



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### April 7, 2021

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Garrett Toy, Town Manager

**SUBJECT:** Adopt a Resolution Endorsing the Overarching Goals and Concepts of the Climate Safe California Platform and Calling for Action by the State of California

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the resolution.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Fairfax Climate Action Committee requested the attached resolution be added to the agenda for the Council's consideration.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

n/a

#### **ATTACHMENT**

Resolution

## RESOLUTION 21-\_\_

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX ENDORING THE OVERARCHING GOALS AND CONCEPTS OF THE CLIMATE SAFE CALIFORNIA PLATFORM AND CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**WHEREAS** California is experiencing the beginning of a climate emergency with climate-change-fueled, record-breaking heat waves, drought, wildfires, smoke storms, rainfall and flooding occurring more regularly; and

**WHEREAS** climate change impacts are rapidly worsening with nine of 15 global tipping points already activated and on par with the United Nations climate scientist panel's worst case scenario; and

**WHEREAS** the economic cost of maintaining the status quo is much greater than the cost of action, with damages from delayed greenhouse gas reductions in the US costing an estimated \$600 billion per year as of 2020, and insured and uninsured losses totaling \$80 billion in California in 2019 alone due to wildfires; and

**WHEREAS** the Paris Agreement of 2015 calls for preventing average global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to keep warming below 1.5 Celsius; and

**WHEREAS** attempting to remain below 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming requires massive and rapid reductions in greenhouse gases as well as major progress on sequestration of warming compounds already in the air; and

**WHEREAS** to reach the necessary targets California must invest in providing comparable jobs with transferable skills and workforce training to those currently working in the fossil fuel sectors; and

**WHEREAS** the state must also commit to creating training and employment pathways for frontline communities disproportionately impacted by climate change including low-income communities and communities of color who suffer from climate change impacts with significantly lower life expectancy as well as higher rates of asthma, cancer and other diseases than those in wealthier communities; and

**WHEREAS** California has taken numerous steps to reduce greenhouse emissions and successfully reached its 2020 target of 1990 levels of emissions four years early; and

**WHEREAS** the state has initiated investments in pilot programs on natural land management and restoration for sequestration; and

**WHEREAS** these efforts, although recognized nationally and globally, are inadequate to meet the existential climate change threats; and

**WHEREAS** California can lead the nation and the world towards a more sustainable, equitable and vibrant climate-safe future; and

**WHEREAS** the Town of Fairfax has long been dedicated to environmental leadership, having a very active Climate Action Committee and an adopted Climate Action Plan since 2014, and passed Resolution 19-04 on March 6, 2019 endorsing the declaration of a Climate Emergency which set the goal of zero emissions by 2030 in alignment with the IPCC, and is finalizing the Fairfax Climate Action Plan 2030 to implement that target goal;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax that the Town of Fairfax endorses the overarching goals and concepts of the Climate Safe California platform and calls on Governor Newsom and California legislators and regulators to enact the following:

1. No later than 2022, commit to accelerating existing state policy timelines to achieve 80% below 1990 levels of green-house gas emissions and net-negative emissions by 2030;
2. Secure a just transition for workers and their families whose livelihoods depend on fossil fuel industries;
3. Close the climate gap when enacting climate-safe policies to ensure lower-income communities are no longer disproportionately harmed;
4. Enact by no later than 2025 the suite of policies required by science to achieve net-negative emissions by 2030 including:
  - a. Accelerating the phase-out of fossil fuel development, production and use;
  - b. Increasing carbon sequestration;
  - c. Investing in community resilience; and
  - d. Generating the public and private funds needed for speed and scale of climate action.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to Governor Newsom, State Senator Mike McGuire, and Assembly Member Marc Levine.

The foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:

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BRUCE ACKERMAN, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michele Gardner, Town Clerk