COP26, where governments must strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement. This will send governments a resounding signal that cities, regions, businesses and investors are united in meeting the Paris goals and creating a more inclusive and resilient economy.</p> <p>Cities Race to Zero brings together all those who share our vision for a better future based on a set of principles that address equity together with the environment, and who strive to build a coalition across business, labor unions, youth climate activists and civil society, to transform the world.</p> <p>C40 Cities, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), CDP, the World Wide Fund</p>		

for Nature (WWF) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) have come together to mobilize an unprecedented coalition of cities committed to setting science-based targets and start implementing inclusive and resilient climate action ahead of and beyond the COP26 in Glasgow. This is the Cities Race to Zero effort, to commit cities and municipalities to the Race to Zero, in support of the COP26 Roadmap of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency to the UNFCCC.

As one of 22 Member cities to the Big City Mayors Caucus, collectively we represent the greatest concentration of population and economic activity in Canada. The majority of global emissions are generated in cities. By signing on to the Cities Race to Zero along with fellow mayors of the Big City Mayors Caucus, we commit our cities to reducing our fair share of global greenhouse gas emissions in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

A green and just recovery is essential, and this includes protecting our most vulnerable populations. The threats posed by climate change are increasing all over the world and cities are at the forefront of increasing loss and damages incurred by flooding, drought, extreme heat, sea-level rise, and more. A resilient world, where both people and nature cannot just survive climate shocks and stresses, but thrive in spite of them, is at the heart of the Race to Resilience.

Outcome Sought:

Mayor to sign on to the following city climate commitments:

1. Cities Races to Resilience (https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/cities-race-to-zero?language=en_US) and
2. Cities Race to Zero (https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/cities-race-to-zero?language=en_US)

Mike Savage

Mayor

Pledge your commitment



On behalf of

Please enter the name of your city

Please enter the name **I pledge the following:**

- 1 Integrate climate change adaptation and resilience in all aspects of urban planning and undertake a community-wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment that also includes all vulnerable communities.
- 2 Plan to use available knowledge and scientific evidence, including data and spatial analysis, for decision-making and action, and outline interim targets and milestones as part of a long-term commitment for citywide action.



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- 4 Report commitments by COP [Pledge your commitment](#) thereafter, to an existing or recommended reporting platform. If you have not reported before, you will be contacted by partners for support.

Once adopted, I commit to report my target and action commitment(s) on the following platform:

CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System

MyCovenant

PCP/BARC (Canada)

I don't currently report and will need support once adopted

Other

Resilience actions (please choose at least one action from any of the categories below)

BUILDINGS



Buildings

Develop a resilience strategy for buildings to ensure they can withstand the impacts of climate hazards ex. preparing buildings for large storm impacts

Create a publicly accessible inventory of public assets and



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accounting for local hazards and

mechanisms in place

Develop pre-approved contracts for emergency interventions (ex. debris removal) or reconstruction (ex. road repairs) approved, with enhanced standards

Restrict development in areas that are at risk of climate impacts (ex. Areas at high risk of flooding, forest fires, etc.)

Initiate consultation processes with communities living in informal settlements in hazardous areas, such as flood plains, in order to begin urban upgrading or co-planned resettlement processes

DIGITALIZATION



Digitilization

Advance digital inclusion to ensure the vulnerable population has proper access to digital infrastructure, connectivity, and knowledge to participate in the digital world

Amplify work from home opportunities and universalize the adequate conditions for workers to undertake labor using digital tools

Strengthen digital commerce with a particular focus on onboarding small and medium businesses and entrepreneurs to build a strong and inclusive local economy

Promote digital public services, open government practices, and secure data management policies to increase transparency and citizen

participation





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Energy

Invest in and plan for resilience of the energy grid and renewable energy assets to ensure continuity of services to the community, including the most vulnerable, all critical urban infrastructure and public assets

Invest in decentralized renewable energy sources to enhance access to clean sustainable energy, address energy security, and reduce energy poverty while improving climate resilience

Provide 100% of my community with access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern renewable and clean energy

FOOD SYSTEMS



Food systems

Expand access for all citizens to affordable, nutritious plant-based food by 2025

Create a food council/board with local stakeholders by 2025

Align all food procurement (e.g. school feeding programs) to planetary health diet by 2030, with at least 50% of procurement expenditure aligned to the planetary health diet by 2025

