WHEREAS, The San Francisco Commission on the Environment seeks to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment and to promote San Francisco’s long-term environmental sustainability as set forth in Section 4.118 of the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco, the Bay Area, and the State of California are already suffering the effects of climate change in the form of droughts, air pollution, extreme heat, frequent wildfires, flooding, and much more; and

WHEREAS, At the 2018 Global Climate Action Summit, San Francisco committed to meet the Paris Climate Accords by achieving a net zero city by 2050; and

WHEREAS, The City joined in a Climate Equity Pledge to ensure that the City’s 2020 Climate Action Strategy update achieves the dual goals of advancing racial equity and decreasing carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s climate commitments and climate action strategy are summarized by the City’s “0-80-100-Roots” framework, which defines climate and sustainability goals in four key areas: solid waste (“0% solid waste”), transportation (“80% low carbon trips”), energy (“100% renewable energy”), and carbon sequestration (“Roots”); and

WHEREAS, Achieving the “0-80-100-Roots” goals in the City will mean cleaner air, fewer vehicles on the road, more reliable transit systems, more bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly networks, highly efficient homes and businesses powered by 100% clean electricity, a robust
urban tree canopy, plentiful green spaces, improved soil health, and a regenerative ecosystem;

and

WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment’s 2019 report “Focus 2030: A Pathway to Net Zero Emissions,” shows that achieving accelerated emissions reductions by 2050 will require an ongoing commitment that builds upon and surpasses San Francisco’s past successes and increases resources accordingly to continue to reduce emissions all the way to net zero; and

WHEREAS, A racial equity framework needs to be applied to achieving these targets; that addresses historical and social inequities, prioritizes social, economic, and environmental benefits derived from implementing climate solutions, and ensures an equitable distribution of those benefits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment supports the amendments the Environment Code to update the City’s climate action goals and planning process, and establish departmental roles and responsibilities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission will support the Department of the Environment’s preparation and submission of a Climate Action Plan for the Mayor’s approval by December 31, 2021; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission supports establishing new targets for the City including:

(1) By 2030, a reduction in Sector-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions of at least 61% compared to 1990 levels;

(2) By 2030, a reduction in Consumption-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions to 30 mtCO2e per household or less, equivalent to a 40% reduction compared to 1990 levels;
(3) By 2045, achievement of Net Zero Sector-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions by reducing such emissions by at least 90% compared to 1990 levels and sequestering any residual emissions;

(4) By 2050, a reduction in Consumption-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions to 10 mtCO2e per household or less, equivalent to an 80% reduction compared to 1990 levels; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That these ambitious targets are needed in order to protect San Francisco and its most vulnerable residents from the worst impacts of climate change; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of Supervisors to pass this ordinance in order to continue San Francisco’s leadership role in fighting to protect its citizens from climate impacts.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the Environment’s meeting on May 25, 2021.

Katie Chansler, Commission Affairs Officer

Vote:
Ayes:
Noes:
Absent: