



Office of the City Clerk

City Hall
121 N. LaSalle St.
Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602
www.chicityclerk.com

Legislation Text

File #: O2020-5118, **Version:** 1

Committee on Environmental Protection & Energy City Council
October 7, 2020

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, In the fight against climate change the single scarcest resource is time; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago acted to improve air quality and reduce CO₂ emissions by adopting the recommendations of the 2008 Climate Action Plan concerning building energy use through the implementation of Retrofit Chicago, and the passage of the Chicago Energy Benchmarking Ordinance in 2013; and

WHEREAS, During the administration of former Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the City's Green Ribbon Committee, an advisory coalition of sustainability leaders from corporations and civic organizations was responsible for supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Chicago 2015 roadmap; and

WHEREAS, The Green Ribbon Committee published a report on industry best practices of environmental excellence and provided input to the Sustainability Council, a strategic program implementation body comprised of City Department commissioners; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, the City committed to powering all public buildings on 100% renewable energies by 2025, and in 2019, the City launched the Chicago Energy Rating System, and committed to power all buildings on 100% renewable energies by 2035; and

WHEREAS, On January 15, 2020, the Chicago City Council adopted a resolution acknowledging the need for an emergency mobilization to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy; and

WHEREAS, The January 15, 2020 resolution asserted that the process will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, Climate mobilization efforts by Chicago's building sector are urgent as buildings account for over 70% of Chicago's current greenhouse gas emissions, 53% of which are CO₂ emissions; and

WHEREAS, According to Elevate Energy, 90% of low-income Chicago residents experienced an energy burden and were energy insecure in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Chicago households spend an estimated \$2,800,000,000 annually on fossil fuels, and most of this spending does nothing to foster economic development in the City; and

WHEREAS, Local building codes, zoning codes, and energy codes around the country are being used to enable and require healthy, energy-efficient, renewably powered, net-zero-energy, all-electric buildings, and EV (electric-vehicle) charging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The City's building and zoning codes contain provisions that create barriers to high-performance buildings and renovations; and

WHEREAS, There remains an immense need for cross-departmental coordination to achieve carbon neutrality in the City of Chicago; and

Committee on Environmental Protection & Energy City Council
October 7, 2020

WHEREAS, The overlapping crises of our times, the urgency and complexity of Chicago's climate mobilization, and the decades-long sustained effort necessary to address these problems compel the creation of an enduring cross-sector leadership institution focused on the equitable shift to a clean energy economy by 2050; now, therefore

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2-120 of the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago is hereby amended by deleting the language struck through and inserting the language underscored, as follows:

ARTICLE VI. CHICAGO CLIMATE COMMISSION ~~RESERVED~~* 2-120-230.

Definitions. As used in this Article:

"Commission" means the Chicago Climate Commission established by this Article.

"Decarbonization" means the sustainable reduction or elimination of greenhouse gas emissions from the production of and operation of buildings, and including the reduction of the carbon emissions related to the sourcing of building and manufacturing materials, reduction of the emissions caused by the construction process, electrification of buildings, retrofitting of existing buildings to meet modern sustainability standards, and encouraging the installation of electric connections for vehicles.

2-120-240. Establishment - Powers and duties.

a) The Chicago Climate Commission is hereby established to develop and implement the Decarbonize Chicago Plan, containing analysis and policy recommendations regarding decarbonization and energy use, efficiency, and conservation in buildings.

b) The Commission shall be comprised of the following individuals or their designee: (i) the Chief Sustainability Officer or any other successor appointed by the Mayor; (ii) the Chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy; (iii) the Chair of the Committee on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards; (iv) the Commissioner of Buildings; (v) the Commissioner of Planning and Development; (vi) the Commissioner of Housing; (vii) the Commissioner of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection; and (viii) the five non-governmental members appointed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

c) The Commission shall have powers and duties to:

1) Establish the bylaws of the Commission and select from the governmental members of the Commission a Chairperson;

2) Conduct all meetings of the Commission in accordance with the Open Meetings Act;

3) Create criteria and a process to evaluate candidates for positions as nongovernmental members of the Commission;

4) Appoint the remaining 5 members to the Commission representing environmental organizations: social justice organizations: labor unions: the architecture, engineering, and planning community: and building owners and developers:

Committee on Environmental Protection & Energy City Council
October 7, 2020

5) Publish no later than April 22, 2022, and annually update the Decarbonize Chicago Plan:

6) Recommend such legislative action as it may deem appropriate to effectuate the Decarbonize Chicago Plan:

7) Review, assess, and advise on City plans, policies, procedures, guidance documents, and expenditures, as well as other issues identified and determined by the Commission to be important to decarbonization and energy use, efficiency, and conservation in buildings, including providing input on the consideration of planned developments at any public meetings of the Chicago Plan Commission or City Council Committee on Zoning:

8) Conduct research in the field of decarbonization and carry out such educational programs as it deems necessary to effect the policy and purpose of the Decarbonize Chicago Plan:

9) Seek and accept offers of gifts or grants from the United States, the State of Illinois, other government entities, their agencies or officers, or from all other available sources of services, equipment, supplies, materials or funds, and to expend such receipts on projects that implement the Decarbonize Chicago Plan: and

(10) Deliver to the Mayor and City Council an annual report on the implementation of the Decarbonize Chicago Plan.

d) The Commission shall meet at least Quarterly. A majority of members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. Members of the Commission shall not be compensated by the City for their service on the Commission. Each non-governmental Commission member shall serve for a period of four years from the date of appointment, except that two of the initial appointments as designated by the Chairperson of the Commission shall be for a term of three years, and appointments to fill a vacancy shall be made for the unexpired term. Each Commission member shall serve until a successor has been appointed. Non-governmental Commission members may be removed from the Commission by a majority vote of City Council.

e) The Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy shall annually convene a hearing on the Commission's annual report required under subsection (c)(10) of this section.

GEORGE A. CARDENAS Alderman, 12th Ward

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect after due passage and publication.