

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: November 12, 2019
To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Rachael Fuller, City Manager
Subject: Climate Change Resolution

Public Purpose: Creating a more environmentally sustainable community is a 2019 Council Work Plan Goal and one of the strategies outlined to achieve the goal is implementation of the Hood River County Energy Plan.

Background: On September 23, the Hood River Valley High School Earth Action Club and Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network presented a resolution declaring a climate emergency for consideration by the Hood River City Council.

Following discussion by the City Council, two councilors were appointed to draft an alternate resolution for consideration.

The proposed resolution recognizes the problem of climate change and re-affirms the City's commitment to addressing it by committing to steps already being taken by the City and to other actions within current policy direction/resource allocation. The proposed resolution is focused on City operations and supports partnerships/outreach to the larger community. The proposed resolution identifies the need to develop adaptation and resilience strategies that have implications to City operations and to the broader Hood River community.

In addition to supporting the Hood River Energy Plan with staff and fiscal support, the City of Hood River is currently recruiting for a management analyst position. One of the duties outlined in the position, among others, is to conduct a baseline inventory of energy use in City facilities and operations and to bring project and policy options to reduce energy use to Council for consideration.

Staff Recommendation: N/A, this item is presented for Council discussion.

Suggested Motion: Motion to be determined after Council discussion.

I move to

- Alternatives:**
1. Adopt the City Council proposed resolution.
 2. Adopt the City Council proposed resolution with modifications.
 3. Adopt the resolution proposed by the Columbia Gorge Climate Action

Network on September 23, 2019.

4. Other alternatives as determined by Council.

Fiscal Impact: Adopting the climate change resolution has no fiscal impact beyond the steps already being taken by the City. Projects aimed at reducing energy use in City facilities and/or the community as well as developing adaptation and resilience strategies may have a fiscal impact. These would be identified through individual projects, including potential tradeoffs, and brought to Council for consideration.

Environmental Impact: Adopting the climate change resolution has no environmental impact beyond the steps already being taken by the City. Projects aimed at reducing energy use in City facilities and/or the community as well as developing adaptation and resilience strategies may have an environmental impact. These would be identified through individual projects and brought to Council for consideration.

Attachments:

Resolution 2019-16

RESOLUTION 2019-16

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING STRATEGIES TO REDUCE HOOD RIVER'S CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL WARMING AND TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS ON THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS OF HOOD RIVER

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”;

WHEREAS, the world is already seeing the impacts of a warmer climate in rising seas and increased and intensifying wildfires, droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events.

WHEREAS, human activities will likely result in global warming of 1.5°C or more above pre-industrial levelsⁱ;

WHEREAS, global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels will negatively affect human health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth, and will result in species loss and extinctionⁱ;

WHEREAS, limiting global warming to 1.5°C will require rapid and far-reaching transitions in the way we manage energy, land use, urban, transportation, and industrial systemsⁱ;

WHEREAS, the City of Hood River is committed to sound municipal environmental policy and the reduction of the City's contribution of greenhouse gasses into the environment;

WHEREAS, by Resolution 2018-2, the City of Hood River affirmed its commitment to the Hood River County Energy Plan's blueprint to improve community resilience, increase energy independence, and increase economic benefits related to energy use in Hood River County while reducing emissions from the burning of fossil fuels;

WHEREAS, the City of Hood River recognizes the need for full community participation and inclusion in the planning and implementation of large-scale change at all levels of government;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; the City of Hood River recognizes the global climate crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Hood River re-affirms its support of and participation in the Hood River County Energy Plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Hood River commits to take steps to 1) reduce reliance on fossil fuels in municipal operations and to pursue local policies (e.g., adopt municipal code) and reforms that promote environmental stewardship and sustainability; 2) reduce municipal net greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible with a target of reaching net zero by 2050ⁱ with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from Hood River County,

the region, and State and Federal authorities, and 3) initiate efforts to formulate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Hood River commits to reviewing progress and updating implementation strategies annually to allow for adaptive management;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Hood River commits to partnering to educate our residents about steps that are needed to limit the magnitude and effects of global warming;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Hood River underscores the need for community participation, inclusion, and support, in efforts to rapidly reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and the city's climate impact;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Hood River commits to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to all climate change mitigation planning processes and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Hood River joins a nation-wide call to limit or reverse climate change at all levels of government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Hood River calls on the State of Oregon, the United States of America, and all governments and peoples worldwide to recognize the global climate crisis; and to 1) initiate efforts to reverse global warming by restoring near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations, 2) discourage the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure, 3) rapidly phase out all fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them, 4) end greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, 5) initiate an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, 6) transition to regenerative agriculture that aims to capture carbon in soil and aboveground biomassⁱⁱ, and 7) create high-quality, good-paying jobs with comprehensive benefits for those who will be impacted by this transition.

Approved and Effective this ____ day of _____ 2019.

ⁱ IPCC, 2018: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)].

ⁱⁱ Kenne, G.J. and Kloot, R.W., 2019. The Carbon Sequestration Potential of Regenerative Farming Practices in South Carolina, USA. American Journal of Climate Change, 8(02), p.157.