Reduce food loss and waste by 50% from a 2015 baseline by 2030, achieving at least a 25% reduction in food loss and waste by 2025



buy affordable or good-quality food

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Generate supportive policies for local traders and informal traders

Create enabling environments for local and regional small-scale and agroecological producers and traders (including informal traders) to access market share, through financial incentives and market access programmes

GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Governance and community engagement

Establish new and inclusive approaches to governance that embrace a balance between economic and well-being values, co-designing the vision and the choices for a comprehensive strategy that integrates climate, social and health objectives

Include social equity quotas in governance processes, to ensure that people of all genders, races, ethnicities, abilities and classes are represented equitably in community and political life, and that their needs can be assured

Establish & improve mechanisms for community based organisations and community members to contribute to city-scale resilience plans and actions from the beginning to the end of processes

Develop financing and governance mechanisms to improve basin level

water resilience



drive impactful water resilience in [Pledge your commitment](#)

Designate a city official/advisor to coordinate and undertake resilience projects and to engage with urban stakeholders, for example a Chief Resilience Officer

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



Nature-based solutions

Commit a tree-planting or creation of green space target by 2025 that supports local biodiversity and is resilient to anticipated climate change
Plan for the sustainable management, protection and restoration of coastal areas and ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses, flats, tidal marshes

Dedicate 30-40% of the total built-up city surface to green and permeable spaces which favor protecting and restoring biodiverse and climate resilient ecosystems

Convert 40-60% of the urban parking space to green and permeable spaces

Ensure that 70% of the population has free access to a fit for purpose green and blue space within 15 minutes- equitably prioritized to maximize the accessibility and connectivity to nature for the most vulnerable

Protect soil resources by limiting soil sealing and ensuring that soil characteristics are considered in decisions concerning allocation and use of land



technologies to address water risk
leakage etc

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RISK AND VULNERABILITY PLANNING



Risk and vulnerability planning

Integrate local, gender-sensitive and indigenous knowledge and community-based mapping initiatives in all climate risk analysis to ensure validation and prioritization is informed by impacted communities especially the most vulnerable

Install early hazard warning systems and emergency management systems (including the identification of the percentage of the population that has access to the systems)

Identify, monitor, and plan accordingly to anticipate acute shocks and to adapt for addressing chronic stresses

SOCIAL EQUITY



Social equity

Ensure social justice is taken into account when developing climate & resilience strategies, actions and policies in the city, including considerations of social equity in public services delivery, affordability



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these groups, and to have access [Pledge your commitment](#) do so

Create strategies to ensure children, the elderly and people with disabilities are accounted for in disaster scenarios, so as to not be disproportionately affected

Promote gender and/or racial sensitivity training for all civil servants engaged in the development and implementation of resilience strategies, including city officials, civil defense, health care workers, teachers and police officers, promoting values of care, empathy and respect

Raise awareness about the vulnerability of poor communities and the need for solidarity actions between communities and districts

Create counselling and emotional wellness programs as well as job-finding and entrepreneurship centres to support local communities as well as climate refugees/migrants to combat trauma and

disempowerment. Improving social resilience and social cohesion increases peoples' ability to endure and manage in times of crisis

Provide more funding and capacity for gender-based violence hotlines and counselling services, particularly during the response and recovery phases which further expose already vulnerable populations as seen during the lockdowns in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES



Consider proximity and complem **Pledge your commitment** areas
in regional strategies, for example natural services, food supply, and
cultural activities

Cooperation programs between municipalities to financially
compensate or share duties and benefits of natural resources and their
management, for example waste disposal, water basin management,
wastewater treatment, etc

Keep the proportionality and land use ratio between rural/natural &
urban areas in the administrative division, boundaries and plans to
relate nature to all areas and all scale (incl neighborhood)

Adopt education programs or trainings to mainstream the concept of
the right to nature and behavioural shift to consider nature as a
common good that is respected

Design urban policies and create enabling environments to ensure the
immediate agricultural hinterlands have sustainable access to market
share, for example in the form of local market spaces and building
relationships with retail

WASTE



Waste

Collect all waste generated in the city and ensure residual waste is
disposed of adequately in an engineered sanitary landfill, which
considers and minimizes impact to surface and groundwater sources



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invest in circular economy assess
and generate new business oppo

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waste

WATER



Water

Ensure all wastewater is treated (including combined sewage overflows)

Develop a roadmap to measure and reduce water consumption and leakages, and eliminate pollution

