



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

March 6, 2019

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk *MG*

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

Councilmembers Ackerman and Lacques, who serve as the Council liaisons to the CAC, submitted the attached resolution, revised by the Climate Action Committee at their February meeting.

The Climate Action Committee (CAC) had prepared a resolution for the Council's consideration in January. At its January 23 meeting, the Council sent it back to the CAC to revise to address some of the written comments the Council had received from the public.

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 millions of 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 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 draw down or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt human-caused 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 society 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 tenets of a Green New Deal effort as the mobilization to restore a safe climate is launched; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Fairfax seeks to become 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, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Council of 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, that the Town Council commits to a town wide just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort which ends town wide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030, immediately initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere to reverse global warming, and accelerates adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council, together with its Climate Action Committee, will seek appropriate financial and regulatory assistance to these ends from public and private sources including the Town of Fairfax, the County of Marin and State and Federal authorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council commits to educating its 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, that the Town Council 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, that the Town Council 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 along with the need to avert global climate disaster; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council joins a nationwide call for a regional just transition and climate emergency mobilization collaborative effort focused on transforming our region and rapidly catalyzing focused action at all levels of government and society to restore a safe climate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town just transition 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, as much as possible, creates high-quality, well-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 6th day of March 2019 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

BARBARA COLER, Mayor

Attest: _____
Michele Gardner, Town Clerk