

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



**HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER**



**LED STREET LIGHTS**

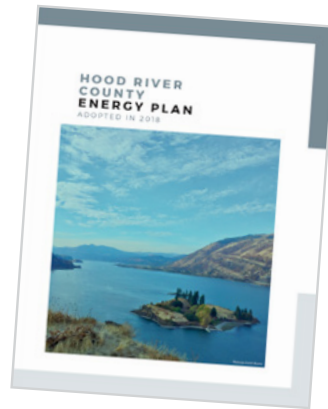


**SOLAR PANELS**

*City officials have been studying possible generation of hydro-electric power with the city water system, pictured touring a 30-year-old generator in Parkdale. Replacement of incandescent with LED streetlights is an on-going project. Solar panels on the city Public Works building were installed in July, 2017 and generated over 36 megawatt hours in its first two years. City Council has authorized placement of solar panels on the lawn next to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, to be operational in summer 2020.*

## SUMMARY

Creating a more environmentally sustainable community is a 2019 Hood River City Council Work Plan Goal. In November 2019, a follow-up resolution (2019-16) was passed by Council affirming recognition of a global climate crisis and strategies to reduce the City of Hood River's contribution to global warming. This includes mitigating the effects of climate change with sound municipal environmental policy to reduce of the City's contribution of greenhouse gasses into the environment. This action follows an earlier resolution (2018-02) in which City Council adopted the Hood River County Energy Plan as a blueprint to improve the community's resilience and increase energy independence and economic benefits related to energy use in Hood River County. The City has continually reaffirmed the organization's commitment to environmentally sustainable operations.



*Hybrid police interceptors on order.*

## Applicable Projects

*Prior or on-going energy efficient actions undertaken by the City of Hood River include:*

- changing City street lights from incandescent bulbs to LEDs
- providing permanent funding for a portion of the Hood River County Energy Coordinator position
- investigating hydro-electric generation in the City's waterline
- purchasing first generation hybrid-electric police interceptors
- installing solar panels on the Hood River Fire Station, Waterfront Park restrooms, and Public Works administration building

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## Additionally, the City of Hood River commits to:

- reviewing progress and updating implementation strategies annually to allow for adaptive management
- partnering to educate residents about steps needed to limit the magnitude and effects of global warming
- underscore the need for community participation, inclusion, and support, in efforts to rapidly reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and the city's climate impact
- keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to all climate change mitigation planning processes and inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs
- join a nationwide call to limit or reverse climate change at all levels of government

*The City of Hood River calls on the State of Oregon, the United States of America, and all governments and peoples worldwide to recognize the global climate crisis; and to:*

- 1** Initiate efforts to reverse global warming by restoring near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations.
- 2** Discourage the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure.
- 3** Rapidly phase out all fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them.
- 4** End greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible.
- 5** Initiate an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere.
- 6** Transition to regenerative agriculture that aims to capture carbon in soil and aboveground biomass.
- 7** Create high-quality, good-paying jobs with comprehensive benefits for those who will be impacted by this transition.

## BACKGROUND

It is substantiated that human activities will likely result in global warming of 1.5°C or more above pre-industrial levels, and global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels will negatively affect human health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth, and will result in species loss and extinction.<sup>i</sup>

In April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it. The world is seeing impacts of warmer climates in rising seas and the increased intensity of wildfires, droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events.

*In signing the Paris Agreement, these countries agreed to:*

- keep warming well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels
- pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C

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