Aim to achieve collective water security and alignment with national or basin-level water goals by working together with other cities, companies, community associations and water users operating in your watershed to mitigate water-related conflicts linked to water use and pollution

Monitor and publish future water availability risks and scenarios related to population growth and other risk drivers

Provide 100% of the community with access to resilient secure, sustainable, and affordable water

Implement policies that will increase water and sanitation connections, affordability, and reliability of basic services for the most economically and socially vulnerable

Scale comprehensive upgrading efforts for the water-insecure urban poor communities facing climate risk to ensure resilience of



management

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Shift urban planning to account for hydrologically linked regions

sustaining natural water flows and sources

Develop an urban green infrastructure plan which maps key water

retention zones and aquifers in order to preserve key water sources

from urban development and pollution

PLEDGE OTHER RESILIENCE/ADAPTATION ACTIONS

Please enter other policy actions you would like to pledge as part of this commitment

Please note: You may join 'Cities Race to Resilience' now and complete your commitment by selecting appropriate actions from the list at any time before COP26. A member of Cities Race to Resilience will reach out to help complete the process.

Name of Sponsor (mayor, council leader or equivalent) *(Required)*



Title of Sponsor *(Required)*

Pledge your commitment

Your Name (Person submitting this form) *(Required)*

Your Title *(Required)*

Your Email *(Required)*

Please upload an image or pdf of your signature *(Required)*

Choose File No file chosen

Max. file size: 32 MB.

I consent to being contacted by 'Cities Race to Resilience' in relation to my pledge

I confirm that I am the mayor, council leader or equivalent - or that I have their authorisation to sign this pledge in their name

Please note, data provided through submission of this form may be shared with the partners of Cities Race to Resilience, including: C40 Cities, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Making Cities Resilient 2030, Resilient Cities Network, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), CDP, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), as per the GCoM Privacy Policy



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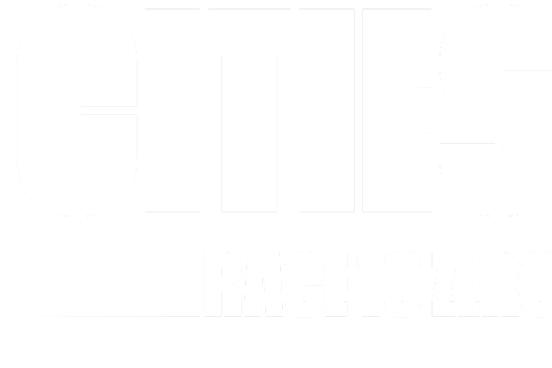
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Pledge Form

On behalf of ,



I pledge the following:

1. Publicly endorse the following Principles:

- We recognise the global climate emergency.
- We are committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement.
- We are committed to putting inclusive climate action at the center of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone.
- We invite our partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join us in recognising the global climate emergency and help us deliver on science-based action to overcome it.

2. Pledge to reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°Celsius.

3. In advance of COP26, explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero, especially in the short- to medium-term. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°Celsius.

4. Immediately proceed to planning at least one inclusive and equitable climate action, as listed below, that will help to place your city on a resilient pathway consistent with the 1.5°Celsius objective of the Paris Agreement and begin implementation no later than 2022.

5. Report progress annually, beginning no later than 2022 to your usual or the recommended reporting platform. Your 1.5°Celsius target and action commitment(s) should be shared through your regular channels of reporting. If you have not reported before, you will be contacted by partners for support.

Once adopted, I commit to report my target and action commitment(s) on the following platform:



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In reference to Criteria 4, above, please select at least ONE inclusive climate action to commit to from the list

below; if you have other actions that do not appear here, please add them in the space provided below.

English

CREATE A MORE INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

- Collect information on the needs of frontline communities (including children, workers in transitioning industries, women, refugees, etc) with respect to climate planning and/or implementation.
- Collect spatial or disaggregated data to inform the design and/or monitor the implementation of climate actions.
- Demonstrate how actions contribute to delivering social and economic benefits, to reducing inequality and to driving a just transition for workers, through carrying out a wider benefits or equity assessments for at least 2 priority city-wide transformative climate actions.
- Take action to develop 15- or 30-minute neighborhoods (also known as complete neighborhoods) all throughout the city, where residents are able to meet most of their needs within a short walk or bicycle ride from their homes.

