

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05**

A **RESOLUTION** of the City Council of Bainbridge Island, Washington, hereby declaring the existence of a Climate Emergency, reaffirming the City's commitment to Climate Action, and to establish a program and procedures to ensure future City plans and City approved projects and actions are evaluated consistent with its adopted climate goals and policies.

**WHEREAS**, in April 2016, world leaders from 197 countries from around the globe recognized the threat of climate change, that it is caused by human related greenhouse gas emissions, and the need to urgently combat it by adopting the Paris Climate Agreement, and working to limit global temperature increase to no more than 1.5°Celsius from pre-industrial levels; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 12, 2017, the Bainbridge Island City Council adopted Resolution No. 2017-20, affirming the City of Bainbridge Island's commitment to meet or exceed the greenhouse gas goals established in the Paris Climate Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ("IPCC") warned that it would not be possible to meet the 1.5°Celsius goal unless global greenhouse gases were reduced 45 percent below 2010 levels by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050, requiring an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 11 years; and

**WHEREAS**, global temperatures having increased approximately 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels, causing overall climate disruption and global warming, resulting in higher temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, rising seas and acidified oceans, which in turn are causing increased and more intense wildfires, floods, loss of habitat, new ranges for diseases and pests, adverse human health effects, economic hardship, homelessness, species extinctions, food and potable water shortages, droughts, and extreme weather; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently recognized that climate change is occurring at a rapidly increasing rate and that our elected officials have a moral responsibility to seek solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, Bainbridge Island is an island surrounded by a sea, which is predicted to rise significantly in the coming years due to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, Bainbridge Island's Comprehensive Plan, which serves as the City's Sustainability Plan, calls for the protection of the Island's finite environmental resources, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the effects of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017 the City Council took a step towards implementing the goals and policies contained in the Comprehensive Plan by creating a Climate Change Advisory Committee to assist in implementing the Comprehensive Plan's climate related goals, including a reduction of our Island's greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in our Island's adaptation to the effects of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, at its annual retreat in January of 2019 the City declared the creation and implementation of a Climate Action Plan one of its highest priorities for the coming year; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's Climate Change Advisory Committee is working on developing a Climate Action Plan and strives to present a draft plan to the City Council in late Spring 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is working to develop a Sustainable Transportation Plan, to promote a shift in transportation modes, with an overall goal of a net reduction in transportation related greenhouse gas emissions, as well as a host of additional related benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the City will appoint a Green Building Task Force to develop a green building program where buildings are designed to reduce the overall impact of the built environment on human health and the natural environment by efficiently using energy, water and other resources; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the current climate-related planning there are additional short-term actions that should be taken to advance progress on the overall goals of climate change mitigation and adaption even prior to final adoption and implementation of the City's climate-related plans; and

**WHEREAS**, the longer we delay taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the greater the threat posed by climate change to current and future-generations, and the more costly it will be to protect and maintain our community and natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the longer we delay taking action to prepare for and respond to climate change effects, the fewer options we will have and the more expensive those options are likely to be to adapt to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bainbridge Island takes pride in being a model City for progressive environmental legislation and sustainability, and has demonstrated itself to be a leader in this front through numerous adopted Ordinances and Resolutions; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 20, 2019, the City's youth and young adults joined with their companions around the world to call for a global climate strike and greater, more urgent climate leadership from their elected officials and public institutions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The City declares that our Island, region, state, nation, and the natural world are experiencing a Climate Emergency. The City Council hereby expresses a renewed commitment to ensure its actions and decisions going forward are in line with reducing the impact of that emergency;

**Section 2.** The City commits to take immediate actions to safeguard against the current, inevitable, and potential consequences of climate change and to encourage the full participation of the entire Bainbