

Resolution 19-218

Resolution declaring a climate crisis and requesting immediate and accelerated action to address the climate crisis and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Whereas, Climate change is an urgent unfolding crisis that presents a serious threat to global stability and human existence; and

Whereas, The City of Iowa City developed a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, approved in September 2018, to achieve the Council-set targets matching the Paris Agreement for a citywide carbon emissions reduction of 25-28% from 2005 levels by 2025 and 80% by 2050; and

Whereas, The Climate Action and Adaptation Plan notes that the majority of Iowa City's carbon emissions are sourced from fossil-fueled energy production by utilities and the University of Iowa; and

Whereas, In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a special report on the impacts of global warming and the need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions well before 2030 to hold warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

Whereas, To stay within 1.5 degrees Celsius, the IPCC report indicates that global net human-caused emissions would need to fall 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach "net zero", offsetting carbon emissions with carbon removal, by 2050; and

Whereas, In 2018, the United States' Fourth National Climate Assessment made clear that climate change will wreak havoc across the United States, and the current pace and scale of national climate action is not sufficient to avert substantial damage to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades; and

Whereas, According to the Urban Sustainability Directors Network *Climate in the Heartland Report*, Iowa City, like the Iowa City metropolitan area and the state of Iowa, is already suffering impacts of climate change and the expectation that damaging weather events, including average annual temperatures exceeding the hottest years of historical temperature ranges, increased spring and summer rainfall, excessive daily rainfall frequency, growing season length, and temperature of heat waves, cold waves, and summertime nights will continue and grow more severe if global greenhouse gas emissions are not significantly reduced; and

Whereas, Climate change will continue to impact the affordability of basic human necessities such as food, housing, healthcare, transportation, and energy, adding additional pressure on persons and families of low-income and challenging Iowa City's goal of fostering an inclusive, just, and sustainable community for all; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the City Council hereby declares a state of climate crisis, given that the crisis poses a serious and urgent threat to the well-being of Iowa City, its inhabitants, and its environment; and, be it

Further Resolved, Iowa City adopts the IPCC targets of a 45% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and reaching "net-zero" by 2050; and, be it

Further Resolved, Iowa City will continue to coordinate its efforts with local municipalities, energy utilities, education institutions, as well as other local, regional, and state governments to accelerate actions to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, such as gasoline, diesel and natural gas, refrigerants, and other sources; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the City Council directs the City Manager's Office to develop and deliver a report within 100 days, recommending ways to accelerate Iowa City's climate actions consistent with new reduction targets; and, be it

Further Resolved, That City Council intends to schedule a presentation of and opportunity for public comment on these strategies to achieve goals for emission reductions; and, be it

Further Resolved, That Iowa City's climate mitigation and adaptation planning, policy, and program delivery shall ensure a just transition for all its people; and, be it

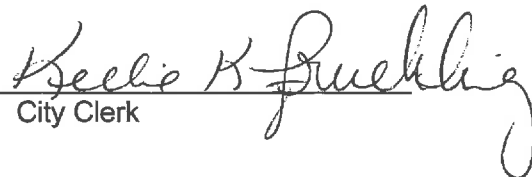
Further Resolved, That as Iowa City works on climate mitigation it shall continue to advance climate adaptation efforts to address unavoidable current and future climate change impacts; and, be it

Finally Resolved, That City Council will work with the City Manager's Office to develop a budget that enables urgent climate action in the near term, while ensuring a climate resilient future for Iowa City in the long term.

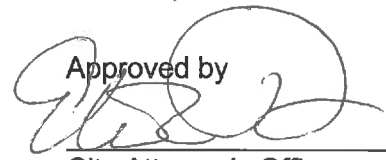
Passed and approved this 6th day of August, 2019.



Mayor

Attest: 

City Clerk

Approved by  8-1-19

City Attorney's Office

It was moved by Cole and seconded by Salih the Resolution be adopted, and upon roll call there were:

AYES:

X
X
X
X
X
X
X

NAYS:

ABSENT:

_____ Cole
_____ Mims
_____ Salih
_____ Taylor
_____ Teague
_____ Thomas
_____ Throgmorton