

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Austin Climate Equity Plan established the goal of equitably reaching net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Council adopted Resolution No. 040115-31 directing the initiation of a pilot project for emissions reductions through changes and improvements to the City's acquisition processes for goods and services to accomplish the most immediate, short-term impact to air quality without increasing the cost to the City more than five percent of the cost of such goods and services; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, the City's central procurement office has been working to implement a responsible purchasing program to help the City identify more sustainable alternatives to traditional goods and services; and

WHEREAS, a City-wide purchasing policy was adopted in 2018 that asks all City departments to track, measure, and encourage the use of sustainable products and services with the following attributes:

1. Conserve natural resources, including water, energy, and raw materials throughout the product life cycle;
2. Minimize environmental impacts such as water and air pollution during usage;
3. Eliminate or reduce toxins that create hazards to workers, citizens, wildlife, and the environment;
4. Support up-cycling and recycling efforts, as well as utilize products with high recycled content;

- 27 5. Encourage vendors to reduce environmental impacts in their production
28 and distribution systems;
29 6. Support worker health, safety, and fair wages; and
30 7. Consider total cost of ownership during the product's useful life,
31 including operation, suppliers, maintenance, and disposal cost.

32 **WHEREAS**, in 2020, Austin adopted the Austin Climate Equity Plan,
33 which included the goal “By 2030, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from
34 institutional, commercial, and government purchasing by at least 50%”; and

35 **WHEREAS**, in December 2021, the White House issued Executive Order
36 14057, which created the Federal Sustainability Plan that includes actions to
37 achieve net-zero emissions from Federal procurement by 2050 while increasing the
38 sustainability of Federal supply chains; and

39 **WHEREAS**, City staff, along with the Sustainable Procurement Leadership
40 Council, has worked to develop a methodology to measure lifecycle greenhouse
41 gas emissions and other environmental and social impacts from non-residential
42 purchasing and identify a baseline for progress; and

43 **WHEREAS**, Chapter 271 of the Texas Local Government Code, permits
44 local governments to form purchasing cooperatives and to engage in cooperative
45 purchasing for the benefit of all parties; and

46 **WHEREAS**, in June 2020, the City joined the Texas Interlocal Purchasing
47 Cooperative with other regional governments which permits a lead government to
48 establish cooperative contracts and makes these standardized contracts available
49 for use by participating governments; and

50 **WHEREAS**, the Sustainable Procurement Leadership Council's provided
51 coaching and the Parametrix firm performed an initial baseline analysis of the
52 City's existing spending across human respiratory impacts, toxicity, water use
53 intensity and energy impacts highlighted the disproportionate impact of certain
54 products, particularly cement and transportation equipment, and services such as
55 waste management and green space maintenance; and

56 **WHEREAS**, the City has existing programs and focused goals regarding
57 some high-impact procurements, such as electric vehicle transition and waste
58 reduction; and

59 **WHEREAS**, lawncare equipment, which runs on smaller, less efficient
60 motors with a mix of fuels, has a significant climate impact; and

61 **WHEREAS**, the 2020 National Emissions Inventory from the
62 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that lawncare equipment emitted
63 large quantities of smog-producing nitrogen oxides, greenhouse gas contributing
64 carbon dioxide, and other toxins such as benzene; and

65 **WHEREAS**, the EPA report found that lawncare equipment produced a
66 disproportionate amount of fine particulate matter, known as PM2.5, that is
67 particularly harmful to human health; and

68 **WHEREAS**, in 2020, gas-powered lawn equipment in the United States
69 produced 21,800 tons of PM2.5, which is an amount equivalent to the pollution
70 from 234 million typical cars over the course of a year; and

71 **WHEREAS**, in February 2024, the EPA finalized rules regarding the level
72 of air pollution, seeking to limit PM2.5 at less than 9.0 ug/m³, and published

guidance that the air quality data for Travis County recorded between 2020 and 2022 would be considered non-attainment by this standard; and

WHEREAS, City staff and contractors specializing in green space maintenance have provided feedback regarding some of the cost challenges regarding a transition to electric lawncare equipment; and

WHEREAS, Council passed Resolution No. 20230420-024 acknowledging the disproportionate environmental impact of cement production, which accounts for seven percent of all global carbon emissions, and directed City staff to explore a plan to transition all future City contracts and projects to low-embodied-carbon concrete; and

WHEREAS, after working to get industry feedback, City staff presented to the Joint Sustainability Committee in January 2024 regarding a draft implementation plan for transition to low-embodied-carbon concrete and recommended revising City-wide purchasing and contracting documents to reflect updated standards; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to develop a systemic approach for the procurement processes of the City, including specifications and requirements~~enterprise departments such as the airport and convention center~~, to prioritize low environmental impact options and actively support the transition of contracted goods and services to more environmentally sustainable practices. Implementing sustainable purchasing is expected to be the responsibility of all departments, including enterprise departments such as the airport and convention center.

97 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

98 The City Manager is directed to commence an initial pilot program that
99 focuses on the two categories identified by staff during the baseline analysis:
100 concrete construction and greenspace maintenance services and equipment.

101 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

102 The City Manager is directed to include establishing a preference policy for
103 low environmental impact options as well as providing tailored assistance to
104 vendors seeking to transition to more sustainable practices in the pilot program.

105 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

106 The City Manager is directed to work collaboratively with other regional
107 government purchasing managers to seek harmonization of sustainable purchasing
108 practices and cooperation in any vendor support programs.

109 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

110 The City Manager is directed to include environmental impact information
111 used for evaluation or tracking, such as Environmental Product Declarations, as a
112 part of any Request for Council Action on a Council agenda related to these pilot
113 areas.

114 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

115 The City Manager is directed to report to Council by July 19, 2024,
116 regarding program recommendations and to identify any staffing or resources
117 needed in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for pilot implementation ~~in Fiscal Year 2024-~~
118 ~~2025~~ and for the broader implementation of sustainable procurement practices.
119

ADOPTED: _____, 2024 ATTEST: _____

Myrna Rios
City Clerk

DRAFT