

Ann Arbor Climate Emergency Resolution

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, human activities have warmed the Earth enough to end the 12,000-year period of climate stability that allowed agriculture and human civilization to develop;

WHEREAS, global warming has already set in motion disastrous changes to the Earth system, including accelerating ice mass loss from the Greenland and West Antarctic Ice Sheets and the thawing of the borders of the vast Arctic permafrost, which holds twice as much stored carbon as the entire atmosphere;

WHEREAS, NASA scientists have concluded that the complete collapse of the Greenland Ice Sheet alone could raise sea levels 23 feet, creating several billion climate refugees and a “global-scale catastrophe”;

WHEREAS, the Global Carbon Project has estimated worldwide carbon emissions will increase 2.7% in 2018, in addition to the 1.6% increase in 2017;

WHEREAS, over 19,000 scientists have signed a Second Warning to Humanity proclaiming that “a great change in our stewardship of the Earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided”;

WHEREAS, the economy’s overshoot of ecological limits and, increasingly, climate change, are driving the sixth mass extinction of species, which could devastate much of life on earth for the next 10 million years;

WHEREAS, England’s chief scientific advisor warned that humanity faces a “perfect storm of global events” by 2030 as climate change, population growth, and growing demand for food, energy, and fresh water incite violent conflict over diminishing resources that are essential to human life and dignity;

WHEREAS, climate-fueled droughts, famines, and diseases have already killed millions of people in the Global South, and displaced millions more;

WHEREAS, indigenous and low-income communities and communities of color in the United States and abroad have suffered the gravest consequences of the extractive economy since its inception;

WHEREAS, the destruction caused last year by Hurricanes Harvey and Maria, as well as the record wildfires that have devastated California, confirm that the earth is already too hot for safety or justice;

WHEREAS, it is an act of unspeakable injustice and cruelty to knowingly subject our fellow humans now and into the future to societal disintegration, food and clean water shortages, economic collapse, and early death on an increasingly uninhabitable planet;

WHEREAS, common sense and morality dictate that humanity can no longer safely emit greenhouse gases and must seek to restore a safe level of greenhouse gas concentrations and global average temperatures well below today's levels;

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an emergency mobilization to a near-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy across all sectors at wartime speed, a global effort to rapidly and safely remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and safe measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt warming in the near-term;

WHEREAS, justice requires that those countries, classes and sectors that have contributed the most to this global climate and ecological cataclysm foot a commensurate financial burden in reversing it and protecting those most impacted from the lethal impacts underway already;

WHEREAS, Ann Arbor cannot wait for more climate disasters to begin an emergency climate mobilization;

WHEREAS, Ann Arbor has already seen a significant rise in precipitation that will put increasing stress on our infrastructure

WHEREAS, Ann Arbor can rise to the challenge of the greatest crisis in history by organizing politically to catalyze a national and global climate emergency effort, employing local workers in a mobilization effort building and installing renewable energy infrastructure, growing local healthy food, restoring ecosystems, and retrofitting and redesigning our built environment, electric grid and transportation systems;

RESOLVED, that Ann Arbor declares that we face an existential climate emergency that threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, the natural world, and humanity;

RESOLVED, that Ann Arbor officially commits to leading an emergency mobilization effort that, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from state and federal authorities, effectively ends municipal emissions by or before 2025 and city-wide greenhouse gas emissions by or before 2040, and immediately initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere;

RESOLVED, that Ann Arbor commits to educating our citizens about the climate emergency and the broader ecological crisis, and working tirelessly to catalyze a climate emergency mobilization at the local, state, national, and global levels to protect our citizens as well as all the people and species of the world

RESOLVED, that Ann Arbor commits to a stable source of adequate funding to support climate action at the local level and to the sharing of lessons learned with peers from around the nation and world.