

MOTION

Global Warming: Think Globally, Act Locally

Glaciers are melting. Rivers are rising. Storms of Biblical proportions are ravaging our coasts.

The crisis of global warming threatens us all. If left unchecked, it will transform our planet and annihilate our species.

Deaths from global warming are expected to double in a mere 25 years, to 300,000 a year. Global sea levels could rise by more than 20 feet, devastating coastal areas worldwide. Heat waves will be more frequent and more intense. Droughts and wildfires will occur more often. More than a million species worldwide could be driven to extinction by 2050.

Here in Los Angeles, there are immediate and short-term perils, such as flooding in low-lying property, loss of beach and coastal wetlands, and saltwater contamination of coastal underground drinking water supplies.

Global warming is not a controversial theory; it is indisputable fact. Scientific research now demonstrates that the Earth's climate is warming at an unprecedented rate and humans are largely responsible for this acceleration through our actions, such as the increased use of fossil fuels.

The Kyoto Protocol obliges 35 industrial nations to cut emissions of carbon dioxide by an overall 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2008-12. The City of Los Angeles did commit to reducing climate change and created a Climate Action Plan in March 2001 which included the development of a baseline (this Climate Action Plan is currently being revised).

In a failure of moral and political leadership, the United States failed to sign the Kyoto Protocol. But as the country's second largest city, the City of Los Angeles can play a leadership role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Quite literally, we can think globally and act locally.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Chief Legislative Analyst to work with the Environmental Affairs Department, the Department of Water and Power, and any other departments and agencies as appropriate, and report within 60 days to the Energy and Environment Committee on the status of the programs the City of Los Angeles employs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including, but not limited to the Climate Action Plan; the Department of Water and Powers' Energy Efficiency Program and Green LA programs, and the status of LA's Green Roofs program.

I FURTHER MOVE that the that the City Council direct the CLA to report back within 60 days to the Energy and Environment Committee on any gaps, shortcomings or opportunities for growth in the City's programs to reduce greenhouse gases and

recommend how the City can seize opportunities to achieve or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets right here in our own community.

I FURTHER MOVE that the CLA reports back within 60 days to the Energy and Environment Committee on how other cities, such as Seattle, WA and Portland, OR, are implementing programs to reduce greenhouse gases and describe what unique incentives they have created for the public and private sectors to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the CLA to report within 60 days to the Energy and Environment Committee on efforts to create a baseline measure of greenhouse emissions produced by the government of the City of Los Angeles, and what efforts can be undertaken to promote the reduction of greenhouse gases produced by City government.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the CLA to work with the Department of Water and Power and report back within 60 days to the Energy and Environment Committee on the status of efforts to replace coal power with renewable resources.


I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the CLA to work with the Port of Los Angeles and report back within 60 days to the Trade, Commerce and Tourism Committee on how to further accelerate the Port's Clean Air initiatives.

Presented by:



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