

# CITY OF SALEM

## Written Testimony #3

### City Council

555 Liberty St SE  
Salem, OR 97301

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**Monday, October 12, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

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- 4.a.**     [20-358](#)     Proposed Fees and Charges for Utility Service Rates (Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater).

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Good Governance; Safe Community; Safe, Reliable, and Efficient Infrastructure

**Recommendation:**     Adopt Resolution No. 2020-44 with exhibit, establishing fees and charges for utility service rates (water, wastewater, and stormwater) effective January 1, 2021, and January 1, 2022.

**Attachments:**     [Sample Bills](#)  
[City of Salem Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Proposal for 2021 and 2022](#)  
[Resolution 2020-44](#)  
[Exhibit 1 for Rate Resolution 2020-44](#)  
[Notification Letter for Payment Plan](#)  
[Public Testimony 20-358 as of 09-24-2020](#)  
[Additional Public Testimony 09-30-2020](#)  
[Additional Public Comments received by 5:00 pm, 10-7-20.pdf](#)  
[Public Comments received by 11:00 a.m. 10-12-20.pdf](#)  
[Public Comments received by 3:30 p.m. 10-12-20.pdf](#)  
[Public Comments received by 5:00 p.m. 10-12-20.pdf](#)

*Add - Written Testimony.*

- 5.b.**     [20-383](#)     Motion from Councilor Tom Andersen regarding adopting goals as part of the City's Climate Action Plan.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

**Attachments:**     [Public Comments received by 11:00 a.m. 10-12-20.pdf](#)  
[Public Comments received by 3:30 p.m. 10-12-20.pdf](#)  
[Public Comment received by 5:00 p.m. 10-12-20.pdf](#)

*Add - Written Testimony.*

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Carole Smith <carole@smithkittleon.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:31 PM  
**To:** Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Testimony for tonight on water/sewer increase

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

Did you wake up from your naps and decide to be more mean to the citizens you have sworn to represent? You raise their water/sewer bills during a pandemic? How cruel can you be?

So many Salem citizens have lost their jobs, are laid off, collecting unemployment, businesses are closed or struggling, people are foregoing rent to provide food, people are living on dwindling savings and you raise the water/sewer rates on people? Are you totally unaware of what is happening in America right now? How people, businesses, non-profits and others are suffering?

Well, your past actions show us that you are ONLY interested in projects or policy that city staff want, nothing for what citizens want. You conned us into supporting a \$61 million Police Station that is 10% larger than our entire city hall and then you raid our downtown Urban Renewal funds for another \$7.5 million in 2017-19 for "other" improvement around the police palace. You think we don't notice, but we do. You are stealing from our future to insure city staff get their dreams fulfilled.

The one project Salem citizens supported - the citizen designed Downtown Streetscape project - you killed by turning it over to city staff who dumbed it down, cheapened it up, and copied other smaller towns so we don't have anything cool or innovative. Now we are fighting against a ruined Streetscape plan we didn't have input into and we don't want. Thanks. Great job. But in the meantime, you funded, designed and built an entire police palace. I guess it's not too difficult to see where YOUR priorities are. They are NOT our priorities.

Instead of raising this issue before the May primary, when you are elected, you do it after you are all secure in your elected positions. Cowards. If citizens supported this action you wouldn't be doing it now, you would have done it BEFORE we voted, not after. Again, you think you are outsmarting citizens but you are just cowards doing something you know we don't want. But as long as city staff are taken care of, you don't care about us. That's been made abundantly clear.

Another problem you have foisted on downtown is the Salem Lane Street Association. They are useless and harmful to downtown and you should stop supporting them unless the majority of downtown business/property owners agree they want them. Chuck Bennett put these idiots in power so he could control them. We don't want them or their dumb ideas. They spent hundreds of thousands of our Urban Renewal funds to "decorate" and name an alley. It looks awful and has done NOTHING to help downtown. Then you add insult to injury by saving restaurants at the expense of all the other businesses downtown. You let restaurants block off parking spaces paid for by all businesses, restrict customer parking for retail/office/service/etc so restaurants can survive-but no one else. Why don't you care equally about ALL businesses downtown? Then you send out Parking Tax invoices. Telling businesses that they owe parking tax for the whole year even though they were forced to be closed several months. If you are going to force us to accept your crumbs at least you can send out a survey asking downtown business/property owners IF THEY SUPPORT Lane Street. Staff are obviously lying to you if you think we support them and their old, worn out, dumb ideas. Why do you suppress all the creativity downtown?

