

## RESOLUTION NO. 2020-09

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL, ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, AND REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON AN EQUITABLE TRANSITION AND URGENT MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE**

#### **RECITALS:**

WHEREAS, in November of 2018 the City adopted a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan that included input from citizens of the community and addressed carbon offset strategies, carbon neutral buildings, livable neighborhoods, renewable energy, local agriculture, zero waste, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, as embodied in the Flagstaff Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, Flagstaff has committed to meeting the Paris Agreement goals, an international agreement pledging to work towards keeping average future warming “well below 3.6°F above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 2.7°F”; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations November 2019 Emissions Gap Report finds that countries collectively failed to stop the growth in emissions, meaning that deeper and faster cuts are now required. In order to stay on track to meeting the Paris agreement goals, the UN calls for immediate and aggressive action to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030; and

WHEREAS, by way of example, the Flagstaff Climate Action and Adaptation Plan identifies an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, if we want to have a 66% chance of staying below 2.7 degrees warming by 2030, we’re not on track to hit that target; and

WHEREAS, according to recent studies, global warming of approximately 1.8°F is already threatening or causing detrimental effects on Earth’s human, physical, biological, and hydrological systems as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, prolonged droughts, extreme weather events, loss of biodiversity, and climate refugees; and

WHEREAS, Flagstaff has experienced the predicted clear warming trend since 1995, with higher temperatures and fewer cold days per year, contributing to an overall drying trend; and

WHEREAS, Flagstaff and our region face significant risks of reduced water availability, increased wildfires, drought, and flooding, snowpack loss, and widespread forest loss. Recent models forecast average temperature increase in Flagstaff of 9.4°F by 2080, creating a climate similar to that experienced currently in Show Low; and

WHEREAS, average model estimates also indicate a likelihood of 25 days each summer with maximum daily high temperatures over 105°F; and

WHEREAS, a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable, and just for all

its members is a necessary step for the City of Flagstaff in the effort to address the climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, initiatives shifting from inefficient fossil energy systems to sustainable energy systems of energy production, conservation, and transportation, from landfills to zero waste, from industrial food systems to food sovereignty, from car-dependent sprawl and unbridled growth to smart urban development without displacement, and from destructive over-development to habitat and ecosystem restoration are essential to achieving necessary carbon reductions and a stable climate; and

WHEREAS, the unique threats that climate change poses present multiple opportunities for the City to benefit through swift actions. By declaring a climate emergency, we recognize the severity of the issue, while at the same time acting to solve the challenges presented by climate change locally. With coordinated actions and targeted investments from the City and our local higher education partners, we can be a leader in addressing climate change issues and at the same time invest in the mitigation and adaptation strategies outlined in our City's existing CAAP, thereby reducing future risks and costs.

**ENACTMENTS:**

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

SECTION 1. The City of Flagstaff declares that a climate emergency threatens our City, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world, and recognizes the need for a dramatic increase in its ambition to combat climate change, so that it meets or exceeds the current recommendations of the foremost climate scientists working around the world.

SECTION 2. The City of Flagstaff commits to its own City-wide transition and climate emergency mobilization effort, utilizing Flagstaff's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan as the foundational framework in recognition of accelerating climate changes and prioritizing appropriate funding for its implementation.

SECTION 3. The City of Flagstaff commits to educating residents and especially Flagstaff's youth about the current climate emergency and inspiring action.

SECTION 4. The City of Flagstaff underscores the need for full community participation, and recognizes that the residents of Flagstaff, and community organizations and other such allies will be integral to and in the leadership of the mobilization effort.

SECTION 5. The City of Flagstaff commits to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to all transition and climate emergency mobilization efforts and to facilitate the active participation of such communities.

SECTION 6. The City of Flagstaff joins a nationwide call for an emergency mobilization collaborative effort, in full partnership with surrounding Tribal nations and traditional agricultural communities, at all levels of government to prioritize adaptation and mitigation in relation to climate change while making all government decisions.

SECTION 7. The City of Flagstaff will take steps to revise the goals outlined in the Climate Action

and Adaptation Plan to be in alignment with the United Nations' November 2019 Emissions Gap Report, while maintaining equal emphasis on adaptation, mitigation, and equity, by advancing the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan's goals to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

SECTION 8. The City of Flagstaff calls on the State of Arizona, the United States of America, and all governments and peoples worldwide to initiate a transition and climate emergency mobilization effort to mitigate global warming and create high-quality, good-paying jobs with comprehensive benefits for those who will be impacted by this transition.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Flagstaff this 23rd day of June, 2020.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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CITY ATTORNEY