



Dear State Government Finance and Transportation Conference Committee:

As you complete the important work in your committee, I am emailing on behalf of the Minnesota Climate Caucus (MnCCC), a non-partisan coalition of cities focused on the adverse impact climate change has on each of their city's economic well-being and quality of life. Great Plains Institute has been facilitating the group and I've been asked to reach out to you.

The group would like you to recognize and take into account the work of Minnesota cities to address climate mitigation and resilience in your deliberations. So far, a total of 22 local government entities, from all around the state, have participated in the MnCCC climate emergency campaign or previously declared a climate emergency.

The entities participating have been calling on the state government for support and funding to help them both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. They are excited about the possibility of more federal funding available from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and understand that unlocking that may require matching state matching funds in order for Minnesota to get its fair share. As transportation is one of the main sources of greenhouse gasses in their communities, there is significant interest in the state providing more support of programs and policies to reduce emissions, clean the air, and increase transit, rail, and active transportation options.

If it would be at all helpful to you, I'm certain that representatives from these cities would be willing to answer any questions you might have.

The list of cities and counties that have passed climate emergency resolutions is below and the declarations are attached.

Bloomington
Columbia Heights
Cook County +
Crystal Bay *
Duluth *
Eden Prairie
Edina
Golden Valley
Grand Marais
Grand Rapids
Lauderdale
Maplewood
Minneapolis *
Minnetonka +
Moorhead
Northfield
Red Wing
Robbinsdale
Rochester
St. Louis Park
St. Paul
West St. Paul +

* denotes city that previously declared a climate emergency (before Dec/Jan 2022)
+ denotes city or county that declared a climate emergency between Feb and May 2022

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lola Schoenrich', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lola Schoenrich, Vice President

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY
IN BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA that based on the following, the City of Bloomington declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity, and the natural world.

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in the Twin Cities annual average temperatures increased by 3.2° Fahrenheit from 1951 to 2012, and globally we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times. The death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather. In Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998; and

WHEREAS, in the past year, the City of Bloomington has experienced numerous climate change related impacts, including: a record summer heat wave, dangerous air quality from forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and city-imposed watering restrictions, making it clear that the climate crisis is affecting us now and will continue to affect future generations; and

WHEREAS, climate change will create new challenges for the City of Bloomington's infrastructure and finances, such as storm water control and rising insurance rates which will threaten the economic vitality of our residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, over half of Minnesota birds are threatened by climate change, nearly a quarter of species in North and South America risk extinction, natural diversity is essential for humans to thrive, and warming winters are allowing northern migration of pests to Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of the City of Bloomington; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius;" and

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to

achieving to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, Bloomington's Energy Action Plan outlines a goal of reducing GHG emissions by 75% by 2035; and

WHEREAS, despite these priorities, resolutions, and plans, the United States, Minnesota, and the City of Bloomington have failed to meet interim goals, and GHG emissions within the city are not significantly decreasing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington has supported climate action and GHG emission reductions, including:

- (1) In 2016, designating Environmental Sustainability as one of six strategic priorities for the City;
- (2) In August 2017, passing a resolution in support of the Paris Climate Agreement;
- (3) In May 2018, approving a community-wide Energy Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, 2,027 jurisdictions in 36 countries, including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of Bloomington commits to working towards an inclusive and equitable climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Partner with and employ subject matter experts in Sustainability and Resiliency that have purview to propose and implement responses and address solutions to climate impacts;
- Engage Bloomington residents and leaders to support climate solutions;
- Continue to implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and resilience, or other appropriate practices;
- Continue to implement and reassess the community-wide Energy Action Plan, set quantifiable goals, and identify strategies for reducing Bloomington's largest sources of GHG emissions; and
- Utilize the authority of the City Council and the City Manager to drive climate change and sustainability measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of Bloomington calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the City of Bloomington calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that

investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Passed and adopted this 24th day of January, 2022.

DocuSigned by:

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Mayor

Attest:
DocuSigned by:

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Secretary to the Council

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

PROCLAMATION

Climate Awareness Year: 2022

WHEREAS, Columbia Heights, MN has just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heatwave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue – it is affecting us here and now; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of Columbia Heights; and

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1348 in 2015, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons; and

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net-zero global emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders in Crystal Bay, Duluth, Eden Prairie, Edina, Golden Valley, Grand Marais, Grand Rapids, Lauderdale, Maplewood, Minneapolis, Moorhead, Northfield, Red Wing, Robbinsdale, Rochester, and St. Louis Park have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, the city of Columbia Heights is currently mitigating climate change through the sustainable actions of our Public Works department and several volunteer organizations. Most notably, we work to keep items out of landfills and find ways to use energy wisely. We have solar panels on multiple municipal buildings. Our community service groups organize street cleanups and volunteer at the city recycling center. Items such as batteries, fluorescent lightbulbs, stringed lights, rigid Styrofoam, and cardboard are received for free. Our city participates in the TREX program to recycle plastic bags in exchange for park benches. We have organic curbside pickup to turn our yard and kitchen food scraps into compost, which greatly reduces methane gas emissions due to food waste in landfills. We are building awareness throughout our city and are ready to do more to combat climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor of Columbia Heights, and in partnership with leaders across out state, do hereby proclaim 2022 as Climate Emergency Awareness Year in the City of Columbia Heights, County of Anoka, State of Minnesota, U.S.A

Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor

January 24, 2022



REPORT

TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: James Joerke
DATE: February 22, 2022
SUBJECT: Climate Emergency Resolution

DESCRIPTION:

Climate Emergency Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency

SUMMARY:

Local students Olya Wright and Naomi Arnica request that the Cook County Board of Commissioners declare a Climate Emergency in recognition of the impact that human activities are having on global climate. They further request that County Government commit to reducing its carbon footprint by making its buildings more energy efficient, reducing emissions from its vehicle fleet, and conserving water, among other actions.

RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN COOK COUNTY, MINNESOTA

WHEREAS Cook County has just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, water restrictions from the same drought, and a tornado confirmed here on December 15, 2021, making it clear to all that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now;

WHEREAS extreme weather is creating new challenges for Cook County's infrastructure and finances and poses a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses;

WHEREAS the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis is and will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of Cook County;

WHEREAS in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters and leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species, as well as increasing the risk of harmful algal blooms; changing forests and wildlife food sources as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures; stressing crops by cycles of drought and floods; increasing home insurance rates far faster than the national average from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1348 in 2015; and accelerating an increase in winter temperatures that is leading to new and more numerous pests due to prolonged mating cycles, as well as shorter winter recreation seasons;

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals;

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach future targets;

WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius";

WHEREAS, the global average temperature has already increased 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations through the loss of housing, decreased personal safety, and increased rates of illness and death;

WHEREAS, higher temperatures have led to more numerous and severe wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, extreme weather and extinction of over 500 vertebrate species in the last 100 years, that would normally take 10,000 years according to scientists, causing biodiversity loss that threatens our planet's vast ecosystems, fresh water, pollination, pest and disease control;

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated "It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land," and that "Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years," and "with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger";

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050;

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect and impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents;

WHEREAS, thousands of jurisdictions, including Duluth, Minneapolis, and Grand Marais, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Cook County declares that a climate emergency threatens our county, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Cook County commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Encourage organizations such as the Cook County Local Energy Project, our local Housing and Rehabilitation Authority, and the Grand Marais/Cook County EDA, to propose and implement responses to address our changing climate,
- Implement best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and resilience, or other appropriate practices such as improving the energy efficiency of County buildings, purchasing or leasing electric fleet vehicles when appropriate, and
- Position projects to take advantage of state and federal climate action funding opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Cook County calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities and counties of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change by providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Cook County calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities and counties large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND
REQUESTING AN IMMEDIATE TRANSITION TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE**

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and ecological crises and has repeatedly obstructed global efforts to transition toward a sustainable economy, and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly solve these crises;

WHEREAS, the national government has neglected the seriousness of climate change, the need to address the seriousness of the climate change is immediate and needs swift action and community's like ours around the country to take a stand and take action;

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an emergency mobilization on a rapid scale to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of our world, to rapidly and safely drawdown or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate change;

WHEREAS, ecological justice requires that frontline communities, which have historically borne the brunt of the extractive fossil-fuel economy, participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort at all levels of government and that we transition to a renewable energy economy;

WHEREAS, Crystal Bay Township can act as a global leader by both converting to an ecologically, socially and economically regenerative economy at emergency speed, and by catalyzing a unified regional just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Crystal Bay Township declares that a climate emergency threatens our community, our region and the world;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Crystal Bay Township commits to a climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming, and end greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, immediately initiating efforts to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, and accelerates adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts to the best of our ability;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Crystal Bay Township commits to educating ourselves and others about the climate emergency and working to catalyze a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort to provide maximum protection for our residents as well as all the people and species of the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Crystal Bay Township joins a nation-wide call for a regional just transition and climate emergency mobilization collaborative effort focused on transforming our region and rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to restore a safe and lasting safe climate and environment.



Legislation Text

File #: 21-0256R, **Version:** 1

RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN DULUTH, MINNESOTA.

BY COUNCILORS SIPRESS, RANDORF, ANDERSON AND FORSMAN:

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius;”

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and in each successive decade;

WHEREAS, the climate crisis poses a grave threat to human communities both globally and locally;

WHEREAS, climate change has direct impacts on public health, safety, and general welfare of residents, as outlined in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s 2017 Population Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Framework, attached as Exhibit A, and St. Louis county’s 2020 Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan, attached as Exhibit B;

WHEREAS, the impacts of the climate crisis are already being felt in Duluth and in Northeastern Minnesota;

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents;

WHEREAS, at least fourteen nations, over one hundred U.S. municipalities and counties, and the entire European Union have declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the city of Duluth declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the city of Duluth commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort by accelerating our work to exceed our existing commitment to reduce the city’s emissions 80 percent by 2050, as declared in the America’s Pledge on Climate Change in June 2017 and affirmed through leadership in the Climate Mayors network.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Duluth city council requests that the city administration develop a Climate Action Work Plan to be presented to council not later than December 31, 2021, that identifies targeted strategies for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions (climate mitigation) and for becoming more resilient in preparation for a changing climate (climate adaptation), for both city government operations and in the wider community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Climate Action Work Plan should support the foundational sustainability elements identified in the Imagine Duluth 2035 Comprehensive Plan in energy and conservation, housing, transportation, land use, open space, and economic development and should address actions to:

- Reduce energy consumption through efficiency in buildings;
- Increase efficiency and resiliency in city utilities;
- Support low-carbon transportation options;
- Support renewable energy development;
- Improve stormwater management;
- Reduce solid waste;
- Reduce disparities in public health;
- Seek sustainability opportunities that support economic growth; and
- Identify carbon sequestration opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Duluth city council requests that the Climate Action Work Plan

prioritize the following:

- Energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy production;
- Stormwater management to adapt to increased precipitation and future flooding, including the use of green infrastructure; and
- The needs of vulnerable communities, as identified in the Duluth Climate Vulnerability Assessment developed at the initiative of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Duluth city council requests that the city administration provide an annual report to a city council committee of the whole meeting summarizing actions taken and progress made to achieve the goals set forth in the Climate Action Work Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city should seek available state, federal, philanthropic, and private funding for this effort, along with creating collaboration and alliances with other cities and organizations that have declared climate goals and climate action plans to more quickly advance climate mitigation and adaptation actions.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to declare a climate emergency and to request that the city administration develop a Climate Action Work Plan and present the Climate Action Work Plan to the council by December 31, 2021. The climate action work plan should prioritize energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy; stormwater management; and the needs of vulnerable communities.

Proclamation

City of Eden Prairie Hennepin County, Minnesota

WHEREAS, Eden Prairie has just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather will create new challenges for Eden Prairie's infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of Eden Prairie; and

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1,348 in 2015, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons; and

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050-with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius"; and

WHEREAS, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated, "It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land," and that "Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years," and "with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger"; and

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents; and

WHEREAS 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders in Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Eden Prairie declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Eden Prairie commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will continue to implement the City's Climate Action Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Eden Prairie calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Eden Prairie calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

NOW, THEREFORE, the Eden Prairie City Council joins cities and counties across Minnesota in declaring a climate emergency on this 4th day of January, 2022.



