

A RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUPPORT FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL WIDE EFFORTS TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUTURE GENERATIONS A SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, climate change has become an existential crisis posing a serious threat to earth's survival and humanity's very existence; and

WHEREAS, global warming and climate change are increasing global temperatures more rapidly than previously anticipated, current human activities and technologies are accelerating the pace of global temperature increase which threatens our modern way of life; and

Whereas, In 2015, the Olympia joined 7,000 cities worldwide by becoming a member of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, a group of Cities and partners committed to a Global effort to reduce Climate change through working towards a low-emission and climate-resilient future; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by adopting the Paris Agreement, and working to limit warming to no more than 2.0°C, and

WHEREAS, 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 avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change; 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, youth will inherit the legacy of our decisions on climate, and youth from diverse backgrounds are organizing locally and worldwide to demand and support climate justice and government action to mitigate the catastrophic impacts of the climate emergency and to restore a safe climate; and

WHEREAS ____ cherishes its youth, they are the key to our community's prosperity and future. We have committed to engage them in climate decisions made in our county and city, and we have committed to include the youth in the vital work to mitigate climate change. All to empower them, to help them follow their dreams and live prosperously in the future, and

WHEREAS, Climate change will continue to make basic human necessities such as food, housing, healthcare, transportation and energy more expensive and, along with a living wage, difficult to obtain, adding additional pressure to our regions affordability crisis and wealth inequality; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the United States, communities of color, low-wage workers and low-income communities have been on the frontline of longstanding environmental injustices and have historically borne the brunt of the fossil-fuel economy.

WHEREAS, the direct and indirect impacts of climate change will disproportionately affect the regions' communities least able to prepare for, cope with, and recover from them, such as communities of color, low-wage workers, immigrants and other low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, because climate poses such a threat to our community and economy, and combatting it will require government agencies, businesses, and the entire community to take bold steps to reach our previously agreed upon regional carbon reduction goals and to build a healthy, resilient region in which everyone can thrive: and

Whereas our NW Salmon and Orcas are dying at rates that threaten extinction from the warming of the oceans and rivers, our mountains are losing snow pack and glacier from the warming of the earth, and we are losing our forests to climate induced increases in forest fires, and our coastal cities face flooding from a potential 6' sea water rise, and all of those effects negatively impact our WA State economy....

WHEREAS, moving towards a climate-safe future requires full community participation, inclusion, and support, and recognizes that the residents of _____, particularly frontline communities and community organizations, including communities of faith, youth, organized labor, business, academic institutions, homeowners' associations, and environmental, economic, racial, gender, family and disability justice, indigenous, immigrant, and other such allies, and

WHEREAS, _____, having joined Thurston County jurisdictions of _____ in a cooperative effort to accelerate immediate and near-term regional climate mitigation and adaptation actions through our adopted climate mitigation and adaptation plans in order to reach our goals eliminate greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, people desire clean water, clean air, clean food and soil, public safety, good health, and to pass on to posterity a sustainable economy and healthy planet; and

WHEREAS, Unchecked climate change will bring evermore drastic decline to the health and prosperity of future generations, particularly for the most vulnerable communities, and

Whereas, the city of _____ passed in 2021 a climate mitigation plan designed to address these problems but that must be implemented in a timely way to succeed, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the ----- hereby declares a state of climate emergency, given that the climate crisis poses a serious and urgent threat to the health and well-being of our region, state, country and our world, its inhabitants, and its environment and approaches decision making as an urgent matter requiring brisk action; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the city _____ asks businesses, non-profits, academia, large institutions, faith-based organizations, and residents to also rise to the challenge of this emergency by making the Thurston climate mitigation framework and adaption plan commitments of their own and mobilizing their resources, ingenuity, and community wisdom to tackle this existential threat and restore a safe climate

FURTHER RESOLVED, the city of _____ develops and adopts for all city staff and departments engaged in significant planning, zoning, permitting, budgeting, expenditures, ordinances, and all other efforts, a policy and practices which requires considering the implications for climate and equity in all decision making at every level of governance.