RESOLUTION 2022 - 25

RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TO FURTHER PIMA COUNTY’S COMMITMENTS TO ADDRESS THE RISKS
OF CLIMATE CHANGE BY ADOPTING A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN THAT
ALIGNS WITH CURRENT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS IN
SUPPORT OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds:

1. Consensus exists among the world’s leading climate scientists, and the recently released
   United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report No.6 (AR6)
   agrees that we face a major global climate crisis caused by greenhouse gas emissions, and
   calls on governing bodies to prepare for, reduce the risk of, and increase resilience to climate
   impacts; and

2. Documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to rising sea levels, melting
   ice sheets, and increased occurrences of extreme weather events, resulting in the destruction
   of ecosystems and infrastructure, increased costs, and reduced economic productivity, as well
   as unpredictable and unhealthy living environment that will have significant impacts to human
   health and safety; and

3. Pima County’s geographic location makes it particularly vulnerable to the devastating impacts
   of climate change including extreme drought, fires, flooding, and the concomitant adverse
   impacts on human health and the environment; and

4. In 2007, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2007-84, which was the
   basis for the 2008 and 2014 Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations (SAPCO), setting
   targets for reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and

5. In 2015, nearly 200 nations adopted the voluntary United Nations Paris Climate Agreement
   (Paris Agreement) aimed at reducing carbon emissions, slowing rising global temperatures,
   and helping countries deal with the effects of climate change; and

6. The United States ratified the Paris Agreement on September 3, 2016, and committed to its
   own Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) or United States target of reducing carbon
   emissions by 26 to 28 percent by 2025; and

7. On June 6, 2017, the Pima County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2017-39 affirming
   its commitment to the Paris Agreement; and

8. In July 2017, the County adopted Climate Resolution 2017-51, which resulted in the current
   2018-2025 Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations that addresses Carbon, Water,
   Landscapes, Materials, and Workforce, and aligned County carbon emissions targets to the
   United States target of reducing carbon emissions by 26 to 28 percent by 2025; and

9. To address the recent findings of the IPCC AR6, the National Climate Advisor and the White
   House Office of Domestic Climate Policy adjusted the United States NDC by setting a new
   economy-wide target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 50 to 52 percent below
   2005 levels by 2030; and
10. Approximately 80 percent of the County's current total carbon emissions is derived from electricity generated from fossil fuels, and

11. Pima County continues to make progress in combating climate change by installing 13MW of solar energy infrastructure at county facilities, constructing a biogas facility to make beneficial use of methane from wastewater treatment, transitioning its fleet to electric and energy saving vehicles, installing green infrastructure, and maintaining natural carbon sequestration in riparian areas and other natural areas, but greater efforts are needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorizes and directs the County Administrator and staff to prioritize and align efforts with the United States new NDC to the Paris Agreement, and to identify, implement, and advocate for those climate actions that are determined to be the highest operational priorities to reduce carbon emissions to 50 to 52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 through:

   a. Revising the current SAPCO into a multi-year Climate Action Plan for County Operations (CAPCO) that extends the plan to 2030, and increases carbon reduction targets to 50 percent below 2005 levels to conform with United States NDC to achieve its commitment to the Paris Agreement.

   b. Identifying high priority strategies for Carbon, Water, Landscapes, Materials, and Workforce to reduce risk from climate change and promote resilience.

   c. Conducting cost-benefit analyses for implementation of high priority strategies and identify available funding.

   d. Adopting annual targets and assigning strategies to be included in annual departmental work plans to reach stated targets.


   f. Working with County contracted utilities to maximize the benefit that the County receives from utilities' conversion to renewable energy resources.

   g. Initiating Pima County's employee Green Team – “Green Stewards.”


   i. Investigating and implementing the most effective strategies for reducing carbon emissions from wastewater treatment by at least 50 percent by 2030.

   j. Updating the Pima County Board of Supervisors on a semi-annual basis on the County’s progress toward meeting their carbon emission reduction goal of 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.
Passed, adopted and approved, this 3 day of May, 2022.

Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

MAY 03 2022

ATTEST:

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

May 3, 2022

County Attorney