Ronald A. Case, Mayor

on behalf of Council Members:

Kathy Nelson
Mark Freiberg
PG Narayanan
Lisa Toomey



RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14
A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CALLING FOR STATE AND FEDERAL RESPONSE TO
CITIES' ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the community of the City of Edina values children and our legacy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2019 in Resolution No. 2019-63, the City of Edina called for state and federal action to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate related disasters have only intensified since 2019, including drought across Minnesota in 2021, and drought-related wildfires in Minnesota, Canada and the United States west coast that have destroyed property, killed people and raised the pollutants in our air to dangerous levels; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota continues to experience more and more extreme precipitation events, with 2019 being the wettest year on record; and

WHEREAS, the City has received urgent calls to action by youth and other residents to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City passed a climate action plan in 2021 setting goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 45% reduction by 2030, and to reach net zero emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Whereas, the City has taken steps to reduce and renew building energy use, advance a healthy urban forest and reduce waste; and

WHEREAS, the City established the Conservation and Sustainability Fund to reduce greenhouse gases, and is currently planning to spend over \$10 million to begin to manage the flood risk associated with climate change; and

WHEREAS, transformational change must occur at all levels of society, including cities of all sizes to address the impending climate crisis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Edina, Hennepin County, Minnesota:

To join with cities across Minnesota to acknowledge the threat to our infrastructure, property and health caused by climate change;

To acknowledge our shared opportunity and responsibility to act in response to climate change;

To ask the State of Minnesota to coordinate responses to climate change among cities, counties, regional planning organizations, commerce, industry and agriculture to adapt to climate change and partner with cities to identify projects to take advantage of climate action funding opportunities;

To give cities the tools necessary to mitigate climate change including legislative advancements and access to technical resources; and

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



To help cities adapt to the warmer, wetter and more severe weather associated with climate change, and advance cross-boundary partnerships to address climate risk at scale;

To ask the Federal Government to support climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that the investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius/2.7 degrees Fahrenheit.

ADOPTED this 19th day of January, 2022

Attest: _____
DocuSigned by:

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Sharon Allison, City Clerk

_____ DocuSigned by:

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James B. Hovland, Mayor

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)
CITY OF EDINA)

CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

I, the undersigned duly appointed and acting City Clerk for the City of Edina do hereby certify that the attached and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Edina City Council at its Regular Meeting of January 19, 2022, and as recorded in the Minutes of said Regular Meeting.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said City this 19th day of January, 2022

City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 21-100

RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPACTING THE ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, AND HUMAN HEALTH

WHEREAS, in 2021 Golden Valley experienced numerous climate change-related impacts including a record June heat wave, drought conditions, water use restrictions, and poor air quality from drought-fueled forest fires prompting residents to restrict outdoor activity and remain indoors for periods, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now;

WHEREAS, hundreds of Golden Valley properties are at risk of flooding and flood damage during heavy or intense precipitation events which can cause significant hardship and economic loss;

WHEREAS, Golden Valley residents have increasingly reported experiencing drainage and flooding issues, high groundwater issues, and historically high surface water levels in water bodies throughout the community;

WHEREAS, the frequency of daily rainfalls greater than 3 inches has increased 66% in the past century and annual precipitation in the Twin Cities increased from an average of 26.18 inches between 1940-1979 to an average of 30.92 inches between 1980-2018, increasing the frequency of flooding, landslides, freeze/thaw cycles, ice storms, rain on frozen ground events, and heavy snowstorms which put increased strain on city operations, residents, businesses, and the natural environment;

WHEREAS, ice cover on Minnesota lakes has declined an average of 10-14 days over the past 50 years and winter temperatures are warming nearly ten times faster than summer temperatures, increasing by approximately 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit per decade since 1969 based on data collected at MSP airport;

WHEREAS, the urban heat island effect causes nighttime temperatures in the first ring suburbs of Hennepin County to be 2 degrees Fahrenheit higher on average compared to surrounding areas and spikes to as much as 9 degrees Fahrenheit higher than surrounding areas during a heat wave, and is expected to increase due to climate change, affecting the health and well-being of residents;

WHEREAS, the high-risk climate hazards for Golden Valley include invasive species and pests, more freeze/thaw cycles, more frequent and intense heavy rainfalls, and extreme heat, and the moderate-risk climate hazards include extreme wind events and tornadoes, diminished air quality, and vector-borne diseases as outlined in the

Vulnerability Assessment in the Resilience and Sustainability chapter of Golden Valley's 2040 Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS, extreme weather will create new challenges for Golden Valley's infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the health, safety, and economic vitality of our residents and businesses;

WHEREAS, historic and present policies and decisions created disparate impacts for Black, Indigenous, People of Color and people of lower socioeconomic status;

WHEREAS, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically excluded, marginalized and underserved communities, the youngest generation including the children and grandchildren of Golden Valley community members, and future generations;

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are affecting all residents, but the impacts will not be felt equally, and like other environmental justice issues, Hennepin County data show that our communities of color, low-income families, and residents with disabilities contribute least to the problem of climate pollution but are the most at risk from negative climate impacts, especially during flooding events, heat waves, and poor air quality days, and we acknowledge that those who have the least capacity to respond to climate change will be most affected;

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters and leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising faster than the national average and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons;

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 greenhouse gas emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals;

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets;

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit)”;

WHEREAS, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the widespread impacts already realized by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather, threatening the food security, water supply, and well-being of billions of people;

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger,” and “leaders at all levels must take immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent catastrophic impacts”;

WHEREAS, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the intelligence community have identified climate change as a threat to national security, and the Department of Homeland Security views climate change as a top homeland security risk;

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050;

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect and impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities and affordable and reliable energy for local residents;

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address climate change;

