

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 422-09**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF CITY OF ALBANY SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA**

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WHEREAS, scientific consensus has developed that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere have a profound effect on the Earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is a scientific intergovernmental body set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); states that it is very likely that most of the observed increases in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century are due to human-induced greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 report of the Union of Concerned Scientists found that climate change poses serious risk to natural, social, and built infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency determined that strategies for protecting climate-sensitive ecosystems through management will be increasingly important; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency also determined that climate change, interacting with changes in land use and demographics, will affect important human dimensions in the United States, especially those related to human health, settlements and welfare; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, at the request of the Administration, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reviewed and declared global warming a real problem likely due to human activities that will lead to substantial impacts to economic, natural, and built systems; and

WHEREAS, the 2000 U.S. Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP) First National Assessment indicated that global warming has begun; and

WHEREAS, 162 countries including the United States pledged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to both reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to undertake special efforts to ease the consequences of climate change, particularly in developing countries; and

WHEREAS, local government actions taken to prepare for climate change impacts provide multiple local benefits by building a more resilient economy, and by helping to reduce the physical impacts and costs to people, property and resources associated with a changing climate; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor signed the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement in 2005, which commits signatories to:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns;
- Urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol -- 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and

- Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany is a member of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, which is a membership organization with a mission to build, serve, and drive a movement of local governments to advance deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and achieve tangible improvements in local sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor signed the Local Governments Green Job Pledge in 2008, which is a movement of local governments across the United States striving to seize the economic, environmental and social opportunities offered by building an inclusive green economy of high quality jobs and a thriving green workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor urges the City of Albany Common Council to adopt New York State’s Climate Smart Community Pledge, which will confirm the City of Albany’s commitment to developing a successful local climate action plan; and

WHEREAS, there exists opportunities to implement policies and programs at the local governmental level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiencies, promote local job growth, increase economic activity and resiliency, and improve quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gerald D. Jennings, Mayor of the City of Albany, New York, by authority vested in me by the Charter and laws of the City of Albany, New York, do hereby order the formal adoption of the following Initiatives, which shall be researched and further developed by the City of Albany Sustainability Working Group under the coordination of the Director of Planning and implemented by all City Departments in coordination with the Mayor’s Office and under the oversight of the Division of Planning:

**a. Energy**

**INITIATIVE 1:**

Identify renewable energy purchase opportunities for municipal buildings and operations and identify opportunities for potential installation of renewable energy sources on city facilities and properties.

**INITIATIVE 2:**

Begin coordination with major institutions to decrease energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

**INITIATIVE 3:**

Complete greenhouse gas (ghg) inventory for municipal and community-wide sectors, set ghg reduction target, and identify opportunities to reduce municipal government and community energy usage and demand.

**INITIATIVE 4:**

Explore the potential for a residential energy efficiency revolving loan fund.

**INITIATIVE 5:**

Explore the potential for funding a Municipal Revolving Energy Fund that would support public and private projects that require seed money initially but will generate additional savings over time.

INITIATIVE 6:

Continue capturing methane emissions from the landfill and explore other opportunities to capture potential energy from other sources, such as water treatment facilities.

**b. The Built Environment**

INITIATIVE 1:

Investigate the benefits and options of green buildings for new municipal construction and investigate the development of green building codes.

INITIATIVE 2:

Encourage creative public engagement in green design through outreach, education, and design competitions.

**c. Public Space**

INITIATIVE 1:

Continue to expand parks and community gardens.

INITIATIVE 2:

Identify and develop brownfield best practices.

INITIATIVE 3:

Develop an urban tree canopy coverage goal.

INITIATIVE 4:

Establish and fund an annual tree-planting goal.

**d. Transit and Transportation**

INITIATIVE 1:

Reduce emissions from city vehicles and increase fleet fuel efficiency.

INITIATIVE 2:

Increase bike infrastructure and investigate the benefits of a bike share program.

INITIATIVE 3:

Increase public transit use and carpooling.

INITIATIVE 4:

Research potential of an Active Trails Program.

INITIATIVE 5:

Promote transit and transit-oriented development.

**e. Recycling and Waste Management**

INITIATIVE 1:

Investigate potential use of a unit-based-pricing system for recycling and household waste.

INITIATIVE 2:

Increase recycling rates citywide through outreach and education.

INITIATIVE 3:

Strengthen enforcement of recycling by residents and institutions.

INITIATIVE 4:

Increase access and expand opportunities for recycling.

INITIATIVE 5:

Reduce use of paper and increase recycling in city offices.

INITIATIVE 6:

Increase recycling at commercial facilities and in multi-unit housing.

INITIATIVE 7:

Pilot a composting program in city neighborhoods.

INITIATIVE 8:

Initiate Go Clean Go Green campaign to educate the public and promote individual and community responsibility regarding trash and litter disposal.

**f. Purchasing**

INITIATIVE 1:

Develop and adopt a Municipal Green Purchasing Policy.

**g. Water**

INITIATIVE 1:

Phase out bottled water use in municipal buildings and investigate opportunities to reduce bottle water usage at city-sponsored events.

INITIATIVE 2:

Conserve water through technological innovation and efficiency and the use of green infrastructure and technology.

INITIATIVE 3:

Investigate the use of green infrastructure and green code amendments to address stormwater management opportunities.

**h. Green Jobs**

INITIATIVE 1:

Support green job development and training.

INITIATIVE 2:

Identify key sectors and provide resources for the promotion and development of green jobs and industries.

**i. Community Sector**

INITIATIVE 1:

Develop and market a Change-A-Bulb Campaign.

INITIATIVE 2:

Increase Recycling Awareness.

INITIATIVE 3:

Bolster community involvement in stormwater management.

INITIATIVE 4:

Promote sustainability opportunities through public events.

INITIATIVE 5:

Increase community involvement in sustainability practices.

**j. Ensuring and Measuring Our Success**

INITIATIVE 1:

Expand sustainability-oriented operations in City Hall.

INITIATIVE 2:

Explore funding mechanisms and sources to hire a full-time Energy and Sustainability Coordinator.

INITIATIVE 3:

Develop and initiate a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

INITIATIVE 4:

Promote sustainability and energy-efficiency at all City events.

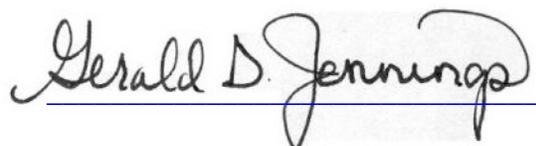
INITIATIVE 5:

City departments shall identify an energy and sustainability liaison.

INITIATIVE 6:

City shall develop a website presence to provide information about City sustainability programs and provide information and resources to residents, visitors, and the public and private sectors about available resources to increase energy efficiency and overall sustainability from the individual and neighborhood to the city and region.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
set my hand and caused the Seal of the  
City of Albany, New York to be affixed  
this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald D. Jennings". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal blue line.

MAYOR