RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY Overview

Administration & Regulatory Affairs



Resilience and Sustainability Office

The ARA Resilience and Sustainability Office leads and supports projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote resilience for the health and safety of Houstonians, and the financial betterment of City government and the community.





Sustainability Ordinance

Sec. 2-523. - Purpose; climate action plan.









- (a) The office of sustainability shall provide support for greenhouse gas mitigation initiatives and shall serve as liaison among the mayor, city council, city departments, and other public and private entities on matters pertaining to greenhouse gas mitigation. To this end, the city shall establish, adopt, implement, and maintain a climate action plan describing and incorporating the city's goals, strategies, action plans, and policies for the reduction of greenhouse gas.
- (b) The climate action plan shall include, but not be limited to:
 - (1) A greenhouse gas emission inventory compliant with the latest national and international standards and completed using the latest available data;
 - (2) Reasonable, practical, and cost-effective measures to reduce or offset community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to zero percent of the 2014 baseline by the year 2050;
 - (3) <u>Updates to the plan which shall take place not later than five years</u> after the adoption of the most recent climate action plan and include quantitative and qualitative analysis of progress toward the goals specified therein; and
 - (4) Implementation and coordination strategies to achieve the objectives of the climate action plan.

(Ord. No. 2020-911, § 2, 10-21-2020)

Sec. 2-525. - Director's authority; duties.





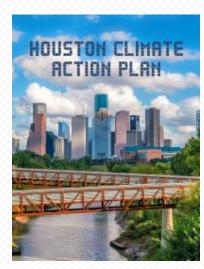




The director shall:

- (1) Oversee the maintenance of the climate action plan;
- (2) Establish an open, inclusive, public process for engaging the diverse ethnic, cultural, and economic communities in the development of the climate action plan, any proposed amendments, and any implementation actions;
- (3) Develop policies and procedures to guide city departments in implementing the climate action plan and other greenhouse gas mitigation activities as needed;
- (4) Lead day-to-day climate action plan implementation across all city departments;
- (5) Implement greenhouse gas mitigation into a strategic function that optimizes the city's strategic and operational climate action plan objectives;
- (6) Make recommendations to the mayor and city council regarding greenhouse gas mitigation and promulgate climate action plan policies in conjunction with department directors; and
- (7) When appropriate, consult with legal counsel when making decisions regarding climate action plan implementation; and
- (8) Report annually to the mayor and city council on progress toward the goals of the climate action plan.

(Ord. No. 2020-911, § 2, 10-21-2020)





Resilience Executive Order



1. PREFACE

In August 2018, the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey, the City of Houston, Shell, and 100 Resilient Cities—Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation partnered to name Houston as the 101s member of the 100 Resilient Cities Network, now known as the Global Resilient Cities Network. Through this partnership Houston has developed Resilient Houston with specific goals, targets and actions to help prepare for, withstand, and rebound from the shocks and stresses that impact Houston.

Resilient Houston provides a framework for collective action for every Houstonian, our diverse neighborhoods and watersheds, City departments, and local, regional, and global partners. The strategy links existing efforts with new ones that will collectively work to protect Houston against future disasters, from hurricanes to extreme heat waves and chronic stresses, such as aging infrastructure, poor air quality, and flooding.

SCOPE

This Executive Order is applicable to all City departments, divisions, and personnel.

3. DEFINITIONS

Resilient Houston: The city's resilience strategy developed as a component of Houston's membership in 100 Resilient Cities as a framework for addressing chronic stresses and acute shocks to improve resilience. The strategy is available at https://www.houstontv.gov/mayor/chief-resilience-officer.htm

Chief Resilience Officer (CRO: A city director-level position in the Mayor's Office that leads all resilience building efforts for the city and coordinates with external partners to develop and implement the city's resilience strategy, Resilient Houston. More information about the CRO is located at https://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/chief-resilience-officer.html

Department Director: A person appointed by the mayor and confirmed by City Council to assume the administrative duties of a City department.

Division: For the purposes of administrating this policy, a division is an organizational unit of the city, that usually consists of fewer employees than a department, where the head of the unit is appointed by the Mayor but not approved by City Council. Divisions include but are not limited to: Office of Economic Development, Office of Complete Communities, Office for People with Disabilities, Office of Recovery, etc.