Well, have fun tonight sticking it to the citizens you swore to represent. Don't give an inch since you are already elected. Just once in awhile do something WE WANT done - and let us determine what that is and how it done, not city staff. Represent us.

Carole Smith

**Amy Johnson**

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**From:** Michael Sedlock <msedlo0210@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 3:48 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Proposed water rate increase

This is a terrible time to increase water, storm water and sewer rates. Due to the pandemic many people are unemployed and struggling to pay mortgages, rent, buy food or pay utility bills. The city council represents the citizens of Salem and should realize people are struggling to survive. Many businesses are closed or barely getting by and additional expenses will continue to hurt recovery. Please delay this increase for another year and look for alternative ways to cover this rate increase.

Sent from my iPad

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Robert@htipllc.com  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 3:34 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Utility Rate Hearing Comments  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Robert Hornaday
Your Email	Robert@htipllc.com
Your Phone	503-949-6219
Street	1240 Columbia St NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	<p>Dear City Counsel, I find it hard to believe my water bill should be so high. The comments on the Proposed Rate Increase page of the website indicate 3%, 3% and 5% increases for the next two years (so more than double those amounts). My water bill for the month of October (not the highest use month) has steadily risen apx. 15% in 2018 and 2019 and right at 20% this year. Where does it end and why should I believe these estimates? My bill this month is just 12 cents shy of \$100. There is just the 2 of us and we don't water the lawn or wash our cars. We use a drip system for watering our small garden space. It appears in the past the water fund has been used as a cash cow for non-water related projects. If that is the case please make it stop and pass an ordinance that guarantees it will not happen in the future. We are not in favor of the proposed rate increases. Thank you, Robert Hornaday</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/12/2020.

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Terry Williams <williams4676@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:06 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Ciry Council meeting 10/12/2020

I would like to submit my comments to the City Council tonight concerning the rate increase proposal on the agenda. My name is Terry Williams and I have lived at 4676 32nd Ave SE for 42 years. My property is inside the city limits by approx 500 yards. I live on a street that has no city services that affect my property except the stormwater bill I am receiving.

I only started receiving a bill as a graduated payment schedule until we reached the regular payment 5 years ago (10 years total). I do believe I should have never been put on this payment plan at the time the City Council decided to bill everyone in the city limits even if the services were not available. I talked with a man named Eric and he said I would have to approach the city council for any change of this status, I'm sorry to say I never did. The payment seemed minimal at the time.

Since November of 2015 the payment has doubled, and is scheduled for another 5% increase. I still have no services. I have NO sewer, NO water, and NO stormwater drains. I was in the underground stormwater manufacturing business for 30 years. I have a ditch along the street which I have to keep cleaned out and mowed and it drains "no where". We don't even have a culvert under our driveway. We are also paying for street lights which again, we do not have. The side of property is along Litchfield St and I and the neighbor also clean and maintain that ditch.

Since all this has begun we have retired and are on Social Security. This is an expense I can not justify, because I do not get the service I am supposedly paying for,

We ask the council to "Grandfather" our property from the necessity of paying the fee.

Please gracefully accept this request, looking forward to hearing from you.

Terry Williams  
503.370.7105

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** VICKIE WRIGHT <vickiewright@netscape.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Utility rate hike

10-12-2020

Dear Members of the City of Salem Council,

I propose the the Council table this utility rate hike and address a potential rate hike in the fall of 2021.

Here are the reasons why:

1. We just had an \$8.00 rate hike earlier this year on all homes and duplexes. I would think that apartment complexes and businesses were includes with a rate hike that would be passed down to consumers. How much money did that generate for the city of Salem? That rate hike is every month and according to Courtney Knox Bush, will continue every year. What is that money used for?
2. Just because you had 3% rate hikes every year since 2012, doesn't mean they should continue on that bases. The more you raise the more you will spend rather than use the budget you have.
3. You should not base our rates on what other cities rates are. Our city should be based on the needs of our community.
4. 2020 has been a horrible year for everyone. Many people, including me, have been laid off or lost their job due to Covid. Many people are losing their homes. This is not the time to raise taxes.

Again, this is not a normal year with business as usual. Please reconsider and do not burden the citizens of Salem with higher taxes.

Thank you,

Vickie Wright

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of wallylantz@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:34 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Contact City Recorder  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Wallace D. Lantz
Your Email	wallylantz@hotmail.com
Your Phone	5039323375
Street	565 Welcome Way SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	Regarding the Proposed Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Increases. It is hard for me that City Council has no heart as to what is going on with the citizens of Salem due to the Covid 19, the council wants to make it harder for people to pay their water bills. There are so many people unemployed and have run out of their unemployment, yet the Council does not care! This is not the time to be raising any City of Salem rates! Have a heart!!

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/12/2020.

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Diane Chavez <dianedalychavez@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:40 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Support for Tom Anderson's climate action goals motion

I support the motion that Councilor Tom Andersen will make at the City Council meeting on Monday evening. The recent climate driven fire storms across the west underscore the urgent need to take real climate action now.

The goals to reduce Salem's GHG emissions by 50% by 2035 and for Salem to become carbon neutral by 2050 were recommended by 350 Salem OR. We believe that these goals must become the foundation of the Salem Climate Action Plan, and should be adopted by the City Council in advance of the planning process getting underway next month. With these goals in place, it will become the work of the Climate Action Plan Task Force to develop strategies to achieve the goals. The goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050 has been adopted by over 60 countries including Germany, France and Great Britain, and several states and many cities have also adopted similar goals. Salem cannot solve this problem alone but Salem must do its part to preserve a livable climate for generations to come.

Sincerely,  
Diane Daly Chavez  
Salem, Oregon resident, ward one

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Ian Davidson <ian.davidson@cherriots.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:46 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Cc:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Support Climate Action Goals  
**Attachments:** PDF 10-12-20 LTR CofS Climate Action Plan IDavidson.pdf

Good afternoon Mayor Bennett and Salem City Councilors:

Attached is my written testimony in support of Councilor Anderson's motion for the City Council to adopt specific goals as part of the City's Climate Action Plan. As I explain in the letter, my support for the motion derives from my role as board president of the Salem Area Mass Transit District and as a member of the City's Climate Action Plan Task Force.

I appreciate the efforts you are undertaking to take action on climate change and appreciate your consideration of my testimony.

Thank you,

***Ian Davidson***

Board President

[ian.davidson@cherriots.org](mailto:ian.davidson@cherriots.org)

Office: 503-588-2424



555 Court St NE, Suite 5230

Salem, OR 97301

***Administration:*** 503-588-2424

***Fax:*** 503-566-3933

October 12, 2020

Mayor Bennett and City Councilors  
City of Salem  
555 Liberty St. SE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mayor Bennett and Members of the Council:

Please accept this letter as my support for Councilor Anderson's motion for the City Council to adopt specific goals as part of the City's Climate Action Plan. My support for the motion derives from my role as board president of the Salem Area Mass Transit District, and as a member of the City's Climate Action Plan Task Force.

In my capacity as board president, I want to formally express the District's support for the City of Salem's efforts to take action on climate. As a board, we have adopted an Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement in which we express support for community partners such as the City of Salem to enhance their own commitments toward sustainability. We are making concerted efforts to ensure the Salem-area region has affordable, reliable, and clean transportation options. We recognize, too, that we do not operate in a vacuum. Strong collaborative partnerships such as this task force will prove more important as we commit to the hard work of minimizing pollution and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Moreover, as the transit district's designated representative to serve on the Climate Action Plan Task Force, I express my support for clear goals from the City Council to aid in the development of the city's climate action plan. The task before us is arduous, and even with a timeline of more than a year, the work is daunting. Clear direction from the City Council on what we should target will make our work significantly more productive. It is important, that with a task force as inclusive as ours and with work as serious as we have been tasked with, that we have clear direction on the expected deliverables. As the City's elected leaders, your leadership in this matter will prove incredibly valuable as the task force members undertake this meaningful work.

Thank you,



Ian Davidson  
Board President, Cherriots

cc: SAMTD Board of Directors  
Allan Pollock, SAMTD General Manager

**Amy Johnson**

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**From:** Laurie Dougherty <lauriedougherty@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:11 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting 10/12/2020 Agenda Item 5.b.  
**Attachments:** Why Does Salem Need a Climate Action Plan.docx

Dear Mayor Bennett and Salem City Councilors,

My name is Laurie Dougherty. I live in Ward 1 and am a member of 350 Salem OR, the local affiliate of international climate justice organization [350.org](https://350.org). I want to begin by acknowledging that today is Indigenous People's Day and that we are on the land of the Santiam Kalapuya people.

I want to thank Councilor Andersen for Motion #20-383. (Agenda Item 5.b.) which sets goals for a Climate Action Plan that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Salem, and to thank the City Council and staff for moving the Climate Action Plan forward.

We are facing a climate emergency and its effects are coming close to home. Many factors contributed to the recent devastating wildfires, but they were made worse by years of drought. With increased warming we can expect more fires and longer fire seasons. We can expect toxic algae blooms putting stress on our water supply. We can expect more heat waves and more instances of extreme precipitation. As compassionate people we are saddened by the devastation that the increasingly chaotic climate brings to other parts of our country and our planet.

Although we at 350 Salem OR are activists and advocates focusing on policy and a just transition away from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy, our organizational name is grounded in climate science. 350 refers to the concentration of 350 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere which is the upper limit that scientists consider compatible with a stable climate. We are now at [411 ppm](#). This

compares to about 280 ppm at the beginning of the fossil-fuel-based industrial era. CO<sub>2</sub> persists for hundreds of years and accumulates as we continue to burn fossil fuels. Trees and other vegetation and well-managed soils can draw CO<sub>2</sub> down and sequester it. There are other ways to do this, but they have potentially hazardous side effects.

The best way we as a city, as a concerned community, can do our part is to stop emitting greenhouse gases. We can do this by how, what and where we build and by how we get around. Development patterns and transportation interact. Compact, mixed use development reduces automobile travel and encourages healthier active mobility. We can do this by fostering improvements in energy efficiency. We can do this by reducing waste and practicing better waste management. We can do this by taking advantage of resources from the state and federal government (when we get a federal government that cares about climate change), and non-governmental organizations with grant-making opportunities and technical assistance. We can do this by calling on the creativity and resourcefulness of Salem residents and businesses. We can do this with your leadership and resolve.

The 350 organizational network, from global to local scales, is committed to climate justice. Impacts from climate change fall hardest on low income people and communities of color who are least able to escape from or recover from excessive heat, fires, floods and other harmful events. Climate justice means that the concerns of low income people and communities of color must be heard and addressed. They must share fully in the benefits of the emerging climate-friendly society. The necessary transition must be a Just Transition.

Nearly four years ago, in late December 2016, I made a presentation to our 350 Salem OR group "Why does Salem need a Climate Action Plan?" I found an outline of that presentation on my laptop and attached it here. We agreed to explore a CAP and began researching what other cities have done, focusing first on Eugene and Corvallis and previous activity in

Salem (see Salem Sustainable Cities Initiative 2010-2011 <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/sustainable-cities-initiative.aspx> ) We formed a committee to analyze and discuss how to proceed. We read documents and talked with people involved in developing or advocating for CAPS in other cities.

When we realized that the City of Salem was working on a five-year Strategic Plan, we engaged with that process, attending workshops, Council meetings and Work Sessions, and communicating with City Councilors and staff. We continue to do the same in regard to Our Salem and other contexts that could involve climate action (e.g. budget and policy-setting activity). We held a well-attended public forum and continue to encourage our members and supporters to be informed and involved.

The climate emergency calls for bold, creative and equitable action. It calls for committed leadership. Thank you again for moving forward on a Climate Action Plan for Salem. And thank you for this opportunity to comment.

## Why Does Salem Need a Climate Action Plan?

- Climate change is an urgent problem
- Given current federal politics, subnational actions are critical (regional, state, local)
- Align with State of Oregon GHG reduction targets - As of 2007 (HB 3543:
  - By 2010, arrest the growth of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions and begin to reduce them;
  - By 2020, achieve GHG levels that are 10% below 1990 levels; and
  - By 2050, achieve GHG levels that are at least 75% below 1990 levels\
- Prioritize goals for energy, land use, waste management, water use, etc.
- Apply systems approach to targets
- Achieve greater sustainability & liveability through focused & integrated targets

**What has Salem Done?** Sustainable Salem – burst of activity 2008-2011. Since then?  
<http://www.cityofsalem.net/Residents/Sustainable-Salem/Pages/default.aspx>

**Energy Strategy:** In August 2009, the City of Salem received notice of a \$1.5M award from the U.S. Department of Energy's (US DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. The EECBG Program aimed to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce total energy consumption, and create jobs. It also required communities to develop an Energy Strategy to meet these objectives.

Salem's Strategy was developed with feedback received from residents and businesses at a December 2009 forum, work groups, and a Task Force of representatives from community organizations. The Strategy was presented to City Council for their acceptance on September 13, 2010. [couldn't find it]

**Sustainable Cities Initiative:** The UO Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI) was a unique partnership between the University of Oregon and the City of Salem focused on enhanced student learning through an examination of real world issues facing local government.

**Environmental Plan** On September 12, 2008, the City Manager signed into effect an Environmental Action Plan Charter that provides background on the Action Plan, establishes and outlines an Environmental Action Team, provides a framework to accomplish the Action Plan items, as well as outlining the Plan's format, purpose, and process. The Action Plan includes goals related to energy, fuel, water, and waste reduction in City facilities.

### Reports

[2010 Environmental Action Plan](#)

[2010-11 Environmental Action Plan Annual Report](#)

## How to start

### Review experience of other cities, e.g.

- Eugene – Climate Action Plan developed by city Office of Sustainability; written into Ordinance 2014.
  - Internal City Operations
  - Community Plan – in sync with 350 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> by 2100

- Corvallis – Climate Action Plan developed by community based Task Force (including 350 Corvallis) and presented to City Council
  - City Council set up Climate Action Task Force
  - Climate Action Plan developed by Task Force adopted by City Council December 2016
  - Six areas for both city operations and community mitigation & adaptation
- Other Cities as examples?

**Identify Tasks – e.g. Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

**Identify scope of plan**

**Identify resources for technical assistance, e.g.**

- NASA carbon budget for 350 ppm + methodology to downscale (cf. Eugene)
- World Resources Institute for community scale GHG inventory methodology  
<http://www.wri.org/events/2014/12/launch-global-protocol-community-scale-greenhouse-gas>
- ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability for technical assistance to municipalities <http://www.iclei.org/>

**Identify local resources for research, input and feedback**

**Amy Johnson**

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**From:** Kopcho <Team.Kopcho@pm.me>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder; citycouncil  
**Subject:** Public Testimony for City Council October 12, 2020 - Agenda Item 5b - Motion from Councilor Andersen  
**Attachments:** testimony in support of 5b.doc

Please find the attached letter in support of agenda item 5b.



Monday, October 12, 2020


Mayor Bennett, President Hoy, and Councilors:

“We protect nature and it protects us.” These words were spoken to me by an elder from one of our neighboring tribal nations and they echo with me every day, and even more so today on Indigenous People's Day.

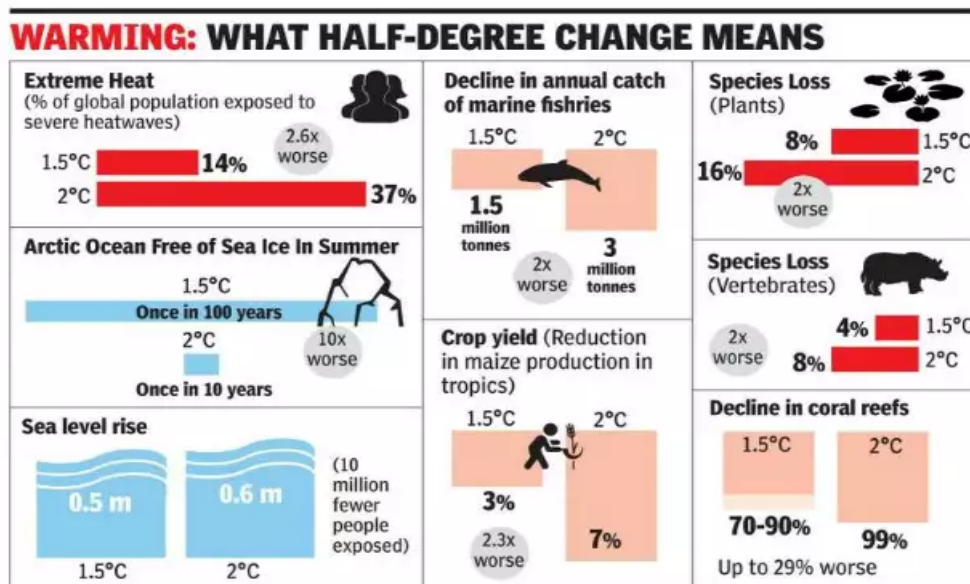
Make no mistake, the recent historic wildfires knocking at our door were no aberration. Cities are already facing the impacts of climate change and are highly vulnerable to a range of climate hazards, including wildfires, sea level rise, street flooding, landslides, droughts, epidemics and severe heat waves, which threaten the health, well-being and livelihood of citizens. Cities are integral to fighting climate change; while they are responsible for 37-49% of global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and urban infrastructure accounts for over 70% of global energy use, research shows that urban policy decisions made by 2020 could determine up to a third of the remaining global carbon budget that is not already ‘locked-in’ by past decisions. That is to say, what we do now has lasting implications for the likelihood of future success in mitigating the worst effects of climate change: cities, and local policy actions, are critical.

The historic Paris Agreement recognized the vital role of Non-Party stakeholders, including cities, in the global response to climate change. Cities are already using the Compact of Mayors as a common global platform to measure their contributions to Nationally Determined Contributions in terms of GHG reduction goals and climate mitigation and adaptation action plans. Cities are also engaged in the Covenant of Mayors initiative, in which they commit to a common greenhouse gas emissions reduction target through the implementation of sustainable energy and climate action plans.

I have no doubt others will provide testimony supplying Council with ample examples of other cities who adopted emissions reductions targets in-line with the recommendations from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The list is long. However, these targets: 50% emissions reduction by 2035 and net-zero by 2050 need to be understood as well-established through extensive scientific analysis. Other reduction targets exist, but the goals are even more aggressive: for example, 80% by 2035 and net-zero by 2040.



If we achieve these targets, as put forward by Councilor Andersen, globally, it gives us a reasonable chance (not a guarantee) to limit the global average of climate change to 1.5 °C. If we fail, even if we limit the change to just half-a-degree more, the global implications are vast (see the figure below).



To spend time deliberating or money on consulting fees to establish their worthiness would be a wasteful proposition. The only lingering question that remains is, “how do we reach this target?” It is the answer to this question that should be the goal of the Climate Action Task force and the driving force behind the Climate Action Plan.

In order for Salem to have the clearest path forward, I strongly urge the council to adopt the motion put forward by Councilor Andersen so that work can begin immediately on determining and implementing the policy pathways we take to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Casey Kopcho

**Amy Johnson**

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**From:** Sarah Rohrs <sarahjrohrs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:52 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** City's Climate Action Plan comment

Monday, Oct. 12, 2020

Salem City Council members - I am writing to express my appreciation to Councilmember Tom Andersen for his plan to introduce a motion to move the city's Climate Action Plan forward.

It is critical the city do its part to limit greenhouse gas emissions. I join Salem 350 in supporting the goals to reduce emissions by 50 percent by 2035,. and to require Salem to become carbon neutral by 2050.

We are in a climate emergency which was evident by the recent wildfires that decimated parts of Marion County and Oregon. Throughout the planet, we are witnessing the effects of climate change, including flooding, severe wildfires, devastating storms, hotter temperatures, loss of fisheries and increased migrations of displaced people, among other problems.

Climate change is also directly linked to social justice as communities of color are impacted far more than others. I ask you to pass the motion and that Salem do its part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Sarah Rohrs  
260 23rd St. NE  
Salem, OR. 97301

