



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

January 23, 2019

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Requesting Regional Collaboration on an Immediate Just Transition and Emergency Mobilization Effort to Restore a Safe Climate

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Requesting Regional Collaboration on an Immediate Just Transition and Emergency Mobilization Effort to Restore a Safe Climate.

DISCUSSION

The Climate Action Committee (CAC) has prepared the attached resolution. Councilmembers Ackerman and Lacques, who serve on the CAC, requested it be added to the agenda for the Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENT

Resolution

RESOLUTION 19-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX ENDORING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, as well as the United States’ Fourth National Climate Assessment, and the USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2018–5131 were all released in the Fall of 2018, the latest among many thoroughly vetted reports to sound the call for immediate, bold and transformative action; and

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by global warming of approximately 1°C 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, climate change and the global economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species, which could devastate much of life on Earth for the next 10 million years; and

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; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an emergency mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors at wartime speed, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 they benefit first from the transition to a renewable energy economy; and

WHEREAS, fairness demands a guarantee of high-paying, good-quality jobs with comprehensive benefits for all and many other tenants of a Green New Deal effort as the mobilization to restore a safe climate is launched; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Fairfax 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 this year;

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

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Fairfax commits to a town-wide just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming, which will reduce town-wide emissions at least 40% by 2030, 80% by 2040, and 100% by 2045 with efforts to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere thereafter, and accelerates adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Fairfax will seek appropriate financial and regulatory assistance to these ends from the County of Marin and State and Federal authorities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Fairfax commits to educating our residents about the climate emergency and working to catalyze a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort at the local, state, national, and global levels to provide maximum protection for our residents as well as all the people and species of the world;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Fairfax underscores the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support, and recognizes that the residents of Fairfax, and community organizations, faith, youth, labor, business, academic institutions, homeowners' associations and environmental, economic, racial, gender, family and disability justice and indigenous, immigrant and women's rights organizations and other such allies will be integral to and in the leadership of the mobilization effort;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Fairfax commits to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to all just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort planning processes and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Fairfax joins a nationwide 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 climate; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Fairfax calls on the State of California, the United States of America, and all governments and peoples worldwide to initiate a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming by restoring near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations, that immediately halts the development of all new fossil fuel infrastructure, rapidly phases out all fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them, ends greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, transitions to regenerative agriculture, ends the sixth mass extinction, and creates high-quality, good-paying jobs for those who will be impacted by this transition.

The foregoing Resolution was duly introduced and adopted at a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 23rd day of January 2019 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

BARBARA COLER, Mayor

Attest: _____
Michele Gardner, Town Clerk