



TO

Bloomfield Climate Emergency Resolution

WHEREAS, there is overwhelming evidence and scientific consensus that man-made greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have caused a 2° F increase in surface temperature over preindustrial levels with a resulting increase in ocean level (threatening the Connecticut shoreline) and famine and drought worldwide creating a population of climate refugees; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's most respected research organization for climate change, notes in its 2014 *Fifth Assessment Report*, "Continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive, and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems"; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the 2008 *Global Warming Solutions Act (P.A. 08-98)* and the 2018 *Act Concerning Climate Change Planning and Resiliency, (P.A. 18-82)*, Connecticut, in an effort to cut GHG emissions to 45% below 2001 levels by 2030 and to 80% below 2001 levels by 2050, seeks to substantially decarbonize electricity generation, the transportation system, and thermal energy for buildings; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ned Lamont's September, 2019, *Executive Order #3* declared that the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") shall "analyze pathways and recommend strategies for achieving a 100% zero carbon target for the electric sector by 2040;" and

WHEREAS, Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other communities of color, as well as low-income communities in the United States and around the world have suffered the gravest consequences of the extractive economy since its inception and also suffer first and most acutely from climate disruption and environmental hazards, including air, water, and land pollution and a portion of Bloomfield is designated as an Environmental Justice Community by DEEP; and

WHEREAS the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate and biosphere will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bloomfield has exhibited strong leadership in promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability, and seeks to maintain a leadership role in meeting the challenge of this crisis by joining local and global efforts to transition to a steady-state sustainable economy not based on fossil fuels.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD:

1. Declares that the climate crisis is an ecological emergency which threatens our town, state, nation, and world and that this resolution provides the foundation upon which the Town of Bloomfield shall develop future priorities, legislation, policies, plans, budgets, and actions; and
2. Declares that the Town Council, having provided funding in the Town's FY 2021/2022 Budget, will instruct the Town Manager to create and present a plan to the Town Council no later than within two (2) years after the effective date of this resolution, with periodic updates on progress toward development, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption in Town offices, transportation fleets and the wider community with the goal of achieving achieve an end to GHG emissions by or before December 31,2030, placing the highest priority on providing the benefits of a clean-energy economy to all community members on an equitable basis; and
3. Declares that the scope of such plan shall include a phased implementation schedule with appropriate (net) cost estimates with the goal of achieving the objective of no GHG emissions by the end of 2030; and
4. Declares that such a plan will undertake the review of Town policies and ordinances and to update them as necessary; and
5. Declares that potential ways of achieving this goal include reducing or eliminating the use of fossil fuels and related infrastructure, installing zero emissions and renewable energy systems on both present Town buildings and future private, commercial and municipal construction, promoting the mass transit and Complete Streets initiatives, and monitoring Town energy consumption thereby defining where efficiency can be improved; and
6. Requests that the Board of Education instruct the Superintendent to work together with the Town Manager to participate in a climate emergency plan which might include a student climate advisory committee at Bloomfield's high schools with students encouraged to attend the monthly Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee meetings and present a student perspective on climate action; and
7. Calls on the State of Connecticut to declare a Climate Emergency and to provide appropriate legislative, regulatory, and financial support to municipalities to implement local climate initiatives through a Climate Action for Connecticut Towns and Cities Line Item in the General Budget; and
8. Endorses an effort for the state to encourage Congress to enact a carbon fee and dividend approach to pricing carbon.

This Resolution was approved by the Town Council on the _____ day of _____ 2021.

Signed: **Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Mayor, Town of Bloomfield, Connecticut**