



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 23, 2019
TO: Christine Daniel, City Manager
FROM: Andrew Clough, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: **Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville Establishing Green Mondays Regarding Plant-Based Menus To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

RECOMMENDATION

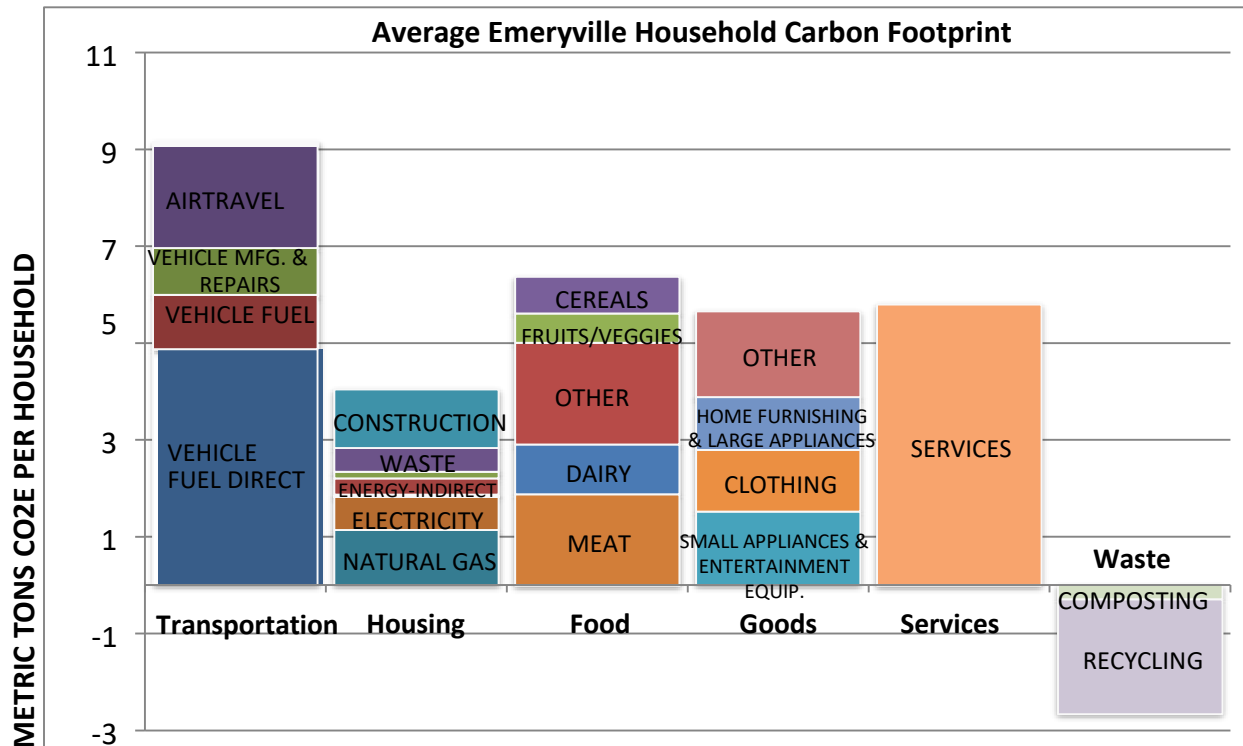
Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution establishing Green Monday, which will include 1) the City Council procuring plant-based food for their meetings, and 2) all City-managed programs offering either a fully plant-based menu or an attractive plant-based alternative offering one day a week.

BACKGROUND

On November 16, 2016, the Emeryville City Council approved the City's second Climate Action Plan (CAP), one of the first cities in the state to do so. This CAP 2.0 sets a goal of 40% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 at both the community scale and within municipal operations.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that the livestock sector contributes 14.5% of GHG emissions attributable to human activity, which is more than the entire transportation sector – autos, planes, trains, and ships – combined. Furthermore, animal agriculture is responsible for 75-80% of rainforest deforestation, meaning that it simultaneously contributes a significant portion of global GHG emissions while reducing the earth's capacity to absorb carbon.

Significant amounts of GHG emissions in Emeryville as elsewhere are built into the production, transportation, and consumption of food, as shown in this graph taken from data developed by UC Berkeley and BAAQMD in 2015:



DISCUSSION

One area in which individual behavior can have a significant impact on GHG emissions is food. An Oxford University study published in March 2016 in the Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences found that a switch to a plant-based diet can reduce an individual's food-related GHG emissions by up to 70%, while improving health and providing substantial savings in health care costs and avoided costs of climate change impacts.

Emeryville's Community Services Department provides food service at the following locations:

- The Emeryville Child Development Center (ECDC) provides breakfast, lunch and snacks,
- The Senior Center provides subsidized weekday lunches and meals on wheels program, and
- The Recreation Center at the Emeryville Center of Community Life (ECCL) provides after-school snacks and breakfast, lunch and snacks during camp operation.

In addition, the City provides dinner to the City Council on meeting dates.

The Green Monday program was launched in Hong Kong with a mission to address climate change, food insecurity, human health, and animal welfare. It provides education and support for individuals and entities wishing to reduce their environmental impact by shifting toward more consumption of plant-based foods. It has programs in schools,

restaurants, corporations, and municipalities, asking these entities to make available a plant-based menu in their food services, at least one day a week, not necessarily Monday. For cities, they also ask that the City Council's meals offer a plant-based option. The City of Berkeley was the first city in the United States to adopt Green Monday, in September 2018.

Emeryville's food services are offered largely by the Community Services Department. The Emeryville Senior Center meal programs are provided under a joint contract with Berkeley, which offers Emeryville the opportunity to learn from and join in Berkeley's efforts to provide plant-based alternative meals. The contracts for meals at the ECDC and ECCL include some restrictions, but the provision of plant-based alternatives is generally either already in place or is doable. One potential hurdle is the requirement for "milk" to be provided for ECDC students; currently, the purchase of cow's milk is reimbursed by the state but the purchase of non-dairy milk alternatives is not, unless the student has a documented medical requirement.

FISCAL IMPACT

The costs to the City are anticipated to be largely limited to staff time to review and amend food contracts, and to publicize the program to the community. The potential costs of purchasing non-dairy milk alternatives for the ECDC students are not yet known, but may be a factor.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

Green Monday has been discussed three times at public meetings of the Sustainability Committee: November 19, 2018, March 11, 2019 and May 15, 2019, Representatives of Green Monday US were present at the November and May meetings, and provided information and clarification.

CONCLUSION

The Emeryville community has an interest in taking actions to mitigate and reverse climate change, and Green Monday US can offer support to the City in providing education and access to climate-friendly food choices. City meal programs are already set up to offer these options, with the exception of the milk alternatives at ECDC, and the partnership with Berkeley for the Senior Center food programs will offer Emeryville the opportunity to move forward without undue effort.

The City of Emeryville already has goals in place to address climate change, including a goal to reduce consumption-related GHG emissions by encouraging sustainable consumption and minimization of the carbon intensity of supply chains. This program would provide a valuable opportunity to model for and educate the community on choices they can make that will positively impact the environment.

PREPARED BY: Nancy Humphrey, Environmental Programs Supervisor

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



Christine Daniel, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Resolution