CREATE GREEN AND HEALTHY STREETS

- Pilot test and procure, with partners as necessary, zero emissions buses by 2025.
- Expand and improve walking, cycling and integrated transit access and identify potential areas for future zero emission zones by 2025.
- Procure, with our partners, only zero emission buses from 2025.
- Implement pilot measures that restrict internal combustion engines in parts of the city by 2025 and ensure that a major area of our city is zero emission by 2030.

REDUCE AIR POLLUTION & ENSURE CLEAN AIR

- Establish baseline levels and set ambitious reduction targets for air pollutants that meet or exceed national commitments. These targets will put us on a path towards meeting World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines for particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and sulphur dioxide.
- Develop plan by 2025 to achieve pollution reductions from major sources of pollution within city/under city control and implementing at least one new substantive policy and programme to reduce pollution from top source.
- Before 2025, implement new substantive policies and programmes to address the top causes of air pollution emissions within our city and under our control by 2025.

DEVELOP ZERO-CARBON BUILDINGS

- Develop a roadmap to achieve net zero carbon new buildings from 2030.
- Implement pilot efficiency programmes and incentives for building energy efficiency with tools in place that facilitate data access and data analysis (benchmarking) of building energy use by 2025.
- Develop a roadmap to achieve net zero carbon municipal buildings by 2030 and policy approval by 2025 to deliver a commitment to own, occupy and develop net zero carbon municipal assets by 2030.
- Enact regulations and/or planning policy to ensure NEW buildings operate at net zero carbon by 2030.
- Benchmark building energy use in existing buildings and implementing citywide efficiency programmes with an approved roadmap to achieve all net zero carbon buildings by 2050.
- Enact regulations and/or planning policy to ensure ALL buildings operate at net zero carbon by 2050, with a roadmap and interim emissions goals in place in 2025.

MOVE TOWARDS RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

- Develop a roadmap to achieve 100% clean renewable electricity by 2030 and expand this to 100% renewable energy by 2050.
- Lead by example with municipal renewable energy projects maximising the potential of municipal assets for onsite generation with the aim to cover municipal electricity demand by 100% renewables by 2025.
- Make sure your policies follow the rule of “energy-efficiency” first so take all actions to increase the efficiency of end-use sectors.
- Develop financial support programs to incentivize deployment of building-scale renewables and mandate the use of renewables through building codes, while engaging residents and other stakeholders in the process.
- Incentivize large scale clean energy generation by using your purchasing power and support community energy projects.
- Promote the use of clean energy sources for heating and cooling buildings.

ADVANCE TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

- Progressively phase out organics disposal to landfill and incinerators, ie at least 25% by 2025.
- Ensure all operating and closed landfills have landfill gas capture and at least flaring (ideally local landfill gas utilization for power generation) by 2025.
- Ensure all waste generated in the city is being collected and residual waste is disposed of adequately in at least an engineered sanitary landfill.
- Reduce the municipal solid waste generation per capita achieving at least 8% reduction in 2025, with actions like restricting single use materials, and volume based collection fees/incentives like “Pay as you throw”, enroute to 15% reduction by 2030.
- Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste disposed to landfill and incineration by at least 50% compared to 2015 by 2030; and increase the diversion rate away from landfill and incineration to at least 70% by 2030, with actions like scaling up citywide collection with 3-stream segregate waste collection including food/recyclables/residual by 2025.

CREATE SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

- Pilot school feeding programs that align to locally relevant [Planetary Health Diet](#) by 2025.
- Implement policies/incentives/taxes/bans that halt or prevent the nutrition transition by 2025.
- Regulate or activate programs for food businesses to minimize food related carbon emissions.
- Expand access for all citizens to affordable, plant-based food by 2025.
- Create a food council/board with local stakeholders by 2025.
- Align our food procurement (eg school feeding programs) to planetary health diet by 2030, with at least 50% of procurement expenditure aligned to the planetary health diet by 2025.
- Reduce food loss and waste by 50% from a 2015 baseline by 2030, achieving at least a 25% reduction in food loss and waste by 2025.
- Support an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption in our cities by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets by 2030.

DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS & INVEST IN A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- Advocate for fossil-free and sustainable finance by other investors and all levels of government, including by promoting the importance of strong, long-term climate policies and demanding greater transparency.
- Call on our pension funds to divest from fossil fuel companies and increase financial investments in climate solutions to help promote decent jobs and a just and green economy.
- Take all possible steps to divest our city assets from fossil fuel companies and increase our financial investments in climate solutions to help promote decent jobs and a just and green economy.