



To the Honorable Council
City of Norfolk, Virginia

January 25, 2022

From: Esi Langston

Subject: Enrollment in Better Buildings Challenge

Reviewed:

Catheryn R. Whitesell, Deputy City
Manager

Ward/Superward: Citywide

Approved:

Dr. Larry H. Filer II, City Manager

Item Number: R-8

I. **Recommendation:** Adopt Resolution

II. **Applicant:** City of Norfolk

III. **Description:**

In support of the City's Climate Action Plan, this agenda item is a resolution to join the US Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge by committing to reducing the City's municipal building energy use intensity by 20% over the next 10 years from the 2019 baseline of 199 kBtu/ft².

IV. **Analysis:**

In 2017 Mayor Alexander signed the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate Change and Energy and thereby committed to establishing targets to reduce carbon emissions. One impactful way to reduce emissions is to reduce municipal building energy use. The US Department of Energy provides a framework for local governments to reduce their energy use through the Better Buildings Challenge program. The Better Buildings Challenges is an energy reduction program in which participating organizations commit to reduce their energy intensity (energy use per square foot) by 20% over the next 10 years. The commitment is non-binding, and the program is voluntary. The City can choose to end its participation at any time. According to historical data and future energy use forecasting, the City of Norfolk's building portfolio should be able to meet those reduction goals in the time allotted.

V. Financial Impact:

To reduce energy usage in City-owned municipal buildings, financial investments will need to be made in technology such as energy efficient lighting, more efficient HVAC systems, etc. However, these technologies will provide overall cost savings as they reduce the amount of money spent annually on energy costs.

VI. Environmental:

Adopting this resolution would have a significantly positive environmental impact on the City. The City's reliance on the fossil fuels required to power City operations is a contributor to climate change. Already, Norfolk is experiencing many impacts of a changing climate such as increasing temperatures and increased flooding. By committing to reducing the amount of energy the City uses in its buildings, the City is committing to reducing its contribution to the climate crisis and paving the way for a more sustainable future for its residents.

VII. Community Outreach/Notification:

Public notification for this agenda item was conducted through the City of Norfolk's agenda notification process.

VIII. Board/Commission Action:

N/A

IX. Coordination/Outreach:

This resolution has been coordinated with General Services and the City Attorney's Office.

Supporting Material:

- BBC Partnership Agreement_to sign (PDF)

Form and Correctness Approved:

BAP

Contents Approved:

By: *Margaret Kelly*
Office of the City Attorney

By: *Nick Kiddick*
DEPT. General Services

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Resolution No.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NORFOLK'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN BY COMMITTING TO ENROLLING IN THE BETTER BUILDINGS CHALLENGE AND OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES RESULTING IN IMPROVING THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF CITY OWNED BUILDINGS BY TWENTY PERCENT (20%) FROM THE 2019 BASELINE BY DECEMBER 31, 2032.

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WHEREAS, the City of Norfolk has authority under its Charter to do all things whatsoever necessary or expedient for promoting or maintaining the general welfare, comfort, and health of the City or its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, Mayor Kenneth C. Alexander signed the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, formally symbolizing Norfolk's goal to combat climate change; and

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2018, the City Council of the City of Norfolk, Virginia established the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption ("Commission") to assist the City in meeting the goals of the Global Covenant; and

WHEREAS, the Commission members worked diligently and collaboratively to develop a Climate Action Plan to identify measurable achievable goals for cutting Norfolk's carbon emissions, for mitigating and adapting to climate change, and for positioning Norfolk as a vibrant, resilient, healthy, and economically flourishing city, which included a goal to increase building and operation energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2019, the City Council of the City of Norfolk passed Resolution 1,743 in support of the Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, Norfolk's municipal building Energy Use Intensity (EUI) for the year 2019 was determined to be 199 kBtu/ft² ("2019 baseline"); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge requires a commitment to a 20% reduction in EUI over 10 years with annual measurements of municipal building energy use; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norfolk is confident it can achieve a twenty percent (20%) reduction in municipal building EUI from the 2019 baseline to 159 kBtu/ft² by December 31, 2032; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Norfolk:

Section 1:- That the City Council of the City of Norfolk, in consideration of the foregoing and in light of the best interests of the City of Norfolk, Virginia, and the general welfare of its citizens,

resolves that the City of Norfolk intends to join the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge.