Department Resilience Officer (DRO): A member of the senior management team of each City department appointed to coordinate resilience efforts within and between each department in coordination with the CRO.

4. PURPOSE

Resilient Houston frames five thematic visions for a more resilient future for Houston and organizes actions to achieve them at five scales. Resilient Houston's five thematic visions illustrate Houston as a healthy place to live, an equitable, inclusive and affordable city; a leader in climate adaptation; a city that grows up, not out; and a transformative economy that builds forward. These themes are reflected in Resilient Houston's

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5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 5.1. All Department Directors and divisions shall use Resilient Houston as a tool in the strategic planning and prioritization of department and division programs.
- 5.2. All departments and divisions <u>shall take ownership of the Resilient Houston components</u> under their respective jurisdictions and shall collaborate with other Departments and divisions on coordinating city functions and increasing multiple-benefit outcomes across programs.
- 5.3. To ensure accountability and alignment with Resilient Houston, all departments and divisions shall track and provide regular reports, quarterly at minimum, to the Chief Resilience Officer on their implementation progress.
- 5.4. All Department Directors shall use Resilient Houston to help establish budget priorities.
- 5.5. The Chief Resilience Officer will work with departments and divisions to increase real-time data collection and sharing tools to support data sharing and dashboard efforts and implement the Open Data AP, 8-7, in order to improve capacity, decision making and increase alignment.
- 5.6. All Department Directors shall designate a deputy director or senior manager as their Departmental Resilience Officer (DRO). This position shall be responsible for working with the Department Director to implement the goals, targets, and actions of Resilient Houston. Each DRO will work directly with the Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) and attend regular meetings to coordinate the implementation of Resilient Houston and other resilience building efforts. Each Department Director shall notify the CRO of the DRO's name and contact information within 60 days of the effective date, and within 30 days when there is a subsequent personnel change. At the request of a Department Director or the CRO, a department may have more than one DRO, if approved by the CRO.





How the Action Plans Work

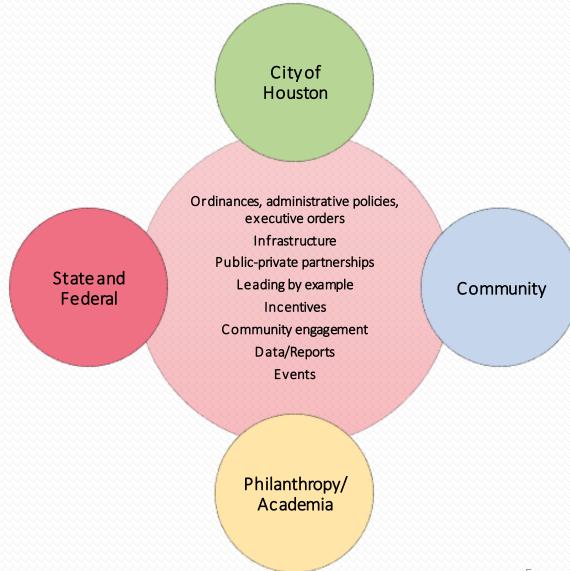
Action Plans







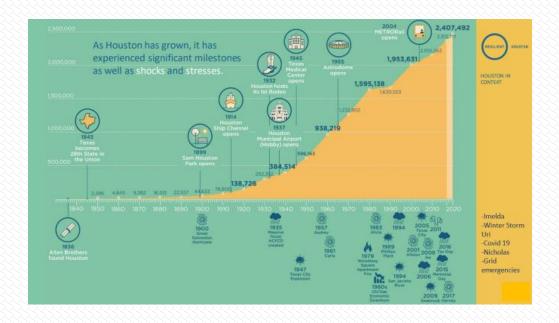




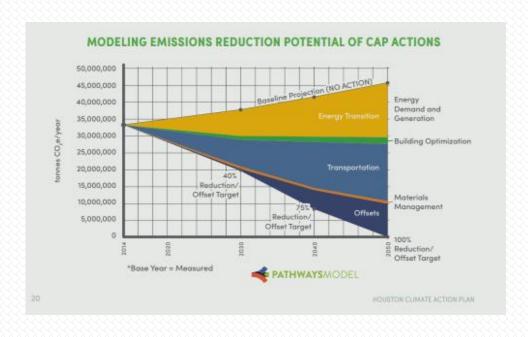
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How the Action Plans Work



"To protect Houston against future disasters, from hurricanes to extreme heat waves and chronic stresses, such as aging infrastructure, poor air quality, and flooding."