WHEREAS, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

WHEREAS, acting together with these other communities now will magnify our impact, and increase our visibility and leverage for state and federal funding and support;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Golden Valley declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Golden Valley commits to working for a just transition to a clean energy economy and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Continue to collaborate with residents, businesses, institutions, and non-profits to implement its Resilience and Sustainability Plan, Energy Action Plan, Natural Resources Management Plan, and Surface Water Management Plan, all of which contain goals, objectives, policies, and actions to help address climate impacts
- Continue to implement its Equity Plan including actions and practices that promote economic prosperity for all
- Continue to implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and community resilience
- Work with the City's Environmental Commission to address climate impacts and improve the environment, economy, and human health through the development and implementation of its annual work plan
- Update and implement its 10-year capital improvement program with an increasing focus on sustainability, equity, and climate adaptation
- Position the City with shovel-ready projects to take advantage of state and federal infrastructure funding and climate action funding opportunities
- Consider the environment, energy, and climate in the development of its annual legislative priorities
- Strategically partner with Hennepin County to implement its Climate Action Plan and help the County achieve its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- Consider advancing the development of a Citywide climate action plan sooner than 2030 as scheduled in the City's Resilience and Sustainability Plan
- Continue to explore and secure the resources needed to fulfill its environmental goals and commitments

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Golden Valley calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Golden Valley calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a resilient, sustainable, and equitable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Adopted by the City Council of Golden Valley, Minnesota this 21st day of December 2021.

DocuSigned by:
Shepard M. Harris
4F895EEBDEB74C3...
Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Theresa Schyma
C2F86C0073F34DD...
Theresa J. Schyma, City Clerk

RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN GRAND MARAIS,
MINNESOTA

(Alternate Title: A RESOLUTION JOINING CITIES AND COUNTIES ACROSS
MINNESOTA DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ASKING THE STATE AND
FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO HELP ADDRESS IT AND PROVIDE VALUABLE
RESOURCES)

WHEREAS, Grand Marais has experienced numerous and increasing climate change related impacts including a record heat waves, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, water restrictions from the same drought, and changing winter weather patterns that challenge winter economy, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now;

WHEREAS extreme weather has and will create new challenges for Grand Marais's infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses;

WHEREAS the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of Grand Marais;

WHEREAS in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, impacting Lake Superior water levels, warming surface waters, leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1348 in 2015, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons;

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals;

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets;

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris

Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius”;

WHEREAS, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather;

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger”;

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050;

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect on impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents;

WHEREAS, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Grand Marais declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Grand Marais commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Continue to Implement a Climate Action Plan
- Implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and resilience, or other appropriate practices [use pulldown menu [at this link](#) for ideas]
- Position city with shovel-ready (or identified) projects to take advantage of state and federal climate action funding opportunities

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Grand Marais calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Grand Marais calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

RESOLUTION NO. 011122B

**CITY OF LAUDERDALE
COUNTY OF RAMSEY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY
IN LAUDERDALE, MINNESOTA**

WHEREAS, the city of Lauderdale has just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now;

WHEREAS, extreme weather will create new challenges for the city of Lauderdale’s infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses;

WHEREAS, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of the city of Lauderdale;

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1348 in 2015, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons;

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals;

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets;

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius”;

WHEREAS, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather;

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger”;

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050;

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect on impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents;

WHEREAS, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the city of Lauderdale declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the city of Lauderdale commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and resilience and will identify projects to take advantage of state and federal climate action funding opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the city of Lauderdale calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the city of Lauderdale calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to

ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Adopted this 11th day of January 2022.

Mary Gaasch, Mayor

(ATTEST)

Heather Butkowski, City Administrator

A RESOLUTION JOINING CITIES AND COUNTIES ACROSS MINNESOTA
DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ASKING THE STATE AND FEDERAL
GOVERNMENTS TO HELP ADDRESS IT AND PROVIDE VALUABLE RESOURCES

WHEREAS the City of Maplewood has experienced numerous climate-change related impacts this year including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires, and water restrictions from the same drought;

WHEREAS extreme weather will create new challenges for Maplewood's infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses;

WHEREAS Maplewood the City has adopted energy and climate goals to address climate change as follows:

- 2021 Climate Adaptation Plan is a comprehensive road map that outlines the specific strategic strategies and actions that Maplewood will implement to build resilience to related climate impacts.
- 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Chapter includes climate goals including following the state energy goal guidelines of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 20 percent of the City's 2015 baseline levels by 2050 (an 80 percent reduction).

WHEREAS the greatest burden from an inadequate response to this crises will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities;

WHEREAS in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998; warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms; forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures; crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods; home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average (from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1348 in 2015); and warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons;

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals;

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets;

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius";

WHEREAS, global warming has reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times. The death and destruction wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is too hot for

safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather;

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extreme weather continue to become larger”;

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050;

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect on impact on the livelihoods of many in our community, while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents;

WHEREAS, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Maplewood declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Maplewood commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will implement and continue to support the City’s Climate Adaptation plan and create a Climate Mitigation plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Maplewood calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Maplewood calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

RESOLUTION

By Gordon and Schroeder

Declaring that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes of climate change.

Whereas, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 were the 4 hottest years on record and the 20 warmest years on record have occurred within the past 22 years; and

Whereas, global atmospheric concentrations of the primary heat-trapping gas, or greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide—

- (1) have increased by 40 percent since preindustrial times, from 280 parts per million to 415 parts per million, primarily due to human activities, including burning fossil fuels and deforestation;
- (2) are rising at a rate of 2 to 3 parts per million annually;
- (3) must be reduced to not more than 350 parts per million, and likely lower, “if humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted,” according to former National Aeronautics and Space Administration climatologist, Dr. James Hansen; and

Whereas, global atmospheric concentrations of other greenhouse gases, including methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons, have also increased substantially since preindustrial times, primarily due to human activities, including burning fossil fuels; and

Whereas, current climate science and real-world observations of climate change impacts, including ocean warming, ocean acidification, floods, droughts, wildfires, and extreme weather, demonstrate that a global rise in temperatures of 1 degree Celsius above preindustrial levels is already having dangerous impacts on human populations and the environment; and

