

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Committing the City and Board of Alders to working with the City’s Chief Administrative Officer, City Engineer, Board of Education, Livable City Initiative, the City Plan, Building, and Economic Development Departments, State of Connecticut, and relevant agencies to encourage a sustainable electric generation portfolio; and to electrifying the City’s own building and transportation systems by December 31, 2030.

REPORT: **1582-08**
ADVICE: **Approval**

BACKGROUND

In 2019, The City declared that the existential threat of climate change merits urgent action. The New Haven Board of Alders officially committed to leading an emergency mobilization effort that would work to end community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by or before December 31, 2030, and immediately initiate an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere.

New Haven is ranked 11th of 100 US metropolitan cities that are most challenging to live with asthma by Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America in large part because of the burning of fossil fuels. Moreover, life expectancy in New Haven is lower than surrounding towns, due in part to poor air quality, which causes respiratory diseases, heart disease and cancer.

The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted how health and environmental injustices put our most vulnerable community members at risk. Electrification of buildings and vehicles directly addresses the air pollution that causes climate change and related respiratory illnesses. Fully electrified buildings will also result in safer living conditions as residents are less exposed to carbon monoxide leaks and fires.

Electrification will increase social equity as all-electric new construction can reduce housing costs; disadvantaged populations spend a disproportionate amount of their income on energy and are more likely to suffer from asthma due to poor air quality.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Committing the City and Board of Alders to working with relevant agencies to encourage a sustainable electric generation portfolio and to electrifying the City’s own building and transportation systems by 2030, complies with the City's Comprehensive Plan that recommends:

New Haven Vision, 2025, Sec. VII-19:

Continue to pursue broad reductions in pollutants, ozone, particulate matter, and other air toxic emissions from point, area, and mobile sources, according to priorities identified by the Connecticut Air Toxics Inventory (updated in 2005).

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Order in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: March 17, 2021

Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST: _____ 

Aïcha Woods
Executive Director, City Plan Department