"Reasonable, practical, and cost-effective measures to reduce or offset community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to zero percent of the 2014 baseline by the year 2050"



Partnerships and Agreements

Non-Profit

- Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)
- Evolve Houston
- Solar United Neighbors (SUN) / Texas Solar Switch Houston (TSSH)
- Houston Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)
- Hershey Foundation
- Greater Houston Partnership / Center for Houston's Future
- C40, USDN
- Resilient Cities Network

• Inter-Government

- H-GAC (CPRG)
- City of Copenhagen, Denmark
- City of Rotterdam, Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Climate Mayors

Industry

- CenterPoint
- bp
- Shell
- NRG
- Apache Corporation
- Houston Recycling Collaborative

• Academia

- University of Houston
- Rice
- Houston Community College



Current Projects*

Climate Action/ Resilience Plan Update

Building Benchmarking and Decarbonization Program

EV Charging at Public-Facing City Facilities

PACE Program

Solar United Neighbors

Resilience Hubs

4.6 M Trees by 2030

MF and COM Recycling

Urban Prairie Development Projects

Commercial Food Waste Pilot

Green Stormwater
Projects

Emergency Preparedness
Training

City Fleet Electrification

Microgrids and Generators

Sunnyside Solar Farm

Building/Energy Code Update Process

> HyVelocity Hydrogen Hub

^{*}City-wide resilience and sustainability projects are implemented and managed by multiple City Departments



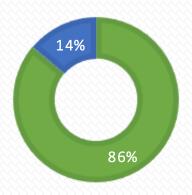
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Implementation Progress



RESILIENT HOUSTON PLAN PROGRESS

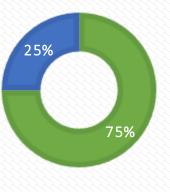
■ Completed/Started ■ Incomplete/Not Started



HOUSTON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

■ Complete/Started ■ Incomplete/Not Started



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Prepared and Thriving Houstonians

Target 1:

Provide at least 500,000 Houstonians with preparedness training by 2025.

Activity in 2023:

- 448 CERT participants trained
- 4,576 participants trained in preparedness presentations
- 16,020 participants trained resilience and disaster literacy
- 38,000 preparedness materials distributed

Progress:

As of year-end 2023, 197,943 Houstonians have been provided resilience training, including disaster preparedness and resilience literacy.



Source: City of Houston Office of Emergency Management and Mayor's Office of Homeland Security

Target 2:

Offer 20,000 Hire Houston Youth Summer Jobs.

The Mayor's Office of Education and Engagement aims to develop a full "youth life cycle" providing wraparound services for opportunity youth 16-29 years old. For more information, visit: https://hirehoustonyouth.org/

Progress:

39,485 jobs have been provided through Hire Houston Youth as of 2023.





Safe and Equitable Neighborhoods



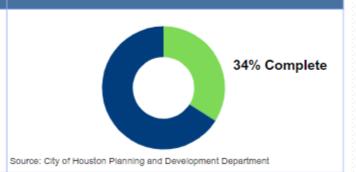
Develop 50 neighborhood plans by 2030.

Strong neighborhoods exist through social infrastructure and social bonds that help neighbors prepare for, survive, and recover from emergencies.

For more information, visit: https://houstontx.gov/planning/nrp/

Progress:

Three neighborhood plans were developed in 2023: Braeburn, Greater Fifth Ward, and Greater Inwood.



Target 5:

Invest \$5 million in local artists to create resilience awareness projects across the city by 2025.

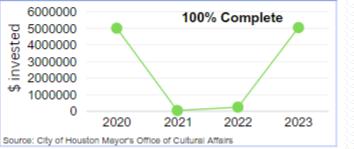
New and existing programs support artists and culture-bearers and enable Houston's arts and diversity of cultural traditions to thrive.

