RESOLUTION NO. __________

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO IMPLEMENT THE CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION PLAN 2017 UPDATE, INCLUDING 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS, AND TO CREATE A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS FOR THE MUNICIPALITY AND THE BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, climate change, if unchecked, will have ever increasing impacts on human health, natural systems, wildlife, and infrastructure, creating mounting costs for individuals, communities, businesses, and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus demands we limit global temperature increases below 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid the most destructive and dangerous effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, an important first step toward achieving 100% renewable energy is to set a public long-term renewable energy target to demonstrate political commitment, and to provide both stakeholders and the community people with an understanding of the long-term vision for the City; and

WHEREAS, "renewable energy" is herein defined as energy derived from hydrogen, wind power sited in ecologically responsible ways, solar, existing and low-impact hydroelectric, geothermal, biogas (including biogas produced from biomass), and ocean/wave technology sources. "Renewable energy" specifically excludes energy derived from fossil fuels, nuclear, biomass feedstocks sourced from state and federal lands, hydrogen produced from fossil fuels, and incineration of municipal and medical waste; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has already experienced long-term warming, longer and more intense fire seasons, sea level rising along most of the coast, ocean acidification, and decline in glacial area and spring snowpack; and, the State Department of Ecology has reported that, “human caused climate change poses an immediate and urgent threat”; and

WHEREAS, economists have concluded that Washington’s families and businesses are likely to incur billions of dollars of annual economic costs if communities fail to drive reductions in greenhouse gas pollution. These economic
impacts include increased energy costs, coastal and storm damage, reduced food production, increased wildland fire, and increased public health costs; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bellingham municipal government is responsible to promote the public health and safety of its residents including access to clean air, clean water, and a livable environment, and

WHEREAS, the entire community will be impacted by climate change, but communities that already face existing socioeconomic and health inequities will be most severely impacted by these risks. These include youth, elders, people of color, and low-income communities; and, such communities will therefore require an investment in resilience that is proportionate and accountable to these more severe risks; and

WHEREAS, since time immemorial, the Coast Salish People have called home and have been the stewards, whose example we shall all follow, of what we now recognize as the City of Bellingham. The Coast Salish People depend on healthy ecosystems for subsistence and are disproportionately impacted by climate change, which threatens fish, crustacean, and shellfish populations of the Salish Sea, and

WHEREAS, since 2005, the City of Bellingham (the “City”) Mayors and Councils have declared support for local, national and international commitments to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the Bellingham City Council passed Resolution 2007-10 adopting greenhouse gas reduction targets and a Climate Protection Action Plan to achieve those targets; and

WHEREAS, many of the measures proposed or underway in 2007 have been implemented and the City exceeded the 2012 targets at both the municipal and community levels and is on track to meet the 2020 municipal emissions reduction target; and

WHEREAS, implementation of additional measures included in the Climate Protection Action Plan 2017 Update (the “Update”) will be necessary to meet commitments to further reduce emissions by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the transition to 100% renewable energy will provide a range of benefits, including improved air quality, enhanced public health, increased national and energy security, local jobs, reduced reliance on finite resources, and facilitation
of local control and ownership over energy options, and will bring tangible benefits to low-income residents and others who have historically been disadvantaged by our energy system; and

WHEREAS, On December 5, 2017 the Whatcom County Council approved Ordinance 2017-080 establishing the goal of 100% renewable energy use within County operations and the larger Whatcom County community; and.

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham aims to become the second city in Washington, and one of the first 75 nationally to commit to 100% renewable energy goals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham has signaled its commitment to declare ambitious climate action goals commensurate with its obligations as a signatory of multiple international climate agreements, including the We Are Still In Declaration, City’s Climate Action Plan, the Compact of Mayors, 100% Clean Energy, and the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bellingham recognizes the leadership of the following cities in passing resolutions committing to 100% renewable energy goals, informing both the language and structure of this resolution: Edmonds, WA; Salt Lake City, UT; Hanover, NH; Madison, WI; Cambridge, MA; Rochester, MN; and Portland, OR.

WHEREAS, The City of Bellingham recognizes that while it is desirable and beneficial to set aggressive targets and transition to 100% renewable energy quickly, there are numerous financial, technological and societal challenges that need to be addressed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

SECTION 1. ADOPT THE CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION PLAN 2017 UPDATE. The Bellingham Climate Protection Action Plan 2017 Update presented to Council on March 12, 2018, is hereby approved and adopted as the basis for continuing to implement actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal and community sources.

