



FRAMINGHAM SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

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A RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on April 22, 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, climate change, pollution, environmental destruction, and fossil fuel extraction and use have and will continue to intensify systemic racial, regional, social, environmental and economic crises by disproportionately affecting indigenous communities, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth;

WHEREAS, nearly 400 cities, districts and counties across the world collectively representing over 34 million people have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global Climate Emergency, including over 20 Massachusetts cities and towns such as Boston, Lexington, Acton, and 11 towns on Cape Cod;

WHEREAS, declaring the climate crisis as an emergency is a crucial first step for aligning residents around the urgency of the global climate breakdown;

WHEREAS, declaring that the climate crisis is an emergency demonstrates that our government agencies acknowledge that addressing climate change will require an emergency response at emergency speed;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Framingham hereby declares that a Climate Emergency threatens our city, state, and nation, as well as humanity broadly, and that a mobilization to meet this challenge is both a moral imperative and an unprecedented opportunity to stabilize the climate, remedy environmental harms, create clean-energy jobs, and improve human lives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Framingham City Council call on City government and staff and all Framingham civic groups, businesses, and residents to commit to a climate mobilization effort to bring net City-wide carbon emissions to zero no later than the year 2050, though we advocate for increased state and federal assistance so that we can aim for carbon neutrality by 2030;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Framingham’s climate mobilization should also: (1) accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying local and global climate impacts; (2) ensure that the costs of such mobilization efforts do not unfairly burden those who are economically or socially disadvantaged and that the benefits of a realized, sustainable future accrue to all; (3) continue to protect trees, forests, soil, and other open spaces because of their ability to draw carbon out of the atmosphere and store it; and (4) protect the habitats and corridors of wildlife that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall send a copy of this Resolution to Mayor Charlie Sisitsky, Representative Lindsay Sabadosa and Senator Jo Comerford, as well as Governor Charles Baker, DOER Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, and the Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, Senators Mike Barrett and Mark Pacheco, and Representatives Jeffrey Roy and Paul Mark.