

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF  
3 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOINING THE ICLEI150 RACE  
4 TO ZERO; COMMITTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
5 REQUIRED RACE TO ZERO ACTIVITIES; AUTHORIZING  
6 AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE ICLEI150  
7 COMMITMENT FORM; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING  
8 THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO COMMIT SUFFICIENT  
9 STAFF TIME AND RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT RACE TO  
10 ZERO ACTIVITIES; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY  
11 AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12 WHEREAS on August 9, 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
13 published the Working Group I (Physical Science Basis) contribution to the Sixth  
14 Assessment Report;

15 WHEREAS, the Working Group contribution outlined the dramatic climatic  
16 changes already underway, pointed to the rapid acceleration of climate change  
17 processes, and warned that the window to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius  
18 was rapidly closing, and that without drastic action, limiting global warming to 2 degrees  
19 Celsius might be impossible;

20 WHEREAS, global warming of 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius will cause untold damage  
21 to human societies, physical infrastructure, and the plants, animals, and ecosystems with  
22 which we share the planet, as this year's dramatic floods, droughts, heatwaves, and  
23 wildfires with only 1.1 degrees Celsius warming over late-19th-century levels have amply  
24 demonstrated;

WHEREAS, humanity must take immediate, drastic action to reduce greenhouse  
gas (GHG) emissions to the atmosphere consistent with the findings of the Working  
Group I contribution, which United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres  
described as "code red for humanity";

1           WHEREAS, upon taking office, President Biden rejoined the Paris Agreement,  
2 under which the nations of the world agreed to take action to limit global warming to 2  
3 degrees Celsius and to make every effort to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, and pledged to  
4 reach net-zero economy-wide emissions in the United States by 2050;

5           WHEREAS, in April 2021, the Biden Administration announced a revised  
6 Nationally Determined Contribution for the United States under the Paris Agreement of  
7 50-52 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels by 2030;

8           WHEREAS, Broward County has been a leader in local climate change efforts for  
9 over a decade, including co-founding and co-leading the Southeast Florida Regional  
10 Climate Change Compact, pledging through the Under2 Coalition Zero Emissions Vehicle  
11 Challenge to purchase only zero-emissions vehicles for its fleet and transit system by  
12 2030, installing solar photovoltaic systems on County buildings and parking lots, and  
13 subscribing to Florida Power and Light Company's SolarTogether subscription service to  
14 source electricity for County operations from solar installations;

15           WHEREAS, the County's existing greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal of 80  
16 percent below 2007 levels by 2050 no longer accurately reflects the ambition necessary  
17 to prevent the worst effects of global warming, nor aligns with the federal government's  
18 goals;

19           WHEREAS, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
20 (UNFCCC) and many other partners have established the Race to Zero to rally non-state  
21 actors, including local and regional governments, companies, and educational  
22 institutions, to cut GHG emissions in half by 2030 and to net-zero by 2050 or sooner;

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1           WHEREAS, the Race to Zero partners include the Under2 Coalition, an alliance of  
2 subnational governments across the globe committed to climate action, which the County  
3 joined in 2018;

4           WHEREAS, in the United States, the Race to Zero effort is led by ICLEI - Local  
5 Governments for Sustainability USA, of which Broward County has been a member for  
6 over a decade, through its ICLEI150 movement seeking to engage 150 local governments  
7 the United States in making net-zero commitments prior to the UNFCCC Conference of  
8 Parties in Glasgow, Scotland, in December 2021;

9           WHEREAS, ICLEI150 provides technical assistance to participating governments  
10 in developing a science-based target for 2030 emissions reductions and community-  
11 specific high-impact actions, along with additional technical assistance, networking  
12 opportunities with like-minded governments, and recognition of their net-zero pledges and  
13 actions, at no cost to participating governments; and

14           WHEREAS, many of Broward County's local government peers around the United  
15 States and in the state of Florida have joined the Race to Zero, including Miami-Dade  
16 County; Montgomery County, Maryland; Travis County, Texas; Washtenaw County,  
17 Michigan; Maui County, Hawaii; Sante Fe County, New Mexico; and the cities of St. Paul,  
18 Minnesota; San Jose, California; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Boulder, Colorado, San  
19 Antonio, Texas; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Hallandale Beach, Boynton Beach, Orlando,  
20 and St. Petersburg, Florida; NOW, THEREFORE,

21           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
22 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

23           Section 1.   Broward County hereby joins the ICLEI150 on the Race to Zero.  
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1 Section 2. Consistent with the terms of the ICLEI150 Commitment Form (Exhibit  
2 1), the County will:

- 3 • Pledge to get to zero GHG emissions as soon as possible and by 2050 at  
4 the latest, and to set a 2030 interim target reflecting maximum fair share  
5 effort to reach 50% global CO2 reductions
- 6 • Plan the actions necessary to achieve both the 2030 and 2050 targets within  
7 12 months of joining.
- 8 • Proceed with high-impact action to achieve the targets during 2021.
- 9 • Publish Race to Zero actions by 2022.

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11 Section 3. The Mayor is authorized and directed to sign the ICLEI150  
12 Commitment Form on behalf of Broward County and to arrange its transmittal to ICLEI  
13 USA.

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15 Section 4. The County Administrator is authorized and directed to commit  
16 sufficient staff time and resources to carry out the tasks outlined in Section 2.

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18 Section 5. Severability.

19 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid  
20 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this  
21 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be  
22 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such  
23 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,  
24 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

