

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2020 Legislative Session**

Resolution No. CR-7-2020

Proposed by Council Members Dernoga, Ivey, Glaros, Franklin and Taveras

Introduced by Council Members Dernoga, Ivey, Glaros, Taveras, Anderson-Walker,  
Streeter, Davis, Harrison, Turner and Hawkins

Date of Introduction March 3, 2020

**RESOLUTION**

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 A Climate Action Plan

3 For the purpose of declaring the intent of the Prince George's County Council (the "County  
4 Council") to establish a Climate Action Commission (the "Commission") to develop a Climate  
5 Action Plan for Prince George's County.

6 WHEREAS, there is a consensus among the world's leading scientists that global warming  
7 caused by human emission of greenhouse gases is among the most significant problems facing  
8 the world today;

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, in 2007, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' ("MWCOG")  
22 Board of Directors adopted Resolution R31-07 creating a regional climate change initiative;

1           WHEREAS, in 2008, the County Council adopted Resolution No. CR-24-2008 establishing  
2 emissions reduction targets to reduce County geographical emissions to 80% below 2008 levels  
3 by 2050, develop a greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions inventory, and participate in the  
4 MWCOG’s Regional Climate Change Program in creating a regional plan that establishes short-,  
5 mid-, and long-term GHG reduction targets, resolving to take immediate steps to identify  
6 regional climate change impacts, and to draft and implement a County Climate Action Plan to  
7 prepare for and build resilience to those impacts;

8           WHEREAS, in 2010 Prince George's County and MWCOG entered into a memorandum of  
9 understanding for MWCOG to assist the County with completing a GHG emissions inventory  
10 and developing a climate action plan for government operations and for the community as a  
11 whole; and

12           WHEREAS, an interagency workgroup prepared a 2012 Draft Climate Action Plan (“2012  
13 Draft Plan”) that was not finally adopted; and

14           WHEREAS, the science of climate change has evolved since preparation of the 2012 Draft  
15 Plan, including the developing understanding that the frequency of extreme precipitation events  
16 is expected to increase, adversely impacting gray and green infrastructure investments, affecting  
17 future land development patterns, and requiring additional measure for adaptation and resiliency;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, the County Council desires to establish the Commission to develop a Climate  
20 Action Plan for Prince George’s County; and

21           WHEREAS, Section 506 of the Charter provides that the County Council or County  
22 Executive may appoint, for designated periods, one or more temporary advisory boards of  
23 citizens of the County who shall assist in the consideration of County policies and programs;

24           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's  
25 County, Maryland, that a Climate Action Commission is hereby established for the purpose of  
26 developing a Climate Action Plan to prepare for and build resilience to regional climate change  
27 impacts, and to set and achieve climate stabilization goals.

28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall be composed of sixteen (16)  
29 members as follows:

- 30           1. The Director of the Department of the Environment or their designee, who shall serve  
31 as Chair of the Commission;

- 1           2. A member of the MWCOG appointed by the MWCOG’s Board of Directors;
- 2           3. A County Council member appointed by the Chair of the Council;
- 3           4. The Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) or
- 4 their designee;
- 5           5. The Director of the Office of Central Services (OCS) or their designee;
- 6           6. The Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation or their designee;
- 7           7. The Health Officer or their designee;
- 8           8. A representative designated by the Chair of the Maryland-National Capital Park and
- 9 Planning Commission;
- 10          9. A representative designated by the Chief Executive Officer of Prince George’s County
- 11 Public Schools;
- 12          10. A representative designated by the Prince George’s County Municipal Association;
- 13          11. A representative of the business community affiliated with energy production or
- 14 transmission in the County designated by the Prince George’s Chamber of Commerce;
- 15          12. A representative of the University of Maryland designated by the President of the
- 16 University;
- 17          13. A representative of Bowie State University designated by the President of the
- 18 University; and
- 19          14. Three representatives affiliated with non-profit environmental and/or social justice
- 20 organizations in the County, designated by the Chair of the Council;

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall prepare a 2021 Climate Action  
22 Plan. The Commission shall:

- 23           A. Review the 2012 Draft Plan and research best practices for greenhouse gas emission
- 24 reductions, adaptation and resiliency at the federal, state and local levels.
- 25           B. Update the County’s greenhouse gas emission inventory and establish targets for future
- 26 reductions;
- 27           C. Identify a plan of action for adoption and implementation of climate adaptation and
- 28 resiliency measures by those sectors adversely impacted by climate change, including land use
- 29 planning, building, stormwater, public health, energy and transportation; and
- 30           D. Prepare a report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

31           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Executive and County Council shall

1 appropriate funds as are necessary to facilitate completion of the Climate Action Plan. The  
2 Commission shall present a report of its proceedings to the County Executive and County  
3 Council on or before January 31, 2021 and shall issue a final Climate Action Plan on or before  
4 September 30, 2021.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall commence its duties as soon as  
6 feasible after adoption of this Resolution and shall have an initial term expiring on September 30,  
7 2021. If determined advantageous and desirable, the Commission may be reauthorized in  
8 subsequent years by Council Resolution.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent by the Clerk of the  
10 Council to the County Executive, the enumerated County departments, and to the other  
11 enumerated institutions, businesses and organizations.

Adopted this 23rd day of June, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Todd M. Turner  
Council Chair

ATTEST:

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Donna J. Brown  
Clerk of the Council