

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



HYBRID POLICE FLEET



LED STREET LIGHTS



SOLAR PANELS

## SUMMARY

Creating a more environmentally sustainable community continues to be a Hood River City Council Work Plan Goal. In November 2019, Council passed a resolution (2019-16) recognizing a global climate crisis and committed to reducing the City’s contribution to global warming. This includes lessening impacts to 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 in its annual work plans.

*As a result, the City of Hood River has committed to taking the following steps.*

1. Reduction of reliance on fossil fuels in municipal operations and pursuit of local policies and reforms that promote environmental stewardship and sustainability.
2. Reduction of municipal net greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible with a target of reaching net zero by 2035 with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from Hood River County, the region, and State and Federal authorities.
3. Initiation of efforts for adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts.

## Applicable Projects

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

- establishing a baseline of energy usage and emissions for City-owned facilities and vehicle fleet (completed in 2020)
- planning for and purchasing hybrid police patrol vehicles -- by 2028 the entire police fleet will be hybrid
- installing solar panels at the WasteWater Treatment Plant, Hood River Fire Station, Waterfront Park restrooms, and Public Works administration building
- changing City street lights from incandescent bulbs to LEDs
- providing permanent funding for the Hood River County Energy Coordinator position

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

- review progress and update strategies annually to allow for adaptive management
- partner to educate residents about steps needed to limit the extent 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
- keep the concerns of vulnerable communities central to all climate change planning processes and invite and encourage these communities to actively participate and 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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