



Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

ACTION CALENDAR
September 13, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Harrison, Davila, and Hahn
Subject: Resolution Establishing Green Monday

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution establishing Green Monday in The City of Berkeley and referring to the City Manager to implement the program in coordination with Green Monday US, which would have two primary components; City owned and operated institutions serving plant-based foods on Mondays (or another day) and educating residents on the impacts of their food choices on climate change and the environment.

BACKGROUND

On June 12, 2018, the Council adopted a resolution declaring that we face an “existential Climate Emergency” and endorsing a “citywide emergency mobilization effort to [curb] greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible.”

Scientific analyses have shown that one of the most effective ways for a person to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions is to reduce or eliminate their consumption of meat and dairy. By systematically reducing meat and dairy consumption, the citizens of Berkeley can accomplish two objectives; substantially reducing our collective greenhouse gas emissions and serving as a model for other municipalities across the country and around the world.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that the livestock sector contributes 14.5% of anthropogenic GHG emissions. That’s more than the entire transportation sector – cars, trains, planes, and ships – combined. While carbon dioxide usually gets the blame for global warming, methane is about 85 times more efficient at trapping heat, although it breaks down more rapidly than carbon dioxide. Cows are ruminants, meaning that microbes in the rumen or “fore-stomach” ferment whatever the cow has been eating, generating methane, which the cow belches or burps into the air. Animal manure also emits methane. Much of the increase in methane in recent years comes from the way manure is stored. Contemporary industrial farms keep manure in giant open pits called “waste lagoons.” Compared to spreading manure on fields as fertilizer, this practice invites bacteria that produce twice as much methane.

Furthermore, the biggest driver of rainforest destruction is agriculture. Rainforests are crucial to mitigating climate change. They absorb carbon dioxide, and exchange it for oxygen. According to the UN, an estimated 18 million acres of rainforest, roughly the size of the country of Panama, are lost every year. More than 20 percent of the rainforest is already gone. Animal agriculture is responsible for between 75 and 80 percent of this deforestation. Rainforests are clear cut to provide more room for grazing cattle and growing grain to feed animals in factory farms.

Green Monday US can provide educational presentations on the environmental impacts of industrial farms, lists of resources, printable posters and flyers, and the services of a Green Monday ambassador as needed.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Cost of printing flyers and limited staff time. Green Monday US has volunteered to provide many of the services needed to run the program.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Resolution is not only consistent with but also critical to realizing the City's climate and environmental goals (see above).

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

ESTABLISHING GREEN MONDAY

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has declared that we face an existential Climate Emergency that threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has endorsed a just citywide emergency mobilization effort to reduce citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and immediately initiate an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, scientific analyses have shown that one of the most effective ways for a person to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions is to reduce or eliminate their consumption of meat and dairy; and

WHEREAS, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that the livestock sector contributes 14.5% of anthropogenic GHG emissions, more than the entire transportation sector – cars, trains, planes and ships – combined; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has committed to educating our citizens about the climate emergency and working tirelessly to catalyze a just emergency climate mobilization at the local, state, national, and global level to protect our citizens as well as all the people and species of the world; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley seeks to partner with local and regional agencies to participate in this regional emergency just mobilization effort and to intensify support of a comprehensive just transition to restore a safe climate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley establishes Green Monday, wherein all City-owned and City-managed facilities and programs will provide only plant-based foods on Mondays (or another day of the week).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley will participate in the Green Monday program by procuring vegan food for their meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley refers to the City Manager to work with Green Monday US (greenmondayus.org) to schedule Green Monday educational programs at libraries, community centers and private homes, and to incentivize restaurants to include vegan items on their menus by providing “Green Monday approved” certificates to be displayed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council encourages libraries, schools and community centers in Berkeley to display Green Monday posters and literature.

