

Commissioner Tighe moved that the following Resolution be adopted:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

STATE OF COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. CC20-254

RE: Board of County Commissioners - Resolution Acknowledging the Global Climate Crisis and Affirming the County's Commitment to Climate Action

WHEREAS, climate change is an unfolding crisis that presents a serious threat to humanity; and

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, 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, in November, 2018, the 4th National Climate Assessment illustrates the threat that climate change poses to the American economy, our environment and climate stability, and the need for immediate action to address the climate crisis at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2019, the Governor of Colorado signed into legislation HB19-1261 (Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution) to address state-wide greenhouse gas pollution, establish statewide greenhouse gas pollution reduction goals, and make an appropriation; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County and the State of Colorado see the impacts of climate change in the form of prolonged drought, elevated wildfire risk and risk to first responders and residents, air pollution, more extreme heat, species stress, widespread beetle infestation, increased risk of infectious and vector-borne diseases, more frequent and severe flooding, more severe ground-level ozone pollution causing respiratory damage and loss of life, decreased economic activity from outdoor recreation and agriculture and diminished quality of life which will become more severe as global GHG emissions continue to negatively impact the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, to stay within 1.5°C, communities, towns, cities, counties, and nations throughout the world will need to significantly reduce their per capita emissions by 2030 or earlier; and

WHEREAS, efforts to control climate change will have benefits such as cleaner air and water, improved health, increased local employment; cost savings for households, businesses and the county, and the creation of a stronger and more resilient community; and

WHEREAS, throughout the United States, frontline communities have historically borne the brunt of longstanding social and environmental injustice and it is acknowledged that these communities must actively participate in the planning, decision making, and implementation of climate action and must benefit equally from a transition to a sustainable and equitable economy; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County recognizes the negative impacts and cost of climate change and that local governments can have a direct and lasting impact on sustainability, we join a global coalition of city, state and national governments along with community and business leaders to take action to protect and enhance the well-being of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County has already taken steps to lower greenhouse gas emissions by creating a Sustainability Coordinator position, developing a Sustainability Program, improving energy efficiency of county buildings, installing electric vehicle charging stations, procuring renewable energy through solar garden subscriptions, and implementing a waste diversion program; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Sustainability Commission partnered with Xcel Energy in its Partners in Energy program resulting in a 185% increase in participation in Xcel Energy's Energy Efficiency programs and more than \$605,000 of savings to county residents; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Sustainability Commission and Jefferson County Public Health and Environment partnered to fund a 2020 annual membership in ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Jefferson County

1. hereby declares addressing Climate Change a critical priority for Jefferson County; and
2. commits to ensuring the county's actions remain in alignment with the most current scientific findings regarding climate change; and
3. develops a Climate Action Plan, which is a strategic planning process for developing goals, policies and programs to reduce the county's greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change that are consistent with or exceeding Colorado state goals and objectives; and
4. invites and encourages the Jefferson County community to actively participate in this process to advocate for their priorities; and
5. commits to address the concerns of underrepresented and vulnerable communities during the climate planning process; and
6. undertakes ICLEI's Climate Cohort to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emission throughout the community, and specifically:
 - conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast to determine the source and quantity of GHG emission in Jefferson County;
 - establish a GHG reduction target;
 - establish a renewable energy target;
 - develop a Climate Action Plan with both existing and future actions which when implemented will meet targets;
 - implement the Climate Action Plan; and
 - monitor and report progress of the Climate Action Plan.

Commissioner Dahklemper seconded the adoption of the foregoing Resolution. The roll having been called, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Casey Tighe	Aye
Commissioner Libby Szabo	No
Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper, Chairman	Aye

The Resolution was adopted by majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado.

Dated: September 15, 2020