

Resolve 9 -08/09
Passed 9-0 on 2/2/09

JILL C. DUSON (MAYOR)
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DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
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CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. COYNE (5)
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NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INVESTMENT IN
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND RENEWABLE
ENERGY SOURCES**

WHEREAS, President Obama is proposing a stimulus package for investment in public infrastructure and renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, America is in the midst of its most challenging economic crisis since the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, Scientists have confirmed that polar ice caps are melting at rates that exceed our expectations due to global climate change, the leading cause of which is carbon emission; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. largely depends on oil and other fossil fuels for energy sources; and

WHEREAS, Oil and fossil fuels are the largest causes of carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, The US electricity transmission and distribution, also known as the grid, is in critical need of an upgrade as its regional limitations and vulnerability to failure cost the nation between \$80 billion to \$188 billion per year in losses due to grid-related power outages and power quality issues;

WHEREAS, In the summer of 2001 the City of Portland's elected officials signed a resolution pledging to participate in the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign sponsored by ICLEI; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, Governor Baldacci signed into law P.L. 2003 Chapter 237 "An Act to Provide Leadership in Addressing the Threat of Climate Change" that set into law the proposed targets of reducing CO2 emissions to 1990 levels by 2010 and to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020; and

WHEREAS, In 2005 Mayor Jill Duson led Portland to become the first city in Maine to sign the Governor's Carbon Challenge and by doing so, the City committed to reduce its CO2 emissions to 1990 levels by 2010 and to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020; and

WHEREAS, In 2006 Mayor Jim Cohen became the first Mayor in Maine to sign onto the Climate Action Plan of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which plan calls on the city to meet the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, Buildings are responsible for 40% of energy use and 40% of greenhouse gas emissions, and buildings therefore represent the greatest short term opportunity for considerable reduction in CO2 emissions; and

WHEREAS, Transportation is responsible for one third of global warming pollution and more than 60% of domestic oil consumption; and

WHEREAS, Because Maine uses a disproportionate amount of energy to produce goods and services as compared to other New England states, and Maine cities' energy costs significantly exceed the national

average as measured by the cost of business index, energy efficiency is an imperative for economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, In 2005 the American Institute of Architects issued the 2030 challenge, which sets forth a target of 50% fossil fuel reduction and a schedule to achieve carbon neutral buildings by 2030 by reducing fossil fuel consumption in new buildings by 60% by 2010, 70% by 2015, 80% by 2020, and 90% in 2025; and

WHEREAS, The 2030 challenge is recognized as both sufficiently aggressive and economically and technically feasible for achieving the CO2 reductions needed to limit greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector; and

WHEREAS, To face our challenges and to live up to the policy commitments the city has made in the past, we need to rebuild our economy on a sound foundation – one that ends our dependence on oil, puts people back to work, contributes to long-term prosperity, rebuilds our communities, and addresses global warming; and

WHEREAS, The one path to achieve all of these goals is to take the lead on global warming by moving to a clean energy future.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Portland supports the key idea of moving to clean energy by enactment of a strong measure that caps global warming pollution, requires polluters to reduce and pay for their pollution, and drives massive new investments in clean energy technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following recommendations are hereby approved for use of economic stimulus funds and policy to achieve the following goals:

Move to 100% clean electricity by investing in renewable energy infrastructure and the national high voltage power transmission in order to distribute solar, wind, geothermal, and other renewable energy and by passing a Federal acts to create an open access electric grid and to lift constraints on renewable energy production.

Cut our dependence on oil in half by investing in low carbon fuel technology and public transportation infrastructure.

Create 5 million new clean energy jobs by investing in the retrofit of millions of buildings and homes.

Reduce total U.S. global warming pollution by at least 80 % and by creating a carbon cap and trade system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on our Congressional delegates to ensure that investments in infrastructure are to invest in alternative transportation and renewable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we strongly support the creation of an office for oversight to ensure that these funds are utilized for their designated purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to Maine's federal delegation and to President Obama with a letter to asking them to use the economic stimulus funds to further the goals and objectives that President Obama stated in his campaign and has pledged to uphold during his Presidency.