SECTION 2. ADOPT REVISED GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION TARGETS. The City hereby adopts the action plan for hitting targets of reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions from City municipal operations by 85 percent below 2000 levels by 2030 and by 100 percent below 2000 by 2050. The City also adopts
the action plan to reach the targets of reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions from the entire Bellingham community by 40 percent below 2000 levels by 2030 and by 85 percent below 2000 levels by 2050.

SECTION 3. DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO IMPLEMENT THE ACTION PLAN. The City Council directs City administration to implement, to the greatest extent practicable and achievable, the programs and projects described in the Climate Protection Action Plan 2017 Update.

SECTION 4. DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW GROWTH, LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS TO INSURE ALIGNMENT WITH THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN GOALS. This will include reviewing the Comprehensive Plan policies, Parks, Fire current and future land use policies, future development and re-development, and building standards to find options to further reduce the Bellingham community’s carbon footprint and accelerate Climate Action Plan targets.

SECTION 5. DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO WORK WITH ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS TO INSURE THEIR POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES ARE IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN. This will include all Departments reviewing operations and facilities as well as policies, practices and procedures to determine opportunities to further reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and insure alignment with the Climate Action Plan when developing future policies.

SECTION 56. DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO DOCUMENT METHODS THAT WILL BE USED TO ACHIEVE ACTIONABLE PRIORITIES. These will include identification of specific actions to reduce emissions, methods of delivering education and outreach to the public, and efforts to ensure that goals targets are achieved in a socially equitable manner. Activities will include developing metrics for cost effective decisions, guided by a Triple Bottom Line plus Technology approach.

SECTION 67. DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL ANNUALLY. The City Council directs City administration to report back to update the City Council during the first quarter of the year on activities, and on progress towards achieving the goals of the Climate Action Plan targets, to be timed early enough in the year to inform budget and planning decisions.

SECTION 78. IDENTIFICATION OF ACCELERATED GOALS COUNCIL’S AMBITIONS FOR ACCELERATING MUNICIPALITY AND COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS IN THE MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY
SECTORS. The City Council identifies the following accelerated renewable energy goals as greenhouse gas reduction ambitions: as an

- 100% renewable energy for municipal facilities (electricity, heating and transportation) by 2030;
- 100% renewable energy use for the City’s Bellingham community’s electricity supply by 2030, and
- 100% renewable energy for community heating and transportation by 2035.

SECTION 89. CREATION OF A CITIZEN COMMUNITY AND STAFF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

TASK FORCE. A limited-term Citizen Community and Staff Climate Action Plan Task Force (“Task Force”) will be formed with the following directives:

- Adopt a triple bottom line plus technology philosophy; and
- Determine feasibility, costs and impacts of the 100% renewable energy ambitions (Section 8); and
- Develop 100% renewable energy targets; and
- Identify funding mechanisms and develop a plan to achieve the Task Force’s recommended 100% renewable targets; and
- Develop accelerated greenhouse gas emissions targets for the Council to consider for adoption; and
- Identify policy considerations to attain accelerated targets.

identify what actions and funding are needed to achieve the 100% renewable goals in Section 7, with a final report to be delivered to the Council by May, 2019. The Task Force will deliver a final report to Council by May 2019.

The Task Force will consist of no more than 12 members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Up to six members of the Task Force will be drawn from the general public and will include individuals with experience in relevant fields such as renewable energy, energy conservation, land use, energy/resource economics, community engagement, transportation, or finance. The Task Force will include one representative from energy utilities and one representative from public transportation. Up to six members of the Task Force will be City staff designated by the Mayor based on subject matter expertise. The Task Force will be supported staff designated by the Mayor-designated staff, and City Council-designated staff.

SECTION 910. THE CITY COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER ADDING THE ACCELERATED GOALS ADOPTING THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS BY MAY 2019 AFTER BEING BRIEFED BY THE TASK FORCE.

Recommendations will include policies to accelerated climate action plan
greenhouse gas reduction targets and 100% renewable energy targets. TO THE
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AFTER BEING BRIEFED BY THE TASK FORCE IN MAY
2019.

PASSED by the Council this ____ day of ___________________, 2018.

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Council President

APPROVED by me this ____ day of ________________, 2018.

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Mayor

ATTEST: _______________________
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Office of the City Attorney