Whereas, the 2018 National Climate Assessment found that climate change due to global warming has caused, and is expected to cause additional, substantial interference with and growing losses to infrastructure, property, industry, recreation, natural resources, agricultural systems, human health and safety, and quality of life in the United States; and

Whereas, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has determined that climate change is already increasing the frequency of extreme weather and other climate-related disasters, including drought, wildfire, and storms that include precipitation; and

Whereas, climate-related natural disasters have increased exponentially over the past decade, costing the United States more than double the long-term average during the period of 2014 through 2018, with total costs of natural disasters during that period of approximately \$100,000,000,000 per year; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found wide-ranging, acute, and fatal public health consequences from climate change that impact communities across the United States; and

Whereas, the National Climate and Health Assessment of the United States Global Change Research Program identified climate change as a significant threat to the health of the people of the United States, leading to increased—

- (1) temperature-related deaths and illnesses;
- (2) air quality impacts;
- (3) extreme weather events;
- (4) numbers of vector-borne diseases;
- (5) waterborne illnesses;
- (6) food safety, nutrition, and distribution complications;
- (7) mental health and well-being concerns; and

Whereas, the consequences of climate change already disproportionately impact frontline communities and endanger populations made especially vulnerable by existing exposure to extreme weather events, such as children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing disabilities and health conditions; and

Whereas, individuals and families on the frontlines of climate change across the United States, including territories, living with income inequality and poverty, institutional racism, inequity on the basis of gender and sexual orientation, poor infrastructure, and lack of access to health care, housing, clean water, and food security are often in close proximity to environmental stressors or sources of pollution, particularly communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities, which—

- (1) experience outsized risk because of the close proximity of the community to environmental hazards and stressors, in addition to collocation with waste and other sources of pollution;
- (2) are often the first exposed to the impacts of climate change;
- (3) have the fewest resources to mitigate those impacts or to relocate, which will exacerbate preexisting challenges; and

Whereas, according to Dr. Robert Bullard and Dr. Beverly Wright, “environmental and public health threats from natural and human-made disasters are not randomly distributed,” therefore a response to the climate emergency necessitates the adoption of just community transition policies and processes available to all communities, which include policies and processes rooted in principles of racial equity, self-determination, and democracy, as well as the fundamental human right of all people to clean air and water, healthy food, adequate land, education, and shelter; and

Whereas, communities in rural, urban, and suburban areas are all dramatically affected by climate change, though the specific economic, health, social, and environmental impacts may be different; and

Whereas, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the intelligence community have identified climate change as a threat to national security, and the Department of Homeland Security views climate change as a top homeland security risk; and

Whereas, climate change is a threat multiplier—

- (1) with the potential to exacerbate many of the challenges the United States already confronts, including conflicts over scarce resources, conditions conducive to violent extremism, and the spread of infectious diseases;
- (2) because climate change has the potential to produce new, unforeseeable challenges in the future; and

Whereas, in 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projected that the Earth could warm 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels as early as 2030; and

Whereas, the climatic changes resulting from global warming above 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, including changes resulting from global warming of more than 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, are projected to result in irreversible, catastrophic changes to public health, livelihoods, quality of life, food security, water supplies, human security, and economic growth; and

Whereas, in 2019, the United Nations Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services found that human-induced climate change is pushing the planet toward the sixth mass species extinction, which threatens the food security, water supply, and well-being of billions of people; and

Whereas, according to climate scientists, limiting global warming to not more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, and likely lower, is most likely to avoid irreversible and catastrophic climate change; and

Whereas, according to climate scientists, addressing the climate emergency will require an economically just and managed phase-out of the use of oil, gas, and coal to keep fossil fuels in the ground; and

Whereas, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate crisis; and

Whereas, failure to mobilize and solve the climate emergency is antithetical to the spirit of the Declaration of Independence in protecting “unalienable Rights” that include “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”; and

Whereas, the United States and the City of Minneapolis stand uniquely poised to substantially grow the economy and attain social and health benefits from a massive mobilization of resources and labor that far outweigh the costs of inaction; and

Whereas, millions of middle class jobs can be created by raising labor standards through project labor agreements and protecting and expanding the right of workers to organize so that workers in the United States and the communities of those workers are guaranteed a strong, viable economic future in a zero-emissions economy that guarantees good jobs at fair union wages, with quality benefits; and

Whereas, frontline communities, Tribal governments and communities, people of color, and labor unions must be equitably and actively engaged in the climate mobilization and prioritized through local climate mitigation and adaptation planning, policy, and program delivery so that workers in the United States, the communities of those workers, are guaranteed a strong, viable economic future; and

Whereas, a number of local jurisdictions and governments in the United States, including New York City and Los Angeles, and across the world, including the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, Portugal, and Canada, have already declared a climate emergency, and a number of State and local governments are considering declaring a climate emergency in response to the massive challenges posed by the climate crisis; and

Whereas, State, local, and Tribal governments must be supported in efforts to hold to account actors whose activities have deepened and accelerated the climate crisis and who have benefitted from delayed action to address the climate change emergency and to develop a fossil fuel-free economy; and

Whereas, a collaborative response to the climate crisis will require the City of Minneapolis to work with international, State, and local governments, including with those governments that have declared a climate emergency, to reverse the impacts of the climate crisis; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has an obligation, as a driver of accelerated climate change, to mobilize at emergency speed to restore a safe climate and environment, particularly for those on the frontlines of the climate crisis who have least contributed to the crisis, and to account for global and community impacts of any actions it takes in response to the climate crisis; and

Whereas, the US House of Representatives has introduced a Concurrent Resolution “Expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes,” upon which this resolution is based;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the global warming caused by human activities, which increase emissions of greenhouse gases, has resulted in a climate emergency that severely and urgently impacts the economic and social well-being, health and safety, and security of the city of Minneapolis; and demands a local, national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization of the resources and labor of the United States, the State of Minnesota, and the City of Minneapolis, at a massive scale to halt, reverse, mitigate, and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency and to restore the climate for future generations.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis has acted and will take even more aggressive action to halt, reverse, mitigate, and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency.

