

FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. _____ - 2021

AN ORDINANCE TO DECREASE LOCAL CARBON EMISSIONS AND LEAD OUR COMMUNITY INTO THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, San Juan County Council Resolution No. 08-2008 established an initial benchmark of local climate change response and San Juan County Council Resolution No. 20-2020 updated that earlier resolution;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), representing over 2,500 climate scientists and thirty years of research, has concluded that global warming caused by greenhouse gas emissions of human activities is the most pressing challenge facing the world today;

WHEREAS, the IPCC determined human activities have already caused approximately 1°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels and is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate of approximately 0.2°C per decade due to past and ongoing emissions (IPCC, 2018 Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C);

WHEREAS, changing weather patterns and ocean conditions are significantly impacting the health and viability of native terrestrial, fresh water, and marine ecosystems, damaging human infrastructure, and triggering climate refugee crises across the globe;

WHEREAS, cooperating governments throughout the world have adopted emission reduction targets and programs to keep global warming below the 2°C increase, in an effort to reduce catastrophic impacts of climate change and ultimately sustain all life on Earth;

WHEREAS, San Juan County has led efforts to protect its environment, educate its residents and visitors, and support a sustainable local economy in an effort to maintain a resilient Island-based community, ranking 1st in State of Washington and 50th nationwide of resilient counties according to the Climate Resilience Screening Index (EPA600/R-17/238, October 2017);

WHEREAS, Washington State has established a deadline of 2045 for achieving zero carbon usage;

WHEREAS, transportation and heating account for about 45% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, transportation and heating are the largest sources of energy usage for an average household in San Juan County, with 53% of residential energy used for driving and 26% used for heating;

WHEREAS, San Juan County is the largest individual employer in the islands and also a large individual source of carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, San Juan County desires to achieve net zero emissions for its governmental operations by 2030; and

WHEREAS, San Juan County citizens appreciate that boundary-breaking policies like those set forth below are essential to an equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and historic injustice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of San Juan County, State of Washington, as follows:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. Climate Recovery – Climate Action Goals.

The County shall carry out the requirements of this chapter to achieve the following goals:

- A. The County will take a leadership role on climate action and adaptation, serving as a model for the community by reducing its carbon footprint, promoting renewable/sustainable energy independence, and adapting to changing ecological and economic conditions by taking the actions identified throughout this chapter.
- B. By the year 2025, all County-owned facilities shall achieve net zero emissions, either by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to zero, or offsetting greenhouse gas emissions through mitigation activities. This could include projects on county property or, if necessary, funding of verifiable local greenhouse gas reduction projects and programs.
- C. By the year 2030, all businesses, individuals, and others living or working in the County collectively shall reduce the total use of fossil fuels by 50% compared with 2010 usage.
- D. By the year 2050, all businesses, individuals, and others living or working in the County shall achieve net zero emissions.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Carbon emissions audit.

By January 1, 2022, San Juan County will obtain a countywide carbon emissions audit. Such audit will identify carbon emissions by category of activity, including terrestrial, marine, and air transport. The audit will also recommend actions to achieve net zero emissions in the following priority: (1) actions that minimize carbon emissions; and (2) actions that sequester carbon.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Building Management.

The County shall implement the following actions to minimize carbon emissions from buildings:

- A. At time of replacement, purchase the most energy efficient lights, appliances, and fixtures reasonably available;
- B. Install energy monitoring systems to ensure that lights, computers, heaters, and other devices cease operating when they are not being used by staff and install social prompts to encourage staff to decrease energy use;

- C. Conduct an energy audit to identify consumption by HVAC systems and other devices/mechanical systems to determine system and operational adjustments that will reduce energy consumption;
- D. Ensure that all water fixtures are operating at the lowest reasonable flow and, including upgrading fixtures as necessary to do so;
- E. Exceed water and energy efficiency building code standards in all County buildings or remodels; and
- F. By 2025, install solar electricity generation systems on all County-owned buildings in an amount that maximizes the efficiency of the energy production.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Transportation.

The County shall implement the following measures to minimize carbon emissions from vehicles and transportation infrastructures:

- A. Whenever reasonably feasible, require teleconferencing, telecommuting, and carpooling;
- B. Direct out-of-county partners to convene remote meetings, or participate remotely in out-of-county meetings unless not reasonably feasible;
- C. Unless a product is not reasonably available, purchase only electric vehicles for new County fleet vehicles;
- D. Eliminate the new purchase and use of two-stroke engine equipment, including leaf blowers, lawn mowers, weed whips, chain saws, and boat engines, and replace as needed with viable electric alternatives. Direct County contractors to follow the same requirement by 2022;
- E. Provide at least 12 additional Level 2 or Level 3 electric vehicle charging stations at key destinations throughout the county by 2022;
- F. Prioritize, fund, and build a countywide trail and bikeway network to connect key destinations, with at least 5 new miles built annually by 2023. Install separated bicycle and pedestrian paths along AADT class 3 or higher road routes in the county. Stripe AADT 2 or lower roads in the manner that best protects cyclists and pedestrians;
- G. By 2022, establish with OPALCO public funding to provide rebates for the upfront costs of electric vehicles;
- H. Support and incentivize electric rideshare programs by 2023; and
- I. Identify in annual Transportation Improvement Programs projects that implement principles of managed retreat to remove public infrastructure from locations subject to damage by storms, inundation, flooding, erosion, or other natural processes due to rising sea levels.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. Green Purchasing and Waste Management.

- A. Eliminate the purchase of all single-use plastic products by 2022, including cups, lids, plates, foodware like forks, knives, and spoons, and coolers. Commence purchasing only durable non-plastic products by 2023;
- B. Establish commercial composting facilities on each of Lopez, Orcas, and San Juan Islands by 2025;
- C. Install clearly marked recycling bins in all County-owned or operated buildings by 2022; and
- D. Transition to all-digital recordkeeping by 2023.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Environmental Restoration and Health.

- A. Across all county-owned property, restore stream corridors, wetlands, and ponds by planting their buffers with ½ mile of trees and shrubs annually beginning in 2022; and
- B. Treat and manage 100% of the stormwater runoff from County urban growth areas by 2025.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. Regulatory improvements.

- A. Update the energy code to require the highest reasonable residential and commercial energy efficiency operations by 2022;
- B. Update Health Department rules for water use to require the monitoring of water consumption countywide; and
- C. Prohibit brush burning commencing as soon as composting facilities are operational, or by 2025 at the latest.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. Education. A new section is added to the San Juan County Code to read as follows:

San Juan County shall provide education and outreach activities to inform employees, contractors, and elected officials about the requirements of this chapter. Education and outreach will be designed to effectively convey the policies underlying this chapter and describe the actions necessary to gain compliance with its provisions.

Section 9. Severability.

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be effective on _____.

Section 11. Codification.

Sections 1-7 of this ordinance shall be codified in a new chapter at Title 8 of the San Juan County Code, entitled "Climate Change Recovery"

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2021.

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

**COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ingrid Gabriel, Clerk Date

Jamie Stephens, Chair
District 3

REVIEWED BY COUNTY MANAGER

Michael J. Thomas Date

Cindy Wolf, Member
District 2

RANDALL K. GAYLORD
APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY

By: _____
Date

Christine Gabler-Minney, Member
District 1