

RESOLUTION NO. 02-21

**CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR THE CITY OF
WEST LAFAYETTE**

WHEREAS, climate change and the global industrialized economy's overshoot of ecological limits are driving the Sixth Mass Extinction of species, could devastate much of life on Earth for many millennia, and may pose as great a risk to humanity as climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and

WHEREAS, the Purdue Climate Change Research Center has determined that with continued business-as-usual and no attempted reduction in carbon emissions, the Midwest can expect increased risks to public health, infrastructure, and agriculture due to increased heat wave intensity and frequency, more extreme droughts, increased heavy rain events and flooding, decreased agriculture yield, and degraded air and water quality; and

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana has already experienced detrimental effects due to climate change, including costly and dangerous extreme heat and drought conditions in 2012 and record-breaking rains and subsequent flooding in 2015 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, Across the world 1,864 jurisdictions and local governments, across 33 countries; over 200 local municipalities in the United States; have declared a climate emergency, mobilized around the issue of climate change, and joined a global movement to solve the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Lafayette's Mayor and City Council have long demonstrated their leadership on climate change issues and dedication to protecting the environment and future generations by:

- 1) joining other local governments in the "Climate Mayors" network,
- 2) passing Resolution No. 14-20 which established a carbon neutrality goal of 2038
- 3) joining the Environmental Resilience Institute's Resilience Cohort
- 4) performing a greenhouse gas inventory through the Resilience Cohort
- 5) developing a climate action plan through the Greeley & Hansen contract; and

WHEREAS, such necessary measures to restore a safe climate include:

- 1) A rapid, just, managed phase-out of fossil fuels;
- 2) Ending greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to establish a zero-emissions economy;
- 3) A widespread effort to safely drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere;
- 4) A full transition to a regenerative agriculture system; and
- 5) An end to the Sixth Mass Extinction through widespread conservation and restoration of ecosystems;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE,
INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL, AS FOLLOWS:**

BE IT RESOLVED, the City of West Lafayette commits to keeping the concerns of frontline and marginalized communities central to all Climate Emergency Mobilization program planning processes and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in the development and implementation of the Climate Action Plan and all climate mobilization efforts;

BE IT RESOLVED, the City of West Lafayette will hire a climate resiliency officer by December 2021 to directly inform and manage the creation of the Climate Action Plan;

BE IT RESOLVED, the City of West Lafayette joins a nation-wide call for a regional, national, and international climate emergency mobilization effort focused on rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to reverse climate change and the ecological crisis;

BE IT RESOLVED, the City of West Lafayette calls on the State of Indiana, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to declare a climate emergency, initiate a climate mobilization to reverse climate change and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of West Lafayette acknowledges that climate change is a public health threat, national security threat, and will treat the climate crisis as an emergency.

INTRODUCED ON FIRST READING ON THE 1 DAY OF February, 2021.

MOTION TO ADOPT MADE BY COUNCILOR DeBoer, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR Thomas.

DULY RESOLVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, ON THE 1 DAY OF February, 2021, HAVING BEEN PASSED BY A VOTE OF 8 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED, THE ROLL CALL VOTE BEING:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Blanco	✓			
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Kang	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Parker	✓			
Sanders	✓			
Thomas	✓			
Wang				


Peter Bunder, Presiding Officer

Attest:

Sana G. Booker
Sana G. Booker, Clerk



PRESENTED BY ME TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
ON THE 2 DAY OF February, 2021.

Sana G. Booker
Sana G. Booker, Clerk

THIS RESOLUTION APPROVED AND SIGNED BY ME ON THE 3 DAY OF
February, 2021.

[Signature]
John R. Dennis, Mayor

Attest:

Sana G. Booker
Sana G. Booker, Clerk