For more information, visit:

https://www.houstontx.gov/culturalaffairs/

Progress:

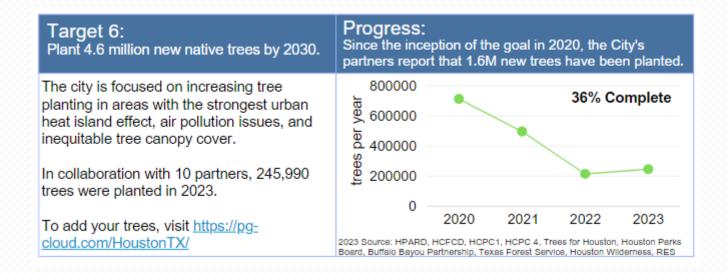
Target completed in 2021. This year, the City dedicated an additional \$5 million in ARPA funds and \$46,000 was granted through a City Initiative.



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Safe and Equitable Neighborhoods





Healthy and Connected Bayous

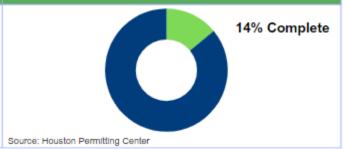
Target 7:

Build at least 375,000 new homes across every income level by 2050 to welcome new residents to the City of Houston.

Houston is one of the fastest growing cities in the U.S. and is the core of one of the nation's fastest growing metropolitan regions.

Progress:

2023 data analysis is underway, target will be updated later in the year. As of 2022, almost 52,000 new homes have been built.



Target 9:

Construct at least 500 miles of trails and bike lanes by 2025.

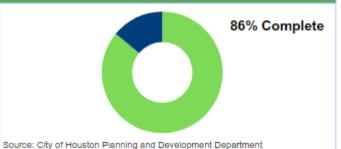
Having more mobility options contributes to a healthier population, less traffic congestion, and a stimulated economy.

Built in 2023:

- 13 miles dedicated on-street bikeways
- · 2 miles of shared on-street bikeways
- 11 miles of off-street bikeways

Progress:

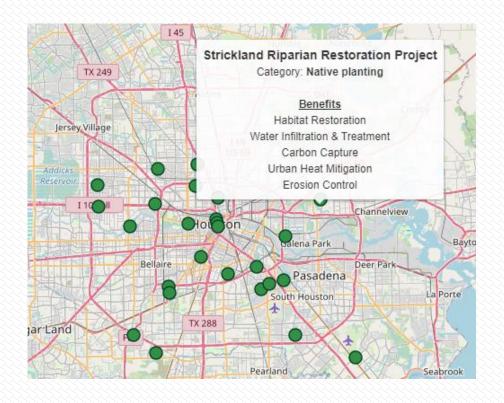
26 miles of high-comfort bike facilities were built in 2023, bringing the total to 432 miles of trails and bike lanes.





Accessible and Adaptive City







Innovative and Integrated Regior

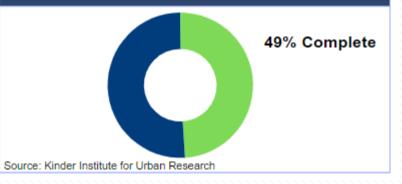
Target 15:

Provide 100% of Houstonians access to high-frequency public transportation choices within a half-mile by 2050.

Several projects are in development under the broader umbrella of the METRONext Moving Forward plan.

Progress:

Data analysis is underway for 2023, target will be updated later this year. A 5% increase each year is necessary to accomplish this goal.





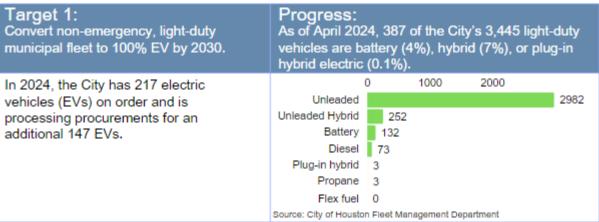
Innovative and Integrated Region

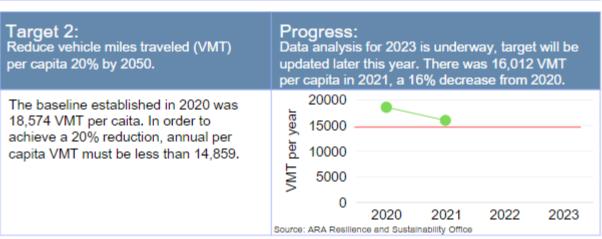


Target 17: **Progress:** Ensure that 100% of Houstonians and As of 2023, 203,646 contacts are signed up to visitors have access to accurate, real-time receive Alert Houston notifications. emergency alerting by 2030. The goal is to increase enrollment, traffic to the city's emergency information website, 12% Complete and the public's awareness of periods of severe weather and other hazards. For more information and to sign up for alerts, visit: https://www.houstonoem.org/pages/alerthouston Source: City of Houston Office of Emergency Management



Transportation





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Energy Transition

Target 4: Progress: Produce five million MWh local solar per Solar panels in Houston produced an estimated 149,352 MWh in 2023. year by 2050. 200000 MWh generated While the Houston area's potential for solar energy is high, public and private 150000 sectors must work together to accelerate 100000 GHG emissions reductions. For more information, visit: 50000 https://environmentamerica.org/center/reso urces/shining-cities-2022/ 2020 2021 2022 2023 Source: CenterPoint Energy, City of Houston

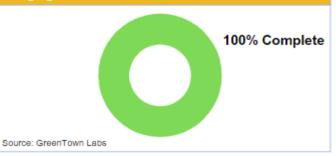
Target 5:

Attract or incubate 50 Energy 2.0 companies in Greater Houston by 2025.

Continued investment is required to solidify Houston as an interconnected and inclusive innovation ecosystem.

Progress:

This target was accomplished in 2022. In 2023, 81 companies were attracted or incubated in Houston bringing the total to 148.





Building Optimization

Target 7:

Adopt the 2021 international Code Council (ICC) model building code by 2025.

Following the ICC's lead will significantly improve the safety and energy efficiency of Houston's buildings.

For more information, visit: https://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/construction-code-modernization

Progress:

Houston City Council adopted the 2021 Building Codes on October 25, 2023. The codes went into effect on January 1, 2024.



Target 8:

Double the 2020 number of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) projects by 2025.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) is a program for business and property owners to lower their operating costs and use the savings to pay for energy efficient upgrades.

For more information, visit: http://www.greenhoustontx.gov/pace/

Progress:

This target was met in 2021 and PACE projects continue to develop. Two additional PACE projects were completed in 2023, for 10 total completed projects.





Materials Management

Target 10: Progress: Reduce residential waste 50% by 2040. 420,608 tons of residential waste was collected in 2023, down 8% from 459,104 tons collected in 2020. 500000 residential waste Recycling and composting decreases 400000 environmental risks of waste disposal (s) 300000 200000 and preserves limited landfill space. For more information, visit: 100000 https://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/ 2020 2021 2022 2023 Source: City of Houston Solid Waste Department

Target 11:

Convert municipal solid waste fleet (heavy duty) to low-emission vehicles by 2030.

Solid Waste Department uses low emission low-sulfur fuel in 100% of its heavy duty vehicles, but has no active heavy duty hybrid or EVs.

Progress:

Low-sulfur diesel fuel can contribute to improved air quality.





Year Five

In the upcoming year, the City intends to reintroduce Resilient Houston and the Climate Action Plan as a unified framework. Plan objectives will be reviewed and adapted to meet the current needs of Houston. Furthermore, the RSO will:

- · Apply for federal funding to expand ongoing projects
- Implement grants like <u>Solar For All</u>
- Collaborate closely with Harris County and Houston-Galveston Area Council in crafting a regional climate strategy
- Invite the community to participate in developing and implementing the plan(s)

RESILIENT HOUSTON AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2025 TIMELINE

Spring-Summer Fall-Winter Spring-Summer Fall-Winter 2024 2024-2025 2025 2025 Data Analysis Engagement Metrics / Modeling Complete Working Groups · Feasibility analysis Greenhouse Gas Plan review and Department Benefit analysis Inventory (2022) public comment Coordination Emissions Council approval Coordinate with · Surveys, Public reduction potential H-GAC's Regional Meetings, and Evaluation metrics Comprehensive Focus Groups Draft Plan Climate Action Plan Trend/gap analysis

- New plan will include:
 - Updated Modeling
 - Updated and Revised Goals and Targets
 - Updated and Revised Actions

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HistorySustainability and Resilience over the years

Mayor Lee Brown

- Mayor's Clean Air Team
- COH Emissions Reduction Plan

Mayor Bill White

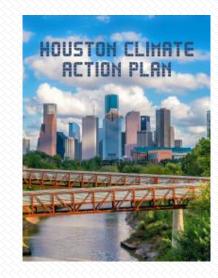
- Mayor's Office of Environmental Policy
- COH Emissions Reduction Plan
- Houston Regional Benzene Air Pollution Reduction Plan

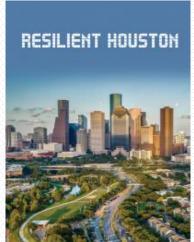
Mayor Annise Parker

- Mayor's Office of Environmental Planning
- Mayor's Office of Sustainability
- Carbon Disclosure Project Reporting

Mayor Sylvester Turner

- Sustainability moves to ARA
- Climate Action Plan
- Mayor's Resilience Office, Chief Resilience Officer, and Resilient Houston Plan
- Mayor's Office of Resilience and Sustainability in ARA/Mayor's Office







Areas We Cannot Regulate

SB 1017- No ability to regulate energy sources or engines

Sec. 247.002. RESTRICTION ON REGULATION OF ENERGY SOURCES.

(a) A political subdivision may not adopt or enforce an ordinance,
order, regulation, or similar measure that limits access to or use
of an energy source or that results in the effective prohibition of
infrastructure that is necessary to provide access to a specific
energy source, including a wholesaler, retailer, energy producer,

Sec. 247.003. RESTRICTION ON REGULATION OF ENGINES. (a) A
political subdivision may not adopt or enforce an ordinance, order,
regulation, or similar measure that directly prohibits or restricts
the use, sale, or lease of an engine based on its fuel source.

SB 784 – No ability to regulate packaging, plastic bags

Sec. 361.0961. RESTRICTIONS ON AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. (a) A local government or other political subdivision may not adopt an ordinance, rule, or regulation to:

- prohibit or restrict, for solid waste management purposes, the sale or use of a container or package in a manner not authorized by state law;
- (2) prohibit or restrict the processing of solid waste by a solid waste facility, except for a solid waste facility owned by the local government, permitted by the commission for that purpose in a manner not authorized by state law; or
 - (3) assess a fee or deposit on the sale or use of a container or package.
- (b) This section does not prevent a local government or other political subdivision from complying with federal or state law or regulation. A local government or other political subdivision may take any action otherwise prohibited by this section in order to comply with federal requirements or to avoid federal or state penalties or fines.
- (c) This section does not limit the authority of a local government to enact zoning ordinances.

SB 1860 – No ability to create a climate charter amendment

Sec. 9.0045. APPROVAL OF CLIMATE CHARTER OR AMENDMENT TO

CHARTER BY LEGISLATURE REQUIRED. A municipality may not hold an

election for voter approval of a proposed climate charter unless

the legislature adopts a resolution approving the proposed climate

charter.

SB 784 – No ability to regulate GHG

8	Sec.	382.00	5. EXCLUS	IVE	JURISDI	CTION	TO	REGU:	LATE
9	GREENHOUSE	GAS	EMISSIONS	AND	EXPRESS	PREEMP'	TION	OF L	OCAL
10	REGULATIONS	S. (a)	In this s	ection	, "greenh	nouse gas	s emiss	sions"	has
11 the meaning assigned by Section 382.05102.									
12	(b)	To the	extent no	t pree	mpted by	federal	law,	the s	tate
13 has exclusive jurisdiction over the regulation of gre									gas
14	emissions i								
15	(c)	A muni	cipality o	r othe	r politi	cal subd	ivisio	n may	not
16	enact or e	enforce	an ordin	ance o	r other	measure	that	dire	ctly
17	regulates g	reenhou	se gas emi	ssions					

