



Legislation Text

File #: RES 17-1930, **Version:** 1

Authorizing the Office of Financial Services to apply for and accept the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant.

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul City Council and Mayor Chris Coleman are dedicated to making Saint Paul one of the most sustainable cities in the United States and to protecting our city's air, water, and urban landscape; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Chris Coleman signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement in 2006 and has prioritized during his administration, and the City of Saint Paul has a history of, reducing energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; advancing clean and renewable energy; increasing energy efficiency and green development; increasing use of clean and fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; and working to create a sustainable transportation system and solid waste options; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul City Council (RES 15-2093) reaffirmed its commitment to reducing GHG; joined the Compact of Mayors; and pledged to inventory GHG emissions, establish GHG emissions reduction targets, identify climate hazards, assess climate vulnerabilities, and develop climate action and resiliency plan; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the City conducted a GHG emissions inventory which found that a total of 3.9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide was emitted annually in the city and that the transportation sector was the largest contributor with on road transportation alone making up 27% of the total emissions; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) coordinates "The Clean Diesel Program" which provides support for projects that protect human health and improve air quality by reducing harmful emissions from diesel engines and provides grants and rebates funded under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA); and

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul partnered again with the Environmental Initiative, a nonprofit organization that builds partnerships to develop collaborative solutions to Minnesota's environmental problems, on an application to the EPA's DERA program; and

WHEREAS, the City has been notified that it has been recommended for \$440,000 of funding from the EPA or 22% of the costs to replace 10 municipal diesel vehicles and equipment; funding that will be distributed through Environmental Initiative and will directly offset the cost of replacing these vehicles, thus reducing the City's cost for their replacement; and

WHEREAS, by replacing this equipment with cleaner and more fuel efficient ones, there will be significant lifetime reduction of nitrogen oxide, particulate matter, hydrocarbon, and carbon monoxide reductions, which is equivalent to removing 20,454 cars from the road and will improve air quality and help protect human health; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul City Council authorizes the appropriate city officials to apply for and enter into the grant agreement with the Environmental Initiative and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to accept these funds.