Section 2:- That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents related to the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge and to do all things necessary and proper to carry out its terms.

Section 3:- That this resolution shall be in effect from and after its adoption.

The **Better Buildings Challenge** is a national leadership initiative which calls on chief executive officers, university presidents, and state and local leaders to create American jobs through energy efficiency. **Better Buildings Challenge Partners** will make public commitments to action—specifically committing to reducing their energy intensity across their entire portfolio by at least 20 percent within 10 years—and implement plans that improve our economy, environment, and energy independence.

The Partner Agrees to:

✓ Commit

- ▶ **Publicly pledge** to improve energy intensity of the entire portfolio by at least 20 percent within 10 years
- ▶ Assign a **senior executive and primary point of contact** to fulfill Better Buildings Challenge commitments within 1 month
- ▶ Develop an **organization-wide plan with energy reduction milestones** to achieve energy savings commitment

✓ Take Action

- ▶ Publicly **announce an initial showcase project** (e.g., retrofit, retro commissioning) within 3 months and initiate the project within 9 months
- ▶ Announce the use of one or more **energy efficiency implementation models** within 6 months

✓ Report Results

- ▶ **Share information** on the energy efficiency implementation models used to achieve the energy savings commitment
- ▶ Make available **portfolio-wide, building-level energy performance** information used to document progress toward achieving energy reduction goals on an annual basis. Partners are encouraged to submit data in 6 month intervals
- ▶ **Provide regular updates on progress** with showcase projects and energy efficiency implementation models, energy savings across the organization, and energy performance as the basis for recognition

The Department of Energy Agrees to:

✓ Assist

- ▶ Provide **technical assistance and energy efficiency implementation models** to support Partners' commitment to measure, track, and improve portfolio energy performance
- ▶ Collaborate with Partner on a regular basis

✓ Connect

- ▶ **Establish a marketplace of energy efficiency stakeholders**, such as government, industry, service providers, financial institutions, and technology companies
- ▶ **Connect Partners** with Allies that commit to transparency and good faith efforts to provide products, services, financing, and other resources to evaluate and support energy efficiency projects

✓ Recognize Success

- ▶ **Provide national recognition to Partners** for achieving program milestones and energy efficiency results
- ▶ **Recognize Partners** who leverage, develop, and share innovative and cost-effective energy efficiency implementation models

Agreement

My organization is committed to continuous improvement in energy efficiency and agrees to the General Terms of the Better Buildings Challenge.

Senior Executive Officer

Date

Contact Information

Organization: _____ Address: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Square Footage Commitment: _____

Energy Savings Goal (e.g., 20% reduction in energy intensity by 2023): _____

General Terms

- ▶ All parties concur that this agreement is wholly voluntary and may be terminated by any party at any time, and for any reason, with no penalty.
- ▶ Partner will not construe, claim, or imply that its participation in the Better Buildings Challenge constitutes Federal Government approval, acceptance, or endorsement of anything other than Partner's commitment to the program.
- ▶ Partner understands its participation in the Better Buildings Challenge does not constitute Federal Government endorsement of Partner or its buildings, homes, products, services, or industrial facilities.
- ▶ Partner understands that the activities it undertakes in connection with the Better Buildings Challenge are voluntary and not intended to provide services to the Federal Government. Partner will not submit a claim for compensation to any federal agency.
- ▶ The Better Buildings Challenge will honor all requests to keep the Partner's information and data confidential.