

**BRIEFING PAPER**  
**Public Works Committee**  
**Spokane City Council**  
**June 26, 2017**

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**Subject:**

This proposed ordinance relates to climate change, global warming, and the implementation of the City of Spokane's Sustainability Action Plan.

**Background:**

The City of Spokane is currently engaging in climate change mitigation, sustainable infrastructure, and energy-efficiency efforts. However, the City has no general codified policy acknowledging this work and requiring ongoing efforts in the Spokane Municipal Code. Even without a codified policy framework, over the past 16 years, the City has made steady progress in this area:

- 2001: City commits to the "Cities for Climate Protection" campaign
- 2007: City joins the U.S. Green Building Council
- 2007: Near-Nature Quality of Life Initiative
- 2007: City signs U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
- 2009: Adoption of the *City of Spokane Sustainability Action Plan*
- 2010: City establishes greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals
- 2014: City issues \$200 million in water/wastewater utility "green bonds" to improve the health of the Spokane River and the Spokane Valley/Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer
- 2014: City establishes purchasing preference for recycled products
- 2014: Adoption of urban farming and market garden program
- 2015: Enactment of ordinance requiring new vehicles be more fuel efficient than the vehicles they replace
- 2015: Start of conversion of solid waste vehicle fleet from diesel to compressed natural gas
- 2016: Enactment of ordinance requiring all new City-owned buildings be certified at least LEED Silver
- 2017: City achieves net zero energy consumption

**Impact:**

This proposed ordinance would:

- Acknowledge the fact of anthropogenic climate change, and reaffirms the City's commitment to local, state, national, and global climate change mitigation efforts.
- Codify the City of Spokane's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction goal: – 30% below the 2005 baseline level by the year 2030.
- Align the City of Spokane's GHG reduction goals with Washington state's reduction goals.
- Codify the Sustainability Action Plan as the binding framework, going forward, for implementing City efforts related to climate change mitigation and adaptation,

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and energy security.

**Action:**

Request to file the ordinance for consideration by the full City Council.