

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
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Los Angeles Councilmembers Seek Citywide Carbon Neutrality Goal (Without Offsets) by 2030 *Via Innovative \$1M “Cool City Challenge” Neighborhood-by-Neighborhood Mobilization*

LOS ANGELES, September 21, 2021 -- Today, during Climate Week, Councilmembers Paul Koretz (CD5), Kevin de León (CD14), and Nithya Raman (CD4) co-presented a motion directing the City’s Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) and other departments, in partnership with Neighborhood Councils, to drastically increase the City’s current 2050 carbon neutrality goals to meet climate scientist’s warnings that 2030 is the deadline by which to avoid irreversible ecological tipping points. The motion, which also highlights the City’s participation in the innovative new [Cool City Challenge](#) (CCC) initiative, which seeks to engage Angelenos from every sector in citywide mitigations to achieve an aggressive goal of carbon neutrality by 2030 without offsets. The CCC, developed and funded by the Empowerment Institute, is a neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach to hyper-local climate change mitigation, water conservation, and neighborhood resilience. Piloted by the City as [Cool Blocks](#) in 2016-2017, the effort also reduces utility bills.

Supported by the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance in partnership with CEMO, the CCC challenges California cities to develop the most innovative programs and recruit 200 Cool Block leaders in order to receive \$1 million in funding to augment climate mitigation efforts and would thereby help protect the health, welfare, and habitability all Angelenos. The CCC will create bottom-up change from the demand side (consumers) and connect it to top-down change from the supply-side (business, technology, and policy adoption). The resultant community synergy can empower social, environmental, and economic outcomes not imagined possible.

“There’s no doubt carbon neutrality without offsets by 2030 is an aspirational stretch goal,” **said Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz**, who co-authored the motion. “But if we are to rise up to meet the greatest challenge ever faced by humankind -- in time -- we must look climate change square in the face, mobilize LA with equity and justice, neighborhood by neighborhood, sector by sector, and do not what’s possible, but what’s necessary to keep our planet habitable and thriving. If that means making the impossible possible and the aspirational operational, so be it.”

“The consequences of the climate crisis are already upon us and we not only need to do far more to reduce CO2 emissions, we need to aggressively help our communities cope with those consequences, particularly disadvantaged communities dealing with the worst heat consequences and least able to cope with those changes,” said co-author **Councilmember Kevin de León**. “We need to redouble our efforts across the board to confront this global crisis and show other cities and states how to address climate change and protect their residents.”

“We have wasted years debating climate policy while our planet has steadily warmed to the existential crisis we face today,” said co-author **Councilmember Nithya Raman**. “Achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 without offsets may be bold, but I know that all of us who call Los Angeles home are ready to work arm in arm with our neighbors to accept the Cool Cities Challenge. We no longer have time to waste.”

“The CCC will help CEMO prioritize an equitable, inclusive mobilization throughout the city to ensure we build the social cohesion and infrastructure to prepare LA for climate emergencies that are worsening and creating more climate disruption,” said **Marta Segura, Director of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office**. “Carbon neutrality by 2030 without offsets is key to minimizing the climate chaos that is unfolding not only in LA, but around the world.” -MORE-

Councilmember Paul Koretz
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(KORETZ 21-09-21 Press Release Cont.)

“At this point in the climate crisis, all of us at every level—from individual households to the international level—need to make big changes quickly, so we’re excited to leverage the power of neighborhood councils and neighborhoods to help the city of Los Angeles reach carbon neutrality by 2030,” said **Lisa Hart, Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance board member.**

Earlier this month via Council action, the Department of Water and Power completed the groundbreaking “LA100 Study” with pathways to reach 100% renewable energy by 2035 -- ten years earlier than planned, which will achieve 80% renewable and 97% carbon free energy by 2030. The 2030 motion seeks to emulate the utility’s goal acceleration through citywide partnerships including UCLA climate experts among other esteemed institutions.

“UCLA’s Sustainable LA Grand Challenge is excited to partner with the City to apply the latest research to co-design strategies to accelerate the path to carbon neutrality by 2030,” said **Cassie Rauser, Ph.D. Executive Director, UCLA Sustainable LA Grand Challenge.**

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