

RESOLUTION NO. 180475

Expressing commitment to a community-wide goal of 100% clean, renewable energy and opposition to new fossil fuel extraction and commodity market-access transportation projects; directing the City Manager to begin the process of establishing sector-by-sector targets for 100% clean, renewable energy and an inclusive Climate Action Planning process within the next year; stating an intention to lobby other governments to work towards 100% clean, renewable energy; and reaffirming the City's commitment to Resolution No. 150965.

WHEREAS, climate change is real, caused by humans, and affirmed by overwhelming scientific evidence; and

WHEREAS, climate change has already wrought devastating impacts, here and around the globe; and

WHEREAS, if unchecked, climate change will fundamentally undermine the stability of human societies and natural systems; and

WHEREAS, climate change is an emergency now due to the basic physics of global warming pollution and the risks posed by climate tipping points; and

WHEREAS, there is no credible path to a safe climate that includes new fossil fuel extraction and commodity market-access transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City has a responsibility to its residents, the country, and the world, to accelerate the transition to 100% clean, renewable energy and oppose new fossil fuel extraction and commodity market-access transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, social movements fighting the Keystone XL pipeline and the Dakota Access pipeline have inspired opposition to fossil fuel projects across the country; and

WHEREAS, local, state, and national economies are rapidly transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to 100% renewable energy involves preparing workers to transition out of non-sustainable industries, and can benefit low-income communities and communities of color that are disproportionately impacted by fossil fuel pollution; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to 100% renewable energy will potentially create millions of high-quality, family-sustaining jobs; and

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WHEREAS, a just transition to 100% renewable energy can bring underserved communities, including those hardest hit by climate change, into the political process to develop more equitable and sustainable energy systems; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to 100% renewable energy can facilitate more democratic control and public ownership of energy systems, and more equal relationships with indigenous communities and tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the City lacks independent authority to implement all the changes necessary to achieve 100% clean renewable energy community-wide on its own; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2015, the City Council adopted Committee Substitute for Resolution No. 150965, requesting that the boards of the Employees' Retirement System and the Firefighters' Pension System and of the pension systems serving the employees of the Board of Police Commissioners investigate rejecting future investments in fossil fuel companies and divesting from all fossil fuel assets already held in trust; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the Mayor and Council commit to supporting a community-wide goal of 100% clean renewable energy as soon as possible.

Section 2. That the Mayor and Council will oppose new infrastructure whose primary purpose is the extraction of fossil fuels in the City or the transportation of fossil fuels through the City or adjacent waterways to commodity markets.

Section 3. That the City Manager is directed to begin the process of establishing sector-by-sector targets for 100% clean renewable energy and an inclusive Climate Action Planning process within the next year.

Section 4. That the Mayor and Council intend to lobby the state and federal governments for the necessary changes to achieve 100% clean renewable energy.

Section 5. That the Mayor and Council reaffirm their commitment to Resolution No. 150965, related to pension fund boards rejecting future investments in fossil fuel companies and divesting from all fossil fuel assets already held in trust.