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Mayor

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER # 08-001**

**B-GREEN 2020**

**An Order Relative to Sustainability in Bridgeport**

Whereas, the City of Bridgeport has been a leader in recognizing the threat of climate change by signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and joining the ICLEI – Cities for Climate Protection campaign;

Whereas, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has concluded that "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal" and that "Most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century is *very likely* due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations";

Whereas, negative trends in urban and environmental quality pose risks to Bridgeport residents, visitors, businesses, institutions, and infrastructure, including risks associated with environmentally impaired properties, and risks from climate change including urban heat island, public health, sea-level rise, changing precipitation patterns, increased severity of storms and flooding, and stress on water and energy systems and the public infrastructure;

Whereas, the City of Bridgeport has one of the highest concentrations of environmentally impaired properties (Brownfields) in the State and nearly 40% of all Bridgeport's properties are tax exempt, it is critical for the City to return these Brownfields to productive economic use and taxation as soon as possible;

Whereas, the City of Bridgeport spends more than \$20 million on energy to heat and light its older, inefficient public facilities and other public services, and does not have a comprehensive energy conservation and management program;

Whereas, the City of Bridgeport's unemployment rate has been higher than regional norms and its median income level per household significantly lower than Fairfield County, and has the potential to be a leader in the green jobs revolution that can help create jobs, alleviate poverty and build wealth in the economy;

Whereas, actions that the City of Bridgeport can take to reduce the threat of climate change will save money, improve energy efficiency, reduce the emission of air pollutants, create a cleaner and greener city, improve transportation and other infrastructure, expand business and educational opportunities, create jobs, strengthen the economy, and minimize the environmental justice concerns that burden city residents; and

Whereas, the City of Bridgeport is developing a Sustainability Action Plan, which describes the greenhouse gas emissions of municipal operations and the community as a whole and actions that the City can take to reduce such emissions and improve the local environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as chief executive officer of the City of Bridgeport, I hereby order and direct as follows:

1. The City of Bridgeport, consistent with the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, shall strive to meet or exceed the goal of reducing its annual greenhouse gas emissions seven percent below 1990 levels by 2012, and shall further strive to reduce the City's annual greenhouse gas emissions by ten percent below 1990 levels by 2020 in accordance with the goals set forth in the City's Master Plan of Conservation and Development.
2. The City shall establish a Sustainability Community Advisory Committee (SCAC). Upon appointment, the SCAC shall:
  - a. Oversee the completion of a community-wide and municipal greenhouse gas emissions inventory and set goals for community-wide reductions;
  - b. Make recommendations to the Mayor and the community concerning actions necessary to meet sustainability goals and to identify the advantages of associated opportunities;
  - c. Prepare educational materials for households and businesses in Bridgeport describing global climate change, sustainability, and the actions that they can take; and
  - d. Identify economic and workforce development opportunities associated with green jobs and the clean technology sector
  - e. Ensure that community stakeholders have a voice in the sustainability planning process through their representation;
3. The City shall launch a Sustainability Initiative in partnership with the Bridgeport Regional Business Council. The first phase of this initiative shall include a planning effort to establish the long-range sustainability framework for the initiative, as well as several early action items, including analysis of:

- a. The city's Brownfields, and prioritization of remediation and redevelopment to clean the environmental condition of these properties and transition them into productive, community enhancing uses. It is conservatively estimated that the city can recover at least \$15 – 20 million dollars in tax revenue from placing environmentally impaired properties back on the property tax rolls.
- b. An energy audit and retrofit of all appropriate municipal properties with an identification for potential efficiency and carbon reduction improvements focusing on municipal consolidation to reduce the physical footprint of city operations by at least 25% over the next 5 - 10 years, thereby reducing energy cost expenditures of approximately \$2.5 million per year over the remaining life of the facilities.
- c. Lowering energy costs by forming an energy improvement district in the city including an evaluation of the feasibility of installing solar, wind, bio-energy, combined heat and power, and geothermal in all existing municipal structures and incentivizing the same in private structures.
- d. The state of the city's open spaces and tree canopy and goals for new neighborhood open spaces and tree planting.
- e. The potential for recycling within the city to divert the flow of trash away from the waste to energy facility and landfills.
- f. The use of advanced waste management solutions to treat organic waste through composting or anaerobic digestion and capture of methane gas from existing landfills and sewage treatment facilities and its conversion to energy.
- g. The ability to manage storm water in the city through low-impact design and innovative natural solutions to help the city manage volume and improve water quality in the harbor and the Sound.
- h. Green building standards that can be adopted for structures built publicly and privately within the city limits and permitting processes to expedite the construction of green buildings.
- i. Land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walk-able urban communities.
- j. Transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit.

- k. The creation of a green jobs initiative and opportunities to expand investments in the green technology sector.
  - l. The utilization of green cleaning supplies, paints, carpets, and furniture to improve the indoor air quality of the city's buildings; and the use of environmentally-friendly fuels, motor oils, lubricants, cleaners, pesticides and other products to improve outdoor air and water quality.
  - m. Green purchasing programs to use the city's buying power to influence the ecological footprint of the marketplace.
4. Planning for all new municipal construction and major renovations of City-owned facilities and other major municipal projects shall include an estimate of annual energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Such planning shall also include an evaluation of the risks posed by the likely effects of climate change through 2050 to the project itself and related infrastructure and a description of potential steps to avoid, minimize or mitigate those risks.
  5. All new construction and major renovation of City facilities shall obtain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System Silver level certification from the U.S. Green Building Council or equivalent as is presently mandated by the Connecticut General Statutes for school facilities.
  6. By 2012, at least 25 percent of electricity purchased by municipal departments shall come from green-e certified renewable sources, which combined with spatial consolidation, and on-site renewable generation could result in a savings of approximately \$750,000 per year over the next 20 years.
  7. All purchases of new motor vehicles shall be alternative fuel, flexible fuel, or hybrid vehicles, unless they are not available for the needed function. New motor vehicles shall be the most fuel-efficient within their vehicle class. By 2025, the City shall endeavor to replace its 60 passenger cars and SUVs resulting in a total fuel savings of over \$2 million.
  8. The City shall increase the fuel efficiency of its municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; and convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel.
  9. The City shall begin a recycling program and target a diversion rate of 30 percent by 2009, 35% by 2010, and 40% by 2015, which will be equivalent to an annual savings by diversion reaching over \$800,000 and additional revenue reaching \$130,000 annually by 2015.

10. The City shall quantify annually by department all energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
11. The City of Bridgeport Sustainability Initiative and Sustainability Action Plan shall be implemented in conformity with all federal, state, and local laws.
12. The provisions of this Order are severable, and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity will not affect the remaining provisions, which will remain in full force and effect.
13. The provisions of this Order shall take immediate effect.

I further direct all Department Heads and City Employees to render such aid and assistance as is required for the implementation of the foregoing policy.

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008 at Bridgeport, Connecticut.

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Bill Finch  
Mayor