

# Letter from the Mayor

My fellow Tacomans,

Our community is at an important crossroads.

In front of us we have a window of opportunity: we have strong new resources to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic-recession and repair a legacy of pollution and socio-economic inequality. It's up to us to decide how we rebuild Tacoma – a community we all love and depend on. Together we can rewrite outdated rules and make bold investments for a better way of life. We can begin this work with our new Climate Action Plan.

With this Plan, we will make a significant down-payment on our children and grandchildren's future. We must both reduce climate-warming emissions and adapt to a changing climate. We also know climate action must hold our community at its core. By putting people first, particularly those historically overburdened and underrepresented, we can work together to meet the needs of all Tacomans. This Plan presents us with the opportunity to advance social justice rather than reinforce past inequities – especially when it comes to healthy, affordable housing, our transportation system, and economy.

Together, we must choose our path. Tacoma's future should be bright. Let's make good on our commitment to each other and our planet. Climate action brings many benefits, and the price of in-action is high both in economic and human terms. Future generations will judge our actions, and we speak to them now: the challenges are clear. We must transform our systems at great pace and scale to be carbon-neutral and socially just by major climate deadlines in 2030 and 2050 – or risk catastrophe.

This is our turning point. We are committed to action for climate justice. When we succeed, Tacoma will truly become the City of Destiny. We hope you will join us – and our companions and allies across the country and around the world – in this shared work.

Yours in service,

*Victoria R. Woodards*

