

**Resolution
Declaring a Climate Emergency**

WHEREAS: human activities have contributed to the warming of the Earth through the unsustainable use and dependence on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS: indigenous and low-income communities and communities of color have suffered the gravest consequences of the extractive economy since its inception; and

WHEREAS: there are many opportunities to transition to a carbon neutral society in ways that benefit all people, regenerate natural systems, and support thriving local economies.

WHEREAS: the Town of Mansfield has identified initial climate actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our community, adapt to the changing climate, and build long-term community resilience. These climate actions are detailed in "Mansfield Tomorrow: Plan of Conservation and Development" (adopted October 2015) and the "Ad Hoc Climate Action Task Force Final Report" (August 2018).

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Town of Mansfield declares an existential climate emergency that presents both challenges and opportunities.

1. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town sets a goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions from municipal government operations by 2030.
2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor directs all town departments, including the schools, to review the climate actions recommended in the above referenced reports and consider additional climate actions. Within 6 months of adoption of this resolution, each department will receive a baseline report of greenhouse gas emissions. This information will include fuel used for vehicles and heating, electricity, and product consumption. Each department head will then: 1) identify climate actions already implemented, and 2) prioritize actions for implementation by the department within one year of adoption of this resolution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their operations and increase the long-term resilience of Mansfield in adapting to the changing climate. These actions will be consolidated to track overall greenhouse gas emissions reductions from municipal operations and identify additional actions to achieve the net zero greenhouse gas emissions goal. Departments may request assistance from the Mansfield Sustainability Committee in performing this review and implementing climate actions. The review by each department shall take into consideration the multiple benefits of identified priority climate actions such as cost savings, solving multiple challenges with one solution, and improving the quality of life for all Mansfield residents with a focus on underrepresented populations.
3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town commits to educating Mansfield residents about opportunities and actions they can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for long-term resilience, with an emphasis of the multiple benefits of such actions for all residents, families, and our community.

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Mansfield to be affixed on this 13th day of September in the year 2021.

Antonia Moran
Mayor, Town of Mansfield