

MOTION

According to the world's leading scientists, the world must cut emissions by more than 45 percent by 2030 and reach net zero emissions well before 2050 for any chance to stop warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius and drastically roll back emissions that have become part of daily business in our carbon-based economy. Currently, the world is on track for a minimum increase of 3 degrees Celsius, a level that ensures more destructive wildfires and hurricanes, devastation for coral reefs and rising seas flooding the coastlines. Additionally, 17 prominent scientists, including those at UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, citing more than 150 studies, recently warned of a "ghastly future" unless extraordinary climate action is taken soon, concluding humanity is on-path to "a sixth major extinction."

To help address this reality and continue rolling back Los Angeles' greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint, the City's 2019 Green New Deal Pathway calls for cutting GHG emissions more than 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2025 and becoming carbon neutral well before 2050. On January 25, Mayor Garcetti and Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield launched the City Council's Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), which will be responsible for coordinating actions between the City and community leaders, to meet and exceed the commitments of L.A.'s Green New Deal. These efforts have been buoyed recently by President Biden's stated goal of making the U.S. carbon neutral by 2050, by replacing fossil fuel power with renewables like solar and wind, expanding the electrification of cars, and investing in communities that are hardest hit – both communities of color that bear the highest pollution burden and those that depend upon disappearing fossil fuel jobs.

The CEMO also seeks to hold corporate polluters responsible for the rampant pollution that has created the types of underlying conditions that are contributing to the disproportionate rates of illness, hospitalization, and death among Black, Latino, and Indigenous People. This parallels a growing trend in the private sector, driven by investor demand for the establishment of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals, which aims to shape how companies manage and report on climate risk – approximately 90 percent of the S&P 500 released sustainability reports in 2019. However, fundamental challenges remain. A lack of enforceable standards and the use of a wide range of metrics has meant that there is little comparability between industries or even companies in the same industry. This has made holding corporate polluters accountable particularly difficult.

Senate Bill 260 (Wiener), the Climate Corporate Accountability Act (CCAA), will be the first law in the country to require U.S.-based companies doing business in California and generating over \$1 billion in gross annual revenue to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions and set science-based targets to reduce those emissions. The bill will require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop science-based emissions targets and adopt regulations to require businesses to publicly disclose all emissions for the prior calendar year. It will also give companies until 2025 to begin setting and accomplishing their emissions reduction targets, a process which will also be overseen by CARB. But the State is not alone in this effort. The European Union is currently revising its non-financial reporting standards to create a common environmental accounting language, and the United Kingdom has moved forward with introducing mandatory climate risk reporting.

Local governments also face similar hurdles in the development of metrics, accounting criteria, regularly disclosing emissions, and setting enforceable emissions reduction targets. As of 2017, the City had reduced its carbon footprint by 40 percent compared to a 2008 baseline, but that information was not published until April 2019 and the values presented in the report were provided as estimates. The City performs a variety of vital functions – from lighting and maintaining municipal buildings, facilities and streetlights, to paving roads and operating a transit fleet, and delivering water and operating reclamation facilities – and as one of the largest employers in the County, its environmental impacts should be publicly disclosed and made easily available to residents on a regular basis.

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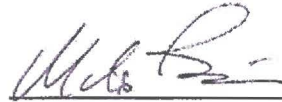
There are currently technologies available using artificial intelligence (AI) to give companies a detailed picture of their organizational greenhouse gas footprint, while automating sustainability reporting and providing an accurate picture of a company's emissions levels and impacts. The City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to accurately and regularly provide reporting on its GHG footprint and progress being made toward hitting established GHG reduction targets.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation and Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the Information Technology Agency, Department of Water of Power, Port of Los Angeles, Los Angeles World Airports and the City Administrative Officer, be instructed to report on the feasibility of developing and/or procuring AI technology and services to provide accurate and regular reporting and public disclosure of the City's organization-wide greenhouse gas footprint, as well as metrics on the City's progress toward achieving and exceeding the environmental goals presented in the 2019 Green New Deal Pathway.

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