RESOLUTION
By Gordon, Schroeder, and Fletcher

Declaring a climate emergency and asking the state and federal governments to help address it and provide valuable resources.

Whereas, Minneapolis has just this past year experienced numerous climate change-related impacts including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now; and

Whereas, extreme weather will create new challenges for Minneapolis’s infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses; and

Whereas, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, individuals and families on the frontlines of climate change across the United States, including territories, living with income inequality and poverty, institutional racism, inequity on the basis of gender and sexual orientation, poor infrastructure, and lack of access to health care, housing, clean water, and food security are often in close proximity to environmental stressors or sources of pollution, particularly communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities; and

Whereas, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1,348 in 2015, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons; and

Whereas, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals; and

Whereas, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets: and

Whereas, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius;” and

Whereas, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

Whereas, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger;” and

Whereas, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050; and

Whereas, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect on impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents; and

Whereas, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders in Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change; and

Whereas, Minneapolis stands in solidarity with these climate emergency communities across the world and the state of Minnesota;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council if The City of Minneapolis:

That Minneapolis redeclares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity, and the natural world.

Be It Further Resolved that Minneapolis commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will

- Update the 2013 Climate Action Plan in 2022 to be a Climate Action and Equity Plan
- Collaborate with cities, state leadership, labor unions, business, community environmental organizations and community members to pass the Better Buildings MN state legislation that will create a pathway toward net zero energy commercial buildings statewide by 2036
- Implement a sustainable building policy for all new and major renovated city enterprise buildings that leads to net zero energy buildings by meeting or exceeding the SB 2030 energy standard
- Implement the use of the social cost of carbon and lifecycle carbon assessment for all new and major renovations of city buildings
- Position the city with identified projects to take advantage of state and federal climate action funding opportunities
- Prioritize federal, state, and local investment in Environmental Justice Green Zone Communities consistent with the Federal Justice 40 guidelines
- Reduce disparities in public health

Be It Further Resolved that Minneapolis calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

Be It Further Resolved that Minneapolis calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Resolution No. 2022-

Resolution joining cities and counties across Minnesota declaring a climate emergency and asking the state and federal governments to help address it and provide valuable resources

Be it resolved by the City Council of Minnetonka, Minnesota, as follows:

Section 1. Background.

- 1.01 Minnetonka has just this past year experienced numerous climate change-related impacts including, a record June heatwave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now.
- 1.02 Extreme weather will create new challenges for Minnetonka's infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses.
- 1.03 The greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities and the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of Minnetonka.
- 1.04 In Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998. Warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms. Forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average, from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1348 in 2015. Faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons.
- 1.05 The bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then-Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals.
- 1.06 Our State did not meet its 2015 goal and is not yet on track to reach our future targets.

- 1.07 In April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius”.
- 1.08 We have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times. The death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather.
- 1.09 In August 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report. It stated, “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger.”
- 1.10 Recent scientific research indicates that to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net-zero global emissions by 2050.
- 1.11 A transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect on the livelihoods of many in our community. In contrast, a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents.
- 1.12 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries, including many other Minnesota cities, have already declared climate emergencies to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

Section 2. Council Action.

- 2.01 The Minnetonka city council declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity, and the natural world.
- 2.02 The Minnetonka city council commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:
- Create/Implement a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.
 - Implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and resilience, or other appropriate practices.

- Implement innovative projects, programs and public awareness through the city’s capital improvement program, strategic profile, Sustainability Commission, and other efforts.
- Collaborate with surrounding cities and local partners to identify and work together on larger, regional sustainability projects.
- Position city with shovel-ready (or identified) projects to take advantage of state and federal climate action funding opportunities.
- Use all available tools to ensure climate action in Minnetonka is equitable and just.

2.03 The Minnetonka city council calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

2.04 The Minnetonka city council calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small. To invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Adopted by the City Council of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on April 11, 2022.

Brad Wiersum, Mayor

Attest:

Becky Koosman, City Clerk

Action on this resolution:

Motion for adoption:

Seconded by:

Voted in favor of:

Voted against:

Abstained:

Absent:



Request for Council Action

AGENDA SECTION: Administration		ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Administration	MEETING DATE: January 24, 2022
ITEM NO. 19.	ITEM DESCRIPTION: *Resolution Joining Cities and Counties Across Minnesota Recognizing a Climate Emergency		PREPARED BY: Lindaas Dahlquist

DRAFT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Moorhead has just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather will create new challenges for Moorhead’s infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of Moorhead, meaning that eventually everyone will be affected; and

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, weather extremes are becoming common, warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are being impacted, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons; and

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius”; and

WHEREAS, the Earth has reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is

Agenda Item #19.

already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger;” and

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect and impact on the livelihoods of everyone in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents; and

WHEREAS, globally, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries have recognized climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Moorhead recognizes that a climate emergency threatens the city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Moorhead commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Integrate Climate Action to local plans and studies including Moorhead’s Comprehensive Plan
- Continue to implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and resilience
- Create a Sustainability Coordinator position in the City of Moorhead to work to infuse mitigation and adaptation efforts throughout city operations
- Leverage the work of the Moorhead Resiliency Project grant program to create a local public working group such as a Sustainability and Resiliency group
- Position Moorhead to take advantage of state, federal and private climate action funding opportunities

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Moorhead calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans and implement laws restricting harmful practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Moorhead calls on the federal government to commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

PASSED: January 24, 2022 by the City Council of the City of Moorhead.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MN
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2022-009
CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Northfield has just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, December tornados, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, making it clear that the climate crisis is not a future issue — it is affecting us here and now;

WHEREAS, climate change is altering the frequency and severity of precipitation, resulting in flooding of the downtown area and other parts of Northfield and in periods of drought punctuated by high-volume rain events, thus altering local hydrology and increasing demand on the municipal water supply;

WHEREAS, extreme weather will create new challenges for Northfield's infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses;

WHEREAS, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of Northfield;

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, Minnesota home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1348 in 2015, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons;

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals;

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets;

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius";

WHEREAS, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the damage already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather;

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger”; WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050;

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents;

