

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING APRIL ) RESOLUTION NO. 20-5090  
22, 2020 EARTH DAY ) Introduced by Council President Lynn  
) Peterson

WHEREAS, Earth Day was launched 50 years ago in 1970 in response to a deteriorating environment due to pollution, and on that first Earth Day, 20 million American, rallied for a healthy, sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS, in response to the first Earth Day in 1970, landmark environmental laws were passed — the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts, as well as the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, while much progress has been made in addressing many environmental issues, other significant issues have emerged that threaten to disrupt all life on the planet; and

WHEREAS, environmental issues disproportionately affect people of color, people with low income, youth, people experiencing homelessness and other frontline communities; and

WHEREAS, environmental justice communities continue to advocate a transition away from extractive systems of production and consumption, and towards resilient, regenerative and equitable economies; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is an annual reminder of the need to amplify efforts to address these environmental and social justice issues and work toward a just transition; and

WHEREAS, Metro advances sustainability in all of its regional services, including climate smart land use and transportation planning; parks and natural areas that provide refuge for people and animals; waste reduction programs that address the 40% of our region’s greenhouse gas emissions; and operation of the Oregon Zoo, the Oregon Convention Center, Portland’s 5 Centers for the Arts and the Portland Expo Center; and

WHEREAS, Metro Council has recognized the need for Metro to "walk the talk" and has set an ambitious target for our internal operations to be sustainable within one generation and has adopted five sustainability goals and a Sustainability Plan; and

WHEREAS, Metro provides tools and resources to help residents, visitors and employees to advance sustainability throughout the region including community partnerships, school education programs, grants, and recycling education campaigns; and offers numerous educational and volunteer opportunities that residents can participate in to advance sustainability; and

WHEREAS, with care in how we use energy, water and other resources, investments in sustainable transportation and natural areas, responsible purchasing, simple changes in our daily habits, we can all help the Metro region transition to a sustainable future; and

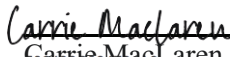
WHEREAS, this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2020 presents an opportunity to recommit to efforts that protect the viability of a healthy planet for current and future generations.

NOW THEREFORE, in special recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day and of the efforts and dedication of the Metro region, the Metro Council hereby proclaim April 22 as EARTH DAY.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 16th day of April 2020.

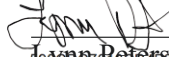
Approved as to Form:

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Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney

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Lynn Peterson, Council President

## **STAFF REPORT**

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-5090, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING  
APRIL 22, 2020 EARTH DAY

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Date: April 16, 2020  
Department: Council Office  
Meeting Date: April 16, 2020

Prepared by: Victor Sin, Policy Advisor  
Presenter(s): Jenna Garmon, Sustainability  
Coordinator and Victor Sin, Policy Advisor  
Length: 10 min

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### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

The Metro Council has an opportunity to stand with community members, partners and local jurisdictions in our region by adopting Resolution No. 20-5090, proclaiming April 22, 2020 Earth Day in honor of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Consideration and vote on Resolution No. 20-5090.

### **IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES**

Council adoption of this resolution will further Metro's commitment to its adopted sustainability goals and Sustainability Plan, Strategic Plan to advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Metro's work to achieve the following six desired outcomes for the region:

- a) vibrant communities;
- b) sustained economic competitiveness and prosperity;
- c) safe and reliable transportation choices;
- d) leadership on climate change;
- e) clean air, clean water and health ecosystems; and
- e) equity

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends the Metro Council adopt Resolution No. 20-5090.

### **STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

#### **1. Known Opposition/support/community feedback**

No opposition known at this time. Several jurisdictions in the region have also adopted or plan to adopt proclamations honoring Earth Day.

#### **2. Legal Antecedents**

None. This is the first year that the Metro Council is considering adoption of a resolution honoring Earth Day.

#### **3. Anticipated effects**

None.

#### **4. Financial implications**

None.

## **BACKGROUND**

Earth Day was launched 50 years ago in 1970 in response to an environment in crisis — oil spills, smog, rivers so polluted they literally caught fire, and on that first Earth Day, 20 million Americans — 10% of the U.S. population — rallied for a healthy, sustainable environment.

Partly in response to the first Earth Day in 1970, landmark environmental laws were passed: the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts, as well as the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. While much progress has been made in addressing many environmental issues since the first Earth Day, other significant issues have since emerged like global climate change that threatens to disrupt all life on the planet. Further, climate change and other environmental issues disproportionately affect people of color, people with low income, youth, people experiencing homelessness and other frontline communities.

Metro has committed to advancing sustainability in all of its regional services, including: climate smart land use and transportation planning; parks and natural areas that provide habitat and capture and store carbon pollution; waste reduction programs that address the 40% of our region's greenhouse gas emissions that come from goods and services; and sustainable operation of Metro's visitor venues.

Metro's commitment to create an equitable region for all, embodied in the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Diversity Action Plan, Regional Waste Plan and many community partnerships, places equity at the center of Metro's environmental sustainability work.

Earth Day is an annual reminder of the need to amplify efforts to address these environmental and social justice issues, and this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day is a special reminder.

This proclamation of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day presents an opportunity to celebrate the progress that has been made in addressing environmental degradation, while also recommitting to efforts to protect the viability of a healthy planet for current and future generations. It is also a call to action to address the systemic inequities that underlie environmental, social and economic issues.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.