



Date: March 11, 2025

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Belen de Schutter, CivicSpark Fellow; Erin Brewster, Sustainability Program Manager

Title: Update to Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction and Renewable Energy Goals

Jen Callaway, Town Manager

Recommended Action:

1. Adopt Resolution 2025-09 updating greenhouse gas emissions reduction, renewable energy and carbon neutrality goals.
2. Rescind Resolution 2017-58 establishing renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

Discussion:

I. Background

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and climate action is a longstanding priority for the Truckee community and Town Council. On November 28th, 2017, Town Council adopted Resolution 2017-58 establishing renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. This resolution set the precedent for the Town's climate action efforts and targets for emission reduction. These previous goals included:

- 100% renewable electricity town-wide by 2030.
- 100% renewable electricity for municipal operations by 2020.
- 100% renewable energy supplied by utility providers by 2050.
- 80% reduction in community-wide GHG emissions (relative to 2008 baseline levels) by 2040.

Setting these goals allows Truckee to measure and quantify its progress in the mitigation of climate change. Focusing locally on reducing municipal and community GHG output leads to significant benefits including improved building energy efficiency, reduced emissions output, and improved air quality. The Town's goals have not been updated since their adoption in 2017 and an update is included in the Town Council's adopted 2023-2025 Strategic Priorities Work Plan under Task Item 1.3 to "Update the Town's Renewable Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Goals" These updates include adjusting targets to align closer with the state and shifting the target year forward for goals that were originally set for 2020 but were not met. Below is a summary of significant factors that changed since the 2017 goal adoption that staff recommend considering in the Town's goal update:

Council consideration of renewable electricity generation:

The initial 2017 resolution set a target for Truckee's municipal operations to be sourced by 100% renewable electricity by 2020. In 2019 the Town completed a solar study to consider opportunities for the Town to provide 35% of the Town's municipal electricity through on-site solar generation to supplement the 65% of the Town's electricity provided by the carbon-free portion of the TDPUD's portfolio. In January 2020, Town Council provided direction not to move forward with this solar project, determining that on-

site solar generation was not the most cost-effective strategy to reduce GHG emissions, given TDPUD's renewable portfolio standard. Accordingly, the 2020 target was not met.

Resolution 2025-09 includes language stating the Town will strive to use 100% renewable and zero-carbon electricity for municipal facilities sooner than the 2030 community-wide goal but does not set a specific date to achieve this target for municipal facilities. In order to source 100% renewable electricity for Town facilities ahead of TDPUD using 100% renewable or zero-carbon electricity Town-wide, the Town would need an alternative means to procure eligible electricity. This could be achieved through the Town's direct purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), which are tradable energy certificates representing the exclusive property rights to the environmental attributes of renewable electricity generation. The Town Council could direct staff to investigate the purchase of RECs to cover the portion of purchased electricity from TDPUD that is not currently from renewable or zero-carbon sources.

State targets and requirements:

In September 2018, Governor Brown signed Executive Order B-55-18 which established a statewide carbon neutrality target of 2045. The State's carbon neutrality goal is supported by the signing of SB 100, California's Renewables Portfolio Standard, which requires utility providers to procure increasing amounts of renewable and zero-carbon electricity over time. SB 100 requires that 100% of electricity sold by public utilities in CA be from eligible renewable energy resources by 2045. Targets set by SB 100 highlight the need to continue working with all local utility providers to at a minimum include the option to purchase 100% renewable electricity. For both municipal and community-wide energy targets to be met, further action from Truckee's utility providers is required. The Town will continue working collaboratively with all local utilities to support these efforts.

Regional carbon neutrality collaboration and commitment:

In partnership with Truckee Tahoe Airport District and Truckee Donner Public Utility District, in 2021 the Town established the Climate Transformation Alliance, a public-private partnership that promotes regional collaboration and innovation around carbon neutrality. Now with nearly 30 regional members, the Climate Transformation Alliance has adopted a vision to achieve carbon neutrality in the north Truckee-Tahoe community by 2045.

II. Updates to Resolution

Staff recommend adjusting the Town's adopted goals and targets to address the factors addressed above.

Staff recommend the following updates to the Town's adopted targets, which are incorporated into Resolution 2025-09:

- Update the target year for several goals.
- Update eligibility of renewable and zero-carbon energy sources to align with state policy.
- Update references to electricity generation being the largest component of the Town's GHG inventory.
- Add a carbon neutrality target of 2045 in alignment with state and regional goals.
- Apply goals to both community and municipal operations.
- Remove references to the public processes where were held to establish Resolution 2017-58 during the General Plan Update.
- Establish a timeline for updating the Town's Climate Action Plan and conducting community and municipal GHG inventories.
- Reference updated IDEA framework as a part of the equitable engagement goal.

Summary: Staff recommend adopting resolution 2025-09 and rescinding resolution 2017-58 to update the Town's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and reaffirm the Town's commitment to these efforts.

Priority:

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Communication | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Investment | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Core Service |

Fiscal Impact: None expected at this time. As future actions to achieve the proposed targets are implemented, any costs will be evaluated at that time.

Public Communication: Public notice was provided with the agenda posting, and the Town is committed to additional community engagement on this topic through climate planning activities.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 2025-09
2. Resolution 2017-58