

RESOLUTION NO. R2021-002

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington, declaring a climate emergency and support for the mobilization of community and region wide efforts to mitigate climate change in order to provide a safe environment for future generations.

WHEREAS, climate change has become a crisis posing a serious threat to the survival of the earth and humanity; and

WHEREAS, global warming and climate change are increasing global temperatures more rapidly than previously anticipated and current human activities and technologies are accelerating the pace of global temperature increase, which poses an urgent threat to public health, public infrastructure, and the quality of life of City of Tumwater residents; 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 global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels; and

WHEREAS, in 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 above pre-industrial levels 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 country, 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, in 2018 the City of Tumwater adopted Resolution No. R2018-015, agreeing to common targets to reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent below 2015 levels by 2030 and 85 percent below 2015 levels by 2050 to ensure that local communities do their part to keep the global average temperature from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the City of Tumwater 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 toward a low-emission and climate-resilient future; and

WHEREAS, since 2018, the City of Tumwater has worked with Thurston County and the cities of Lacey and Olympia to develop the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan with the input of hundreds of community members through focus group meetings, community workshops, interviews, surveys, and other outreach methods over the course of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, accepted by the City of Tumwater in January 2021, identifies a framework for future climate action, including strategies and actions sufficient to meet the emission reduction targets adopted by the parties; and

WHEREAS, youth will inherit the legacy of our decisions on climate, and youth from diverse backgrounds have organized locally and worldwide to demand and support climate justice and government action to mitigate the catastrophic impacts of the climate crisis and to restore a safe climate; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tumwater cherishes the youth in its community, as they are the key to our community's prosperity and future. The City of Tumwater has committed to engage youth in climate decisions made in the region and to include youth in the vital work to mitigate climate change; 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 the region's 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 and disproportionately endured the most negative effects of a fossil-fuel economy; and

WHEREAS, because the impacts of climate change pose a threat to our community and economy, and combatting them 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, moving toward a safe climate future requires full community participation, inclusion, and support by residents of the City of Tumwater. Particularly frontline communities and community organizations, including communities of faith, youth, organized labor, business, academic institutions,

homeowners' associations, environmental, economic, racial, gender, family and disability justice, indigenous, immigrant, and other such allies all who play important roles in climate mitigation; and

WHEREAS, in a cooperative effort through our accepted climate mitigation and adaptation plans the City of Tumwater with Thurston County and the cities of Lacey and Olympia intend to accelerate immediate and near-term regional climate mitigation and adaptation actions in order to reach our goals to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUMWATER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City of Tumwater City Council hereby declares a state of climate emergency, given that the climate change poses a serious and urgent threat to the health and well-being of our City, region, state, country, and world, and its inhabitants and environment.

Section 2. The City of Tumwater asks businesses, non-profits, academia, institutions, faith-based organizations, and residents to also rise to the challenge of this crisis by making the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan and Adaptation Plan commitments their own and mobilizing their resources, ingenuity, and community wisdom to tackle this existential threat and restore a safe climate.

Section 3. Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 4. Severability. The provisions of this Resolution are declared separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or portion of this Resolution or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Resolution, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon acceptance and signature as provided by law.

RESOLVED this 19th day of January, 2021.

CITY OF TUMWATER

DocuSigned by:
Pete Kmet
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Pete Kmet, Mayor

ATTEST:
DocuSigned by:
Melody Valiant
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Melody Valiant, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DocuSigned by:
karen kirkpatrick
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Karen Kirkpatrick, City Attorney