

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, in September 2021, Council adopted the Austin Climate Equity Plan that provided 74 strategies to equitably reach net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040; and

WHEREAS, as of May 2025, 11 of the 17 goals in the Climate Equity Plan are either “in need of support” or “off track”; and

WHEREAS, in July 2024, Council approved Resolution No. 20240718-093, directing the City Manager to create a comprehensive climate implementation program to refocus City resources toward achieving our community-wide net-zero goal, including providing a detailed and thorough means for investing in our climate; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Implementation Plan includes a recommendation for the creation of a climate "revolving fund" to invest in energy upgrades to City facilities, capture savings, and reinvest funds for additional energy upgrades. This structure secures ongoing funding for improvements that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and result in monetary savings; and

WHEREAS, in May 2025, Council approved Resolution No. 20250522-052 to analyze the potential of solar on City facilities, and to annually calculate any energy cost savings or revenue generated, realized by solar generation installed on City facilities for departmental use and utilize an equivalent amount of funding for projects that have a beneficial environmental impact, beginning with those identified in the Climate Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, other communities, including the City of San Antonio and Harris County, have implemented Energy Efficiency Funds and similar programs in order to expand funding available for additional utility conservation projects;

26 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

28 The City Manager is directed to establish a Climate Revolving Fund
29 dedicated to receiving funds from and expending funds for investments in energy
30 upgrades to City facilities, capture related savings, and reinvest funds for
31 additional savings.

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

33 The proposed expenditures of this fund shall be annually presented to the
34 Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee of Council by May 1 of each
35 year for recommendations on inclusion in the subsequent proposed budget. The
36 Climate Revolving Fund should be managed by the Office of Climate Action &
37 Resilience in consultation with the Financial Services Department and the Office
38 of Budget and Organizational Excellence, to supplement, expand, and prioritize
39 funding for energy efficiency projects in municipally owned assets and operations.

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

41 The City Manager is directed to appropriate all cost savings or revenue
42 generated from solar generation installed on City facilities to be included in the
43 Climate Revolving Fund, as stated in Resolution No. 20250522-052, and bring to
44 Council, if necessary, any actions required to achieve this direction.

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

46 The City Manager is further directed to analyze potential projects that could
47 decrease the City's greenhouse gas emissions and result in savings to the City. This
48 analysis should include a framework for measuring savings to the City for each
49 improvement, including through tax credits, utility rebates, and direct or indirect
50 savings. The analysis will also include identification of simple payback periods for
51 each improvement, recommendations for methods to return those savings to the

Climate Revolving Fund, and the reinvestment of those funds into future projects. When considering funding such projects, the City Manager should explore using the funds within the revolving fund supplemented by debt instruments available to finance these projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to analyze the workforce necessary to complete these projects and make recommendations to ensure that improvements made through the Climate Revolving Fund support fair pay, safe working conditions, health benefits, Department of Labor registered apprenticeships, and other community benefits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to analyze and make recommendations regarding additional funding structures for climate-based initiatives, including the creation of public entities that engage in public-private partnerships, and how the City budgeting process could be analyzed for its impact on climate change, such as a “Climate Budget”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide a preliminary report to Council with updates and recommendations responsive to this resolution by January 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Upon completion of all analyses called for by this resolution, the City Manager is directed to present these findings to the Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee of Council at its February 2026 meeting, which will then make any recommendations to the full Council.

ADOPTED: _____, 2025 **ATTEST:** _____
Erika Brady
City Clerk