WHEREAS, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT: Northfield declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Northfield commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Continue to implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and resilience;
- Continue implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) the City adopted in November 2019, including meeting its goals of:
 - 100% carbon-free electricity community-wide by 2030; and
 - Being a 100% carbon-free community by 2040

Support the following key actions:

- Deep energy efficiency retrofits for nearly all buildings and facilities;
- Cleaning the generation of electricity in cooperation with the electric utility, Xcel Energy, both from electricity provided by the utility and from in-boundary renewable energy development
- Switching energy sources from fossil fuel use to clean electricity in both buildings and travel
- Reducing the amount that people drive through mode shift opportunities like walking, biking, and public transit
- Eliminating waste that enters a landfill or resource recovery facility
- Sequestering carbon through accelerated tree plantings and sustainable land and agricultural practices
- Align the City’s Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan with the CAP to facilitate meeting the goals of the CAP and support the key actions required;
- Organize these actions under the following umbrella strategies:

1. Expand education and engagement strategies for residents, businesses, industries, and tourists to increase and market sustainable, green projects.
2. Incorporate emissions reductions, climate considerations, and resilience into policy and planning processes and decisions.
3. Demonstrate climate leadership through innovation and demonstration of energy and sustainability projects.
4. Maintain momentum and progress through continued support of the plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Northfield calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Northfield calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 18th day of January, 2022.

ATTEST


City Clerk


Mayor

VOTE: Y POWNELL Y GRABAU Y NAKASIAN Y NESS
Absent PETERSON WHITE Y REISTER Y ZUCCOLOTTO



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
ci.northfield.mn.us

Legislation Text

File #: Res. 2022-009, Version: 1

City Council Meeting Date: January 18, 2022

To: Mayor and City Council
City Administrator

From: Environmental Quality Commission

Climate Emergency Declaration Resolution.

Action Requested:

The Northfield City Council is asked to consider adopting a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency.

Summary Report:

The Environmental Quality Commission is providing a presentation at the January 18, 2022 meeting on this topic.

Alternative Options:

No resolution is adopted.

Financial Impacts:

Not applicable.

Tentative Timelines:

Not applicable.

Member Selman moved and Member Kline seconded a motion that the following resolution be read and adopted this 18th day of January, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 7952

A RESOLUTION JOINING CITIES AND COUNTIES ACROSS MINNESOTA
DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ASKING STATE AND
FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO HELP ADDRESS IT AND
PROVIDE VALUABLE RESOURCES

WHEREAS ROBBINSDALE, just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts, including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires, where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, water restrictions from the same drought, and oversizing storm sewer infrastructure for future larger storm events, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue – it is affecting us here and now; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather will create new challenges for ROBBINSDALE'S infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of ROBBINSDALE; and

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average, from an average of \$268 in 1998 to \$1,348 in 2015, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons; and

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025 respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, our state did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius"; and

WHEREAS, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times, and the death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested to by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated *"It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land," and that "Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years," and "with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger";* and

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect and impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while, a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents; and

WHEREAS, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ROBBINSDALE declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT ROBBINSDALE commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Create/Implement a Climate Action Plan
- Create a Sustainability and Resiliency Committee that has purview to propose and implement responses and address solutions to climate impacts
- Implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and resilience, or other appropriate practices
- Position city with shovel-ready (or identified) projects to take advantage of state and federal climate action funding opportunities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT ROBBINSDALE calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branches to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT ROBBINSDALE calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities, large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

The question was on the adoption of the resolution and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Webb, Selman, Kline, Mayor Blonigan

and the following voted against the same: None. Abstain: Backen

WHEREUPON SAID RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

ATTEST:



Dustin Leslie, City Clerk


William A. Blonigan, Mayor

City of Rochester



Proclamation

WHEREAS, this past year Rochester, Minnesota experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather will create new challenges for Rochester’s infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of Rochester; and

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1348 in 2015, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons; and

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius”; and

WHEREAS, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for a safe, just, and healthy life for many around the world, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated, “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger”; and

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents; and

WHEREAS, Rochester’s strategic priorities include commitments to being a leader in racial equity and inclusion in order to create a more just and inclusive community for all and in environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Kim Norton, Mayor of the City of Rochester, Minnesota, do hereby declare that climate change is a threat to our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that I, as Mayor, commit to working for a just energy transition and climate mobilization and encourage the City Council, area businesses, non-profits, and the entire community join this effort in response to the continued evidence of negative climate impacts and ask everyone to commit to working to:

- Implement a range of innovative projects, programs, and public awareness campaigns for businesses and residents throughout 2022 and beyond, including around solar energy, energy efficiency, natural resources, and more.
- Collaborate with surrounding cities and local partners to identify larger, regional sustainability projects, and when applicable, work together to pursue state and federal climate action funding for those projects.
- Support the counties and cities across the state joining this call to action to meet regularly, share ideas, and align goals to continue advocating for state and federal legislation.
- Use all available tools to ensure that urgent climate action in Rochester is equitable and just, including but not limited to consideration of inclusive involvement and engagement, policy and program design, populations and people who are more likely to benefit or be burdened, and accessible communications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we acknowledge the past work and leadership on climate action in Rochester as well as the commend our future work with the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) to complete an analysis in 2022 of the strategies outlined in the Energy Action Plan, and our Sustainability and Resiliency Community Work Plan, as well as our adopted climate goals related to energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. And that CEE will review the latest science and goals from other leading cities to recommend new goals and actions for adoption by the City of Rochester; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council, in cooperation and consultation with the administration, will discuss and implement any needed changes to our city climate related goals, commission directives, and energy action plan based on recommendations brought forward to address the urgent climate issues outlined and which the City Council will review on or around April, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that I, as Mayor, call on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, I, as Mayor, call on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation, adaptation and resiliency efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), and so I join other cities, large and small, across our state calling out Climate Change as an urgent issue needing our attention and do hereby proclaim 2022 as the year for a

Climate Urgency – Call To Action

in Rochester, Minnesota and ask our community members, local governments, businesses and all who live within our borders and beyond to join in by finding ways to support the Sustainability & Resiliency Community Task Force work plan and our fulfill our Energy Goals established and/or amended by the city of Rochester.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Kim Norton, Mayor of the City of Rochester, Minnesota, have here unto set my hand and caused the corporate seal of the City of Rochester to be affixed this 19th day of January, 2022.

Kim Norton

Kim Norton, Mayor
City of Rochester, Minnesota

Resolution No. 22-017

Resolution declaring a climate emergency in St. Louis Park, Minnesota January 18, 2022

Whereas, St. Louis Park has just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, a December tornado watch, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now; and

Whereas, extreme weather has created new challenges for St. Louis Park's infrastructure and finances and poses a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses; and

Whereas, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis is felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of St. Louis Park; and

Whereas, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1,348 in 2015, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons; and

Whereas, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050; and

Whereas, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets; and

Whereas, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, agreeing to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius"; and

Whereas, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for a safe, just, and healthy life for many around the world, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

Whereas, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a

report that stated, “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger”; and

Whereas, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050; and

Whereas, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents; and

Whereas, federal Justice40 guidelines and screening tools are forthcoming, which will direct 40% of the overall benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities; and

Whereas, local community organizations will have opportunities to receive Justice40 benefits, and the City of St. Louis Park can increase awareness of Justice40 and help build capacity for organizations to take full advantage of Justice40; and

Whereas, St. Louis Park strategic priorities include commitments to being a leader in racial equity and inclusion in order to create a more just and inclusive community for all and in environmental stewardship; and

Whereas, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

Now therefore be it resolved that St. Louis Park declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

Be it further resolved St. Louis Park commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Implement a range of innovative projects, programs, and public awareness campaigns for businesses and residents throughout 2022 and beyond, including around solar energy, energy efficiency, natural resources, and more.
- Use this declaration as the launch for a “2022 Year of Climate Action” in St. Louis Park that will spur increased engagement through community-wide events.
- Collaborate with surrounding cities and local partners to identify larger, regional sustainability projects, and when applicable, work together to pursue state and federal climate action funding for those projects.
- Support the counties and cities across the state joining this declaration to meet regularly, share ideas, and align goals to continue advocating for state and federal legislation.

- Use all available tools to ensure climate action in St. Louis Park is equitable and just, including but not limited to consideration of inclusive involvement and engagement, policy and program design, populations and people who are more likely to benefit or be burdened, and accessible communications.
- Advocate for the federal Justice40 guidelines and screening tool to be released as soon as possible and communicate the importance of this initiative with fellow communities, local leaders, and state representatives, while strengthening relationships with community organizations that would benefit from Justice40 funding.

Be it further resolved St. Louis Park calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively take action through policymaking and funding to support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

Be it further resolved St. Louis Park calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation, adaptation and resiliency efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Reviewed for administration:

DocuSigned by:

6B1184203129456...
Kim Keller, city manager

Adopted by the City Council on January 18, 2022

DocuSigned by:

C16599E8BC234F6...
Jake Spano, mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

2ECF537CF5E0439...
Melissa Kennedy, city clerk



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: RES 22-98 **Version:** 1

Type: Resolution **Status:** Passed
In control: City Council
Final action: 1/19/2022

Title: Declaring a climate emergency in St. Paul, Minnesota and joint climate action with cities and counties across the state

Sponsors: Jane L. Prince, Nelsie Yang, Dai Thao, Rebecca Noecker, Amy Brendmoen, Chris Tolbert, Mitra Jalali

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/21/2022	1	Mayor's Office	Signed	
1/19/2022	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass

Declaring a climate emergency in St. Paul, Minnesota and joint climate action with cities and counties across the state

WHEREAS Saint Paul has just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue - it is affecting us here and now; and

WHEREAS extreme weather will create new challenges for Saint Paul's infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS Saint Paul's Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP), adopted by the City Council on December 18, 2019 (RES PH 19-416), commits to carbon neutrality by 2050 and reducing emissions 50% by 2030 from business-as-usual; and

WHEREAS Saint Paul City Council has a legacy of asserting climate urgency, including calling for 100% renewable electricity by 2030, and 25% of electricity created within city limits (RES 18-1361); committing to renewable, equitable, and locally-produced energy targets expressed in the Climate Action and Resilience Plan, to submitting official comment in the Public Utilities Commission review process of Xcel Energy's 2020-2034 Integrated Resource Plan including opposing proposed new fossil fuel energy infrastructure (RES 19-1870); and

WHEREAS the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically and continuing marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS CARP commits to an energy burden below 4% for all Saint Paul households, and currently for low-income households the median energy burden is 5.11% and is 8.2% for the highest quartile according to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy's 2016 report; and

WHEREAS in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998,

warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1348 in 2015, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons; and

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius”; and

WHEREAS, we have already reached a temperature increase of 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations released a report that stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger”; and

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job, career, and wealth-building opportunities for local residents; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul City Council declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Saint Paul calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions statewide and support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Saint Paul calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

**CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL
DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NO. 22-

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN WEST ST. PAUL,
MINNESOTA**

WHEREAS West St Paul has just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now;

WHEREAS extreme weather will create new challenges West St Paul's infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses;

WHEREAS the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of West St Paul;

WHEREAS in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters are leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising far faster than the national average from an average of \$368 in 1998 to \$1348 in 2015, and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons;

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals;

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets;

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius”;

WHEREAS, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the death and

destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather;

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger”;

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050;

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect on impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents;

WHEREAS, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota in the cities of Robbinsdale, St. Louis Park, Bloomington, Columbia Heights, Golden Valley, Edina, Eden Prairie, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that West St Paul declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, West St Paul commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Continue to implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and resilience, or other appropriate practices.
- Position the city with shovel-ready (or identified) projects to take advantage of state and federal climate action funding opportunities
- Utilize the committee process and citizen input to identify and advise on opportunities to improve the air and water quality for the residents of our city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, West St Paul calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, West St Paul calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota, this 14th day of March 2022.

Attest:

David J. Napier, Mayor

Nicole Tillander, City Clerk