

**RESOLUTION OF THE WARD 3 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
SUPPORTING THE CLIMATE COMMITMENT ACT OF 2021 (B24-267) AND
RECOMMENDING STRENGTHENING AMENDMENTS**

Passed on 2/7/2022

Whereas, as stated by Councilmember Mary Cheh in sending the Climate Commitment Act of 2021 to the Secretary of the D.C Council: “The fight to arrest climate change is the single most important environmental and public health issue of our time.”

Over many years the District of Columbia (District) has created plans and passed legislation to lessen greenhouse gas emissions in the District. The climate section of the Sustainable DC 2.0 Plan finalized in 2018 (generally referred to as the “Sustainable DC Plan”) https://sustainable.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/sustainable/page_content/attachments/sdc%202.0%20Edits%20V5_web.pdf set two aspirational targets: 1) reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the District below the 2006 emission levels by 50% by 2032, and 2) becoming carbon neutral by 2050. (page 43, the entire climate section runs from page 42 through page 50)

The Climate Commitment Act of 2021 (B24-267) <https://lims.dccouncil.us/downloads/LIMS/47264/Introduction/B24-0267-Introduction.pdf> (the Act), now before the Council, would codify the purely aspirational target of carbon neutrality by 2050 in the Sustainable DC Plan and add a requirement of meeting minimum interim targets for greenhouse gas reductions in the District every five years between 2025 and 2050.

The Act requires the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the District by no less than 50% of 2006 levels by 2030, instead of the previous aspirational goal of 2032, to align with the recent target announced by the Biden administration.

The Act requires the District government to reach carbon neutrality for emissions associated with government operations by 2040.

The Act requires the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to report annually on the District’s progress towards these targets.

The Act requires the Council to hold an annual public hearing on the annual report and the progress achieved until that point.

This bill has the support of 25 national and local advocacy organizations, including the Sierra Club and the DC Environmental Network.

DOEE has projected that policies already enacted place the District on track to reduce emissions by over 55% by 2030, surpassing the 2030 target set in the bill.

Therefore, it is hereby resolved by the Ward Three Democratic Committee of the District of Columbia (Committee):

1. That the Committee supports the goal of the Climate Commitment Act of 2021 to codify greenhouse gas emission reductions and calls on the Council to pass the bill without delay with amendments to further tighten the timeframe for reduction of emissions;
2. That the Committee supports amending the 2030 target for emissions reduction to no less than 60% and further amendment of subsequent emissions targets for later years;
3. That the Committee specifically supports amending the timeline for achieving carbon neutrality from 2050 to 2045;
4. That the Committee urges the District to set a target for achieving zero emissions;
5. That the Committee supports amending the bill to require
 - a) that 100% of new government vehicle purchases have zero carbon tailpipe emissions from 2026 onward,
 - b) that all replacements of water and space heating equipment in government buildings must have zero carbon on-site emissions from 2026 forward, and
 - c) that exceptions may be granted by application to the Green Building Advisory Council for good cause; and
6. That the Committee authorizes the Chair of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee or his designees to take all reasonable actions to implement this resolution.

Passed by:

THE WARD 3 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE