

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2022 Legislative Session**

Resolution No. CR-032-2022  
Proposed by Council Members Dernoga, Burroughs, and Ivey  
Introduced by Council Members Dernoga, Burroughs, Ivey, Streeter, Harrison, Taveras  
Co-Sponsors Council Members Hawkins, Medlock, Glaros, and Turner  
Date of Introduction April 26, 2022

**RESOLUTION**

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Adoption of the Climate Action Plan

3 For the purpose of adopting the Prince George's County Climate Action Commission's (the  
4 "Commission") draft Climate Action Plan for Prince George's County and supplementary  
5 comments report; establishing a County-wide emissions reduction goal; acknowledging and  
6 supporting Executive Order No. 5-2022 creating an Executive Task Force to develop, execute,  
7 measure, and update the County's Climate Policy on an ongoing basis; providing for status  
8 briefings to the County Council on at least an annual basis; providing for the termination of this  
9 Resolution; providing for the effective date of this Resolution; and generally regarding climate.

10 WHEREAS, there is a consensus among the world's leading scientists that human activities,  
11 including the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, have increased greenhouse gases in Earth's  
12 atmosphere which is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

13 WHEREAS, the Sixth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate  
14 Change (IPCC) released February 22, 2022, through world-wide scientific observation and  
15 quantifications, states that climate change is escalating much faster than previous IPCC report  
16 climate models predicted; current global warming is human induced from the burning of fossil  
17 fuels and natural resource depletion; irreversible global warming of 1.2 C above preindustrial has  
18 already occurred; surpassing 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) of global warming will catastrophically  
19 endanger the well-being of all people and the earth's ecosystems which humans rely for survival;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the scientific community warns of a closing window of opportunity to reduce  
22 the current trajectory of climate change and thereby avoid potentially catastrophic climate impacts

1 which would wreak havoc on human lives and communities; and

2 WHEREAS, documented impacts of global warming include increased occurrences of  
3 extreme weather events (i.e., droughts and floods), adverse impacts on plants and wildlife habitats,  
4 and threats to global food production, water supplies and human health, all of which have an  
5 adverse economic impact on our communities and local government, with a disproportionate  
6 impact on population at risk; and

7 WHEREAS, a majority of our County's current residents, at some point in their lifetime, will  
8 most likely experience a life altering climate change event from unprecedented weather patterns  
9 and storms, and a significant portion of current residents will be severely impacted by global  
10 warming and will endure unparalleled social unrest, famine, wars, mass extinction, food and water  
11 wars, massive economic and government failures, with some parts of the world rendered  
12 uninhabitable; and

13 WHEREAS, state, regional, and local governments throughout the United States are adopting  
14 emissions reduction targets and programs for adaptation and resiliency to changing climate  
15 conditions; and

16 WHEREAS, counties have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and  
17 preparing for the impacts of climate change through regional interjurisdictional coordination of  
18 policies and programs affecting air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, forest  
19 preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management; and

20 WHEREAS, Prince George's County and the Washington DC region face a future with  
21 increased frequency of high-heat days, extreme precipitation events, and severe storms; and

22 WHEREAS, structural inequities in our society have contributed to disparities in health  
23 outcomes and economic status and adverse impacts of climate change will disproportionately  
24 affect populations that are already disadvantaged; and

25 WHEREAS, transitioning away from the use of fossil fuels will decrease exposure to air  
26 pollutants that contribute to health disparities; and

27 WHEREAS, a just transition to renewable energy, building retrofits, electrification of  
28 vehicles, modernization of the electrical grid, and other new technologies and practices to address  
29 climate change will provide economic opportunities for Prince George's County residents and  
30 businesses; and

31 WHEREAS, in 2008, the County Council adopted Resolution No. CR-24-2008 establishing

1 emissions reduction targets to reduce County geographical emissions to 80% below 2008 levels  
2 by 2050, develop a greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions inventory, and participate in the  
3 MWCOG’s Regional Climate Change Program in creating a regional plan that establishes short-,  
4 mid-, and long-term GHG reduction targets, resolving to take immediate steps to identify regional  
5 climate change impacts, and to draft and implement a County Climate Action Plan to prepare for  
6 and build resilience to those impacts; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2020, in Board Resolution R45-2020, the MWCOG adopted emissions  
8 reduction targets of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030; and

9 WHEREAS, the Maryland Climate Action Commission’s 2030 Greenhouse Gas Reduction  
10 Act Plan provides a blueprint for the State’s achievement of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas  
11 emissions by 2030 with significant positive job growth and economic benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, the County Council established in CR-07-2020 a Climate Action Commission  
13 (“Commission”), staffed by the Department of Environment to develop a draft Climate Action  
14 Plan for Prince George’s County, updating the County’s greenhouse gas emission inventory, and  
15 establishing targets for future reductions, and identifying a plan of action for adoption and  
16 implementation of climate adaptation and resiliency measures; and

17 WHEREAS, over the course of preparing the draft Climate Action Plan, the Commission  
18 engaged over 4,500 residents to develop actionable strategies to prepare for and mitigate the effects  
19 of Climate Change, including holding a thirty (30) day public comment period on a draft Climate  
20 Action Plan; and

21 WHEREAS, the Climate Action Commission transmitted to the Council its draft Climate  
22 Action Plan and a Supplementary Comments Report by January 14, 2022, for further action and  
23 consideration; and

24 WHEREAS, the Prince George’s County Public School System Climate Change Action Plan  
25 was approved by the Board of Education on April 28, 2022; and

26 WHEREAS, the Commission’s draft Climate Action Plan for Prince George’s County  
27 presents 26 priority recommendations to reduce emissions and prepare the County for a climate  
28 resilient future; and

29 WHEREAS, the Prince George’s County Council recognizes that the draft Climate Action  
30 Plan (including the Supplementary Comments Report) is a dynamic plan the policies and  
31 recommendations of which will be revised to stay current with rapidly changing events, and certain

1 policies of which will have to be implemented by legislation; and

2 WHEREAS, the State of Maryland in April 2022 adopted the Climate Solutions Now Act, to  
3 achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions state-wide by 2045.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
5 Maryland, that Prince George's County hereby adopts the Commission's draft Climate Action  
6 Plan, and directs the Department of Environment to be the lead in the implementation of the  
7 twenty-six (26) priority recommendations in conjunction with other County agencies, the County  
8 Council and other government entities as well as additional non-government stakeholders for  
9 inclusion in the final Climate Action Implementation Plan; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council supports the actions of the County  
11 Executive, who by Executive Order No.5-2022 has established a Climate Action Implementation  
12 Task Force and Resident Advisory Group to develop strategies and actions to prioritize Climate  
13 Solutions in County Government Operations and to incorporate environmental justice and climate  
14 equity policy into decision making across the County Government's portfolio; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council supports the actions of the County Executive  
16 who by Executive Order No. 5-2022 directed the Department of the Environment to develop a  
17 final Climate Action Implementation Plan for Prince George's County recommending  
18 implementation strategies for Climate Action across the County Government that shall include a  
19 prioritization of these strategies as well as costs and proposed funding mechanisms; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Prince George's County hereby adopts a County-wide  
21 emissions reduction goal of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Prince George's County hereby adopts a County-wide  
23 goal of achieving carbon-neutrality by 2045; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Climate Action Plan is part of an ongoing process  
25 of change and that the Department of the Environment, with public input, will assess program  
26 efficacy and community needs and will update the County's Climate Action Plan at regular  
27 intervals, and provide status briefings and report to the County Council on at least an annual basis;  
28 and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Prince George's County Council expresses its  
30 appreciation to the members of the Climate Action Commission, to the staff and consultants that  
31 assisted, and to the members of the public that participated.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on the date it becomes  
2 law and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2023, and with no other action required by the  
3 County Council, this Resolution shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Calvin S. Hawkins, II  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna J. Brown  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

**THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE FAILED TO SIGN THIS RESOLUTION, THIS RESOLUTION BECAME LAW ON JULY 12, 2022.**