

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)
BELINDA S. RAY (1)
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)
BRIAN E. BATSON (3)
JUSTIN COSTA (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

KIMBERLY COOK (5)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE YOUTH STRIKES FOR
EMERGENCY CLIMATE CRISIS ACTION IN MAINE**

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,” which is in itself not safe for humanity; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the 4th Annual National Climate Assessment was released and illustrates the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy, our environment and climate stability, and underscores the need for immediate action to address a climate emergency at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to the unsafe 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years; and

WHEREAS, the increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts and extreme weather brought on by climate change demonstrate that the earth is too hot to be a safe environment; and

WHEREAS, current trends and projections show that Cumberland County can expect more frequent extreme precipitation events categorized as coastal floods, flash floods, heavy rain and tropical storms – and increased months of drought alike; and

WHEREAS, waters in Casco Bay and the Gulf of Maine are warming at a rate faster than 99% of the world’s ocean, which is projected to shift marine species, contribute to ocean acidification, and disrupt traditional fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the past five years are collectively the warmest in modern history and according to the National Weather Service, July 2019 was the hottest month on record in the Portland area, with temperatures 3.6 degrees above the average for the month; and

WHEREAS, these climate changes have cascading effects on the City’s economy, infrastructure, public health and safety, and other critical systems; and

WHEREAS, humanity can no longer safely emit greenhouse gasses and must demand an emergency mobilization effort to rapidly reach zero emissions across all sectors; and

WHEREAS, building a climate-resilient and adaptive society will have positive impacts on the health and well-being of residents and businesses, and will offer protections from the adverse potential consequences of climate change to Portland's ecosystems and economies; and

WHEREAS, just climate action means that efforts must simultaneously address the specific experiences, vulnerabilities and needs of marginalized communities, and that these members of our community must be included and supported in actively engaging in climate action planning, policy, and actions; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the City has already demonstrated leadership in climate action by leading the State to restrict the use of single use packaging, adopting the Pesticide Ordinance, developing municipal solar arrays, conducting energy upgrades in municipal buildings, deploying electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, implementing an Energy Benchmarking Ordinance, and undertaking neighborhood scale resiliency planning with Bayside Adapts; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2018, the Portland City Council adopted the goal of reducing citywide greenhouse emissions 80% by 2050 and on May 11, 2017, adopted the goal of using 100% clean energy in municipal operations by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is partnering with the City of South Portland to develop a regional plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the resiliency of our communities that will provide strategies to transition each community from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy, recommend a path to a zero-waste economy, prepare each City for anticipated impacts of climate change, identify policy opportunities at the state, regional and federal level to accelerate the transition to clean energy, and ensure that all strategies incorporate the needs of all members of the community in order to achieve equitable outcomes;

WHEREAS, the City Council firmly believes that Portland and the surrounding communities have the insight, drive, capacity, and resources to work for environmental justice and make transformative change, fully understanding that when we work together across social and city borders, we can build stronger networks to combat climate change in our region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is joined by a coalition of city, state, and national governments, and community and private sector leaders across the world who have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate emergency, and recognize the importance of actions to protect and enhance the well-being of current and future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Portland hereby declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, our region, our state, our nation, humanity, and the natural world and reaffirms its commitment to local climate action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council continues to support immediate actions to safeguard against the current, inevitable, and potential consequences of the climate crisis; and will set specific policy goals, provide emergency funding to address these goals, and mobilize our community to implement these goals once the *One Climate Future* plan is completed in 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs staff to continue its development of the *One Climate Future* plan, and provide options for aggressive interim targets to accelerate the reduction pathway by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland re-commits to ensuring that the City's actions remain in alignment with the most current scientific findings regarding climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Portland City Council commit to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to the *One Climate Future* planning process, and invites and encourages those communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is directed to incorporate climate resilience policies identified in the *One Climate Future* plan in all updates of the Portland Comprehensive Plan and other City plans to ensure climate change and resiliency efforts are strong, effective, and aligned; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is directed to promote inter-departmental coordination to ensure that emergency management plans offer an aligned approach to the threats of the climate crisis and natural hazards, including but not limited to sea level rise and flooding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Portland City Council commit to educating our residents about the financial and regulatory actions needed to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible – with a priority focus on putting in place policies, programs and actions within the 2030 timeframe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council commits to educating our residents about the climate emergency and advocating for a just and accelerated transition away from fossil fuels at the local, regional, state, and national level through the climate planning process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Portland City Council demand that our federal government, and all governments and peoples around the world initiate an immediate social and economic mobilization to reverse global warming and ecological destruction by:

- Immediately halting the development of all new fossil fuel infrastructure;
- Rapidly phasing out the use of fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them; and
- Ending greenhouse gas emissions by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Portland City Council ask the City Manager to send a copy of this resolution to Portland's state and federal legislative delegations, to the Governor of Maine, and to the President of the United States.