

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA, February 11, 2008:

RESOLUTION 1102

RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT OF THE U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Salem has long been a regional leader in adopting sound policies, including policies to protect the environment, assure the highest quality of life for its citizens, and to provide responsible fiscal management; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salem has used environmentally responsible technology in the past such as waste-to-energy systems, LED traffic lights, and the use of graywater for the irrigation of landscaping within the city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salem has adopted or is preparing to adopt ordinances on stormwater control, illicit discharges into waterways, restrictions on floodplain development, greenway construction, tree canopies, and historic districts, illustrating our commitment to the environment and the high quality of life much enjoyed by the citizens of the City of Salem; and

WHEREAS, energy conservation, energy efficiency, and the use of clean, renewable energy sources provide tangible environmental, economic, and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, many cities, counties, and states are adopting emission reduction targets and programs that will provide many of the aforementioned benefits; and

WHEREAS, over 330 local governments throughout the United States have officially endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which spells out specific commitments and goals for reduction of global warming emissions and which, as amended at the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting reads:

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

- A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;
- B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that includes 1) clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:

1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan;
2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in “green tags”, advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology;
5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED program or a similar system;
8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover methane for energy production;
10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and
12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associates, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA, that the same hereby endorses and adopts the provisions of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual U.S. Conference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Salem, Virginia, intends to embark on a program to achieve the objectives outlined in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and will take advantage of all appropriate resources.

Upon a call for an aye and a nay vote, the same stood as follows:

Byron R. Foley –
John Christopher Clemens –
Jane W. Johnson –
John C. Givens –
Howard C. Packett –

ATTEST:

James E. Taliaferro, II
Clerk of Council
City of Salem, Virginia