

# CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

## TWENTY SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. F/S R-24-34 ENACTMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORED BY: Renée Grout and Tammy Fiebelkorn

1 RESOLUTION

2 REPEALING ARTICLE 9 OF CHAPTER 3 OF THE CODE OF RESOLUTIONS  
3 AND REPLACING IT WITH THE SUSTAINABILITY RESOLUTION.

4 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque adopted a community-driven Climate  
5 Action Plan in 2021 to mitigate the effects of climate change for all residents,  
6 especially those in historically underserved, frontline communities; and

7 WHEREAS, to keep current with all the goals and practices outlined in the  
8 City's Climate Action Plan, all relevant City Departments shall continually  
9 revisit and refine their mission statements, policies, goals, and practices to  
10 reflect the Climate Action Plan; and

11 WHEREAS, the years from 2010-2020 were recorded as the hottest decade  
12 on record and 2023 was the hottest year on record; and

13 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque is an identified Urban Heat Island, as  
14 defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, making it an urbanized area  
15 that experiences higher temperatures than outlying areas; and

16 WHEREAS, local frontline communities are impacted first and worst by  
17 climate crises, attributable to extreme heat and heat-related illnesses, to  
18 disproportionate exposure to air and water pollution, and to unequal access to  
19 the benefits of environmental quality improvements; and

20 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque's sustainable practices assure  
21 equitable access to environmental protections; and

22 WHEREAS, addressing the climate challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires  
23 integrating sustainability in business practices, job creation strategies, and  
24 economic development; and

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1        WHEREAS, mimicking nature by using native landscaping, protecting  
2 native habitats, increasing irrigation efficiency and other conservation  
3 measures help to achieve sustainability goals, and protects air, water, and  
4 natural environments, such as the Bosque and other native habitats; and

5        WHEREAS, neighborhoods improve with parks and green spaces in a  
6 number of ways, including improved air quality, improved aesthetics,  
7 mitigation of heat islands, increased property values, slower traffic, and  
8 increased economic activity; and

9        WHEREAS, buildings and the built environment account for forty percent  
10 (40%) of the greenhouse gas emissions nation-wide, and fifty-five percent  
11 (55%) of the Albuquerque’s greenhouse gas emissions come from stationary  
12 sources, primarily commercial and residential buildings; and

13        WHEREAS, transportation makes up one of the most significant sectors for  
14 greenhouse gas emissions nationwide, and accounts for forty-one percent  
15 (41%) of Albuquerque’s emissions; and

16        WHEREAS, the City supports programs that reduce its carbon footprint,  
17 improves air quality, and assures equitable access to clean transportation and  
18 transit, especially for frontline communities; and

19        WHEREAS, greenhouse gas emissions can be mitigated by increasing the  
20 tree canopy and green spaces, effectively creating a carbon sink to reduce  
21 heat; and

22        WHEREAS, recycling, composting and other similar consumer behaviors  
23 are a low barrier to entry for residents wishing to reduce their carbon  
24 footprint, and help mitigate the nearly four percent (4%) of greenhouse gas  
25 emissions from product disposal, in addition to reducing emissions from  
26 other stages in the product lifecycle; and

27        WHEREAS, sustainable purchasing through environmentally safe products,  
28 local purchasing that reduces transportation and economic losses, and locally  
29 sourced and produced compost have long-lasting impacts on pollution  
30 reduction; and

31        WHEREAS, technological advances support sustainable practices, but  
32 continued R&D and cost-benefit analyses are needed for City Departments  
33 and the public to fully implement these technologies.

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1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF  
2 ALBUQUERQUE:

3 SECTION 1. REPEAL

4 Chapter 3, Article 9 in the Code of Resolutions known as “ENVIRONMENT” is  
5 hereby repealed in its entirety.

6 SECTION 2. NEW MATERIAL

7 1. Create a new Chapter 3, Article 9 as follows:

8 3-9-1 SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

9 1. As required by COA § 2-14-1-8(C), the City shall consider community  
10 and environmental impacts in all business recruitment and incentive  
11 packages.

12 2. All applicants for economic incentives are required to provide an  
13 analysis of how they are meeting COA § 2-14-1-8(B) in their applications.

14 3. All incentive packages shall consider community and environmental  
15 impacts of the proposed project, such as energy efficiency, water  
16 conservation, and environmental social governance (ESG) practices.

17 Incentive packages include Local Economic Development Act funding,  
18 Industrial Revenue Bonds, and any other discretionary incentive offers.

19 (A) Per the 2021 City of Albuquerque Climate Action Plan, the City shall  
20 give preference to companies in the energy efficiency, renewable and  
21 alternative energy product manufacturing industry.

22 (B) The City shall encourage job training and opportunities in sustainable  
23 careers, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, electrification of  
24 buildings and modernization of the energy grid, including but not limited to the  
25 installation and maintenance of EV charging stations, transportation  
26 efficiency, materials management, upstream waste reduction, and local food  
27 and agriculture jobs.

28 3-9-2 ENERGY

29 (A) Energy Efficiency

30 1. Upgrades to Municipal Facilities. The City shall maximize energy  
31 efficiency by implementing efficient HVAC controls, optimizing lighting  
32 systems, and adopting other energy-saving measures. The Energy and  
33 Sustainability Management Division (ESMD) at the City’s General Services

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1 Department (GSD) in collaboration with the Albuquerque Energy Council  
2 (AEC) shall continue its practice of utilizing a dedicated portion of the Capital  
3 Improvement Program, amounting to 3%, for the Energy Conservation  
4 Program. This initiative aims to bolster the energy efficiency of city buildings  
5 through a range of measures.

6 2. City Projects shall encompass a comprehensive approach to energy  
7 conservation, including but not limited to implementation of advanced  
8 building controls, integration of battery storage systems, energy efficiency  
9 upgrades targeting both new and existing municipal buildings, and various  
10 additional enhancements geared towards maximizing energy efficiency

11 3. Equitable Access to Energy Efficiency Programs. The City is  
12 dedicated to assisting all residents, particularly those most vulnerable, in  
13 accessing energy-saving opportunities and participating in carbon-reducing  
14 initiatives. The City shall provide energy efficiency programs to support  
15 community resiliency of Justice40 census tracts and promote sustainability  
16 and resiliency in historically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

17 a. The City, in partnership with local utilities, shall provide low-  
18 income residents with energy efficiency improvements through the  
19 Community Energy Efficiency Project, the Community Energy Efficiency  
20 Development Block Grant Program, and other funding sources. Energy  
21 efficiency improvements may include, but are not limited to free energy  
22 audits, free (or reduced cost) energy efficiency upgrades, and other  
23 improvements.

24 b. The City shall create public awareness campaigns to educate  
25 residents and make information and potential savings from energy rebates as  
26 easy and accessible as possible. Methods may include a single universal  
27 rebate form, forms translated into several languages, and other methods to  
28 assist residents, especially those in historically disadvantaged  
29 neighborhoods.

30 4. Weatherization. The City shall consider adopting design guidelines  
31 or other building requirements, including but not limited to higher energy  
32 efficiency standards for low-income multi-family housing projects, qualifying

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1 single-family homes in the Community Energy Efficiency Program, or others  
2 that are utilizing City funds.

3 (B) Renewable Energy Use

4 1. Upgrades to Municipal Facilities. The Energy and Sustainability  
5 Management Division (ESMD) at the General Services Department (GSD), is  
6 dedicated to utilizing a portion of the Capital Improvement Program,  
7 equivalent to 3%, through the Energy Conservation Program. This initiative  
8 aims to convert city buildings and operations to renewable energy sources,  
9 thereby reducing the carbon footprint of city operations. ESMD shall work with  
10 other City Departments to convert city buildings and operations to renewable  
11 energy sources wherever practical, with the goal of achieving 100% renewable  
12 energy use for government operations as identified in the City’s Climate  
13 Action Plan.

14 2. Increasing Funds for Renewable Conversion. The City shall  
15 explore additional avenues for funding to bolster investments in greenhouse  
16 gas emission reduction initiatives. As part of this endeavor, new City projects  
17 will prioritize renewable energy conversion, and other energy savings, across  
18 municipal operations.

19 (C) Support for Alternative Energy Savings Strategies

20 1. The City shall support alternative energy production and savings  
21 solutions including community solar programs, micro-grid establishment,  
22 and grid modernization, especially in low-income areas.

23 2. Community Solar. The City will support the State of New Mexico  
24 Community Solar Program as defined by State’s Community Solar Rule,  
25 17.9.573 NMAC. Within one year of the enactment of this legislation, the  
26 General Services Department shall report back with recommendations for  
27 how the City can best support the State’s Community Solar Program.

28 3. BRAIN Energy Management. The City shall track energy use and  
29 efficiency with the Balanced Resource Acquisition and Information Network  
30 (BRAIN). Deployment of The BRAIN energy management solution will enable  
31 effective monitoring of energy consumption and facilitate optimized energy  
32 management practices.

33 3-9-3: TRANSPORTATION

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1 (A) Transition to Low- or Zero-Emission Vehicles

2 1. City Fleet. On a case-by-case basis, the City shall explore the  
3 feasibility of transitioning City vehicles including fleet vehicles, transit buses,  
4 and airport support vehicles to low- or zero-emission to include a cost benefit  
5 analysis. The City shall follow the recommendations in its Fleet Transition Plan  
6 (currently in development), to implement the transition to low- and zero-  
7 emission vehicles.

8 2. Private Vehicles. The City shall provide public awareness campaigns  
9 and educational materials to residents and organizations to encourage the  
10 purchase and adoption of low- or zero-emission vehicles.

11 (B) Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

12 1. The City shall continue to enhance transit services to increase  
13 ridership and accessibility to desired destinations, including Zero Fares  
14 policies for transit riders, transit network improvements, and improved multi-  
15 modal first mile/last-mile connections to the transit network.

16 2. The City shall continue to implement Vision Zero and Complete  
17 Streets principles in roadway design to encourage safe and efficient  
18 alternative modes of transportation.

19 3. The City shall encourage carpooling, rideshare, carshare, bikeshare,  
20 and other shared mobility services.

21 4. The City should encourage active transportation, such as walking,  
22 cycling, and other forms of micro-mobility.

23 (C) Smart City Design. The City shall:

24 1. Incentivize mixed-use and neighborhood-scale development, to  
25 reduce the distance in which residents need to travel for goods and services  
26 and support walkable, people-friendly neighborhood design.

27 2. Incentivize transit-orientated development.

28 3. Allow for more beneficial land uses and encourage the use of  
29 alternative transportation modes.

30 4. Utilize intelligent transportation system methods to optimize traffic  
31 flow patterns that reduce idling vehicles.

32 5. Develop new EV Charging networks accessible city-wide.

33 3-9-4: BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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1 (A) Building Emissions. The City shall consider renewable energy  
2 sources to offset energy consumed by City-owned buildings and minimize  
3 natural gas emissions.

4 (B) Energy and Sustainability Design Guide. The Municipal  
5 Development and General Services Departments shall work together to  
6 identify opportunities to incorporate elements of the Energy and Sustainability  
7 Design Guide into Requests for Proposals for design and construction  
8 processes for new construction and remodel projects on City owned  
9 buildings.

10 (C) Heat Mitigation. Where practicable, the City shall identify and  
11 implement alternative pavement and roofing options, such as cool pavement,  
12 cool roofs, permeable paving, etc.

13 (D) Electrification of City Buildings. The City shall prioritize the  
14 electrification of new City facilities and major renovations to existing City  
15 facilities.

16 1. The Municipal Development Department shall ensure that  
17 Requests for Proposals and bids shall explain the application of the Energy  
18 and Sustainability Design Guide for new city facilities and major remodels.

19 **3-9-5: SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

20 This section addresses the waste stream, and an economic- and systems-  
21 based approach to protecting finite resources.

22 1. Recycling. The Office of Sustainability in conjunction with The  
23 Solid Waste Department, and Office of Equity and Inclusion shall develop  
24 standards, procedures, and educational material for short-term and long-term  
25 waste diversion from the landfill through increased recycling.

26 2. Food Waste Prevention and Composting. The Office of  
27 Sustainability in conjunction with The Solid Waste Department, and Office of  
28 Equity and Inclusion shall develop programs to increase access to food waste  
29 prevention/reduction/composting.

30 3. Local Circular Economy. The City shall encourage and recruit  
31 businesses with upstream product principles, such as employing  
32 conservation principles in product development, production, and  
33 transportation, before it reaches the consumer. The City shall develop

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1 educational materials about the circular economy and other sustainable  
2 practices for local businesses and city residents.

3 4. Local Agriculture. Per the City’s Buy Local Initiative, the City  
4 shall develop preferential procurement measures to support local agriculture.  
5 In addition, where practicable, the City’s Parks and Recreation, Open Space  
6 and other divisions shall consider regenerative agriculture practices.

7 **3-9-6: NATURE-BASED SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES**

8 (A) The Urban Tree Canopy. In alignment with § 4-4-4, of the Code of  
9 Resolutions and the City’s 100,000 tree planting goal, the Parks and  
10 Recreation Department (PRD) shall work with Let’s Plant ABQ Coalition to  
11 meet this goal by 2030.

12 1. Tree Planting. § 6-6-1-1, PRD will work with community organizations  
13 to market benefits of trees to citizens for the promotion of tree plantings on  
14 private properties to improve the City’s ambient air quality and mitigate urban  
15 heat islands.

16 2. Climate-friendly Trees. Referencing § 6-6-1-1, trees will be climate-  
17 ready, have regional adaptability, be non-invasive, have street or landscape  
18 appeal, include family and species diversity, and other features stipulated by  
19 community organizations

20 3. Relaunch Project Tree Start. In accordance with § 4-4-4, of the Code  
21 of Resolutions, PRD will relaunch this project to help meet the City’s 100,000  
22 tree planting goal by 2030.

23 (B) Natural Design Energy Management. The City Parks and Recreation  
24 Department and the Planning Department shall within one year of the effective  
25 date of this resolution, develop landscape design guidelines, and a program to  
26 disseminate these guidelines, that promote the use of nature-based energy  
27 efficiency measures, such as plants, trees, and other material to enhance  
28 energy conservation and quality of life.

29 (C) Conversion of Non-functional Turf Grass. To conserve water, the  
30 Parks and Recreation Department shall develop a plan to replace turf that is  
31 solely ornamental and not regularly used for human recreational purposes or  
32 for civic or community events with more sustainable turf alternatives, native  
33 landscaping, and pollinating plants.



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1 (D) Equitable Access to Trees, Parks, and Open Space.

2 1. The City shall assure a goal of a park, trail, open space, or green  
3 space within a 10-minute walk of each residence

4 2. The Office of Equity and Inclusion and the Office of Sustainability  
5 will identify front line communities and those in historically disadvantaged  
6 areas as sites for tree planting

7 3. The City will work to educate businesses and residents on rebates  
8 that are available through the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility  
9 Authority, and other agencies, to offset water usage to plant and establish new  
10 trees.

11 (E) Green Storm Water Infrastructure. Where practicable, the City shall use  
12 green storm water infrastructure to facilitate water filtration, improve water  
13 retention and soil health, and help to recharge the water table.

14 1. Implementation shall include swales and basins, when possible, to  
15 help with water retention, limiting storm water runoff, minimizing localized  
16 flooding, and encouraging water conservation.

17 2. Use of permeable surfaces. The City may consider permeable  
18 surfaces to include planting beds, mulch with local soil or neighborhood  
19 compost, gravel, or permeable pavers.

20 (F) Cool Pavement. Where practicable, the City shall consider the  
21 application of cool pavement for impermeable surfaces to temper solar  
22 reflectivity and reduce heat islands.

23 3-9-7 SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PRACTICES

24 (A) Purchase of Environmentally Safe Products. Where practicable, the  
25 City shall follow procurement practices that consider reduced exposure of city  
26 residents and visitors to potentially toxic chemicals, reduce greenhouse gas  
27 emissions and other air pollutants, protect ground and surface waters,  
28 maximize water and energy efficiency, favor renewable energy sources,  
29 maximize post-consumer recycled content and readily recyclable or  
30 compostable materials, favor long-term use through product durability,  
31 repairability, and reuse, and consider life cycle economics of a product  
32 including its manufacture, transportation, use and disposal.

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1 (B) Buy Local. Where practicable, the City shall follow the Buy Local  
2 Initiative and AI NO: 3-3 Small Purchases and Use of Local Vendors. Within  
3 one year of the enactment date of this Resolution the Sustainability Office, in  
4 collaboration with Purchasing, propose amendments to the Buy Local  
5 Procurement policy that improve the City’s ability to prefer locally grown/made  
6 products over imported product, when available.

7 (C) Compost. The City shall, where practicable, use locally sourced  
8 compost.

9 SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, paragraph, word or  
10 phrase of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid, or unenforceable  
11 by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the  
12 validity of the remaining provisions of this resolution. The Council hereby  
13 declares that it would have passed this resolution and each section,  
14 paragraph, sentence, clause, word, or phrase thereof irrespective of any  
15 provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

16 SECTION 4. COMPILATION. Section 2 of this resolution shall amend, be  
17 incorporated in, and made part of the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico Code  
18 of Resolutions.

19 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This resolution shall take effect five (5) days  
20 after publication by title and general summary.

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