

Introduced by: Councilmember Wright

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
Resolution 2009-51
Resolution Establishing a Task Force on Environmental Action

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2009, the City Council adopted a Strategic Plan for FY 2010 – FY 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan envisions Takoma Park as a sustainable and livable community, with an engaged, responsive and service-oriented government; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that this vision can best be achieved by working in partnership with residents, community organizations, non-profits, the business community and other governmental agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the Council desires to begin implementation of the Strategic Plan by focusing its attention on Takoma Park becoming an environmentally sustainable community; and,

WHEREAS, in order to draw upon the broad range of environmental and climate change expertise and interest within the Takoma Park community, the Council wishes to establish a Task Force on Environmental Action to review the current status of plans and operations related to climate change and the environment and to prepare a roadmap for achieving the vision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:

1. A Task Force on Environmental Action is established to review the current status of plans and operations related to climate change and the environment and to prepare a roadmap for achieving the vision elaborated in the Strategic Plan.
2. Members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the City Council.
3. The Mayor and each of the six ward Councilmembers may appoint up to three members to the task force.
4. Members shall be Takoma Park residents or shall represent organizations working on climate change or environmental sustainability issues.
5. The Task Force shall elect its leadership from among its members.
6. The City Manager shall designate one or more staff members to assist the Task Force in its work.

7. The Task Force should focus on the following in the course of its work:

- Review existing City environmental policies and programs and their effectiveness, identify any gaps, and recommend any changes or enhancements.
- Conduct an initial review of the requirements of the City's Ordinances and recommend any necessary revisions to ensure the furtherance of the City Council's environmental sustainability goal.
- Create and recommend a five-year plan for improving the environmental sustainability of the City government, residents, and businesses. The Council urges that the Task Force prioritize achievement of the largest gain for the smallest investment, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and accounting for social justice issues and priorities. The plan should consider vehicle use, fuel use, facility efficiency, purchasing preference for recyclable and green products, use of alternative, less environmentally damaging products, and other policy recommendations.
- Review the City's Local Action Plan for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and recommend revisions that will establish reduction goals that meet or exceed federal, state, county, and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' plans.
- Recommend ongoing educational and incentive programs to increase the community's awareness of actions it can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce use of resources, enhance the natural environment, and improve water quality.
- Recommend a series of benchmarks and key indicators to provide an appropriate means of measuring progress made by the City and the community to improve Takoma Park's environmental sustainability.
- Recommend a structure for an ongoing volunteer committee (or committees), work group(s) or other entities to advise the City Council, monitor progress on implementing the plans, conduct educational programs and outreach, or perform other tasks associated with environmental sustainability at the request of the City Council.

8. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the City Council by March 31, 2010 unless its term is extended by the Council.

Adopted this 27th day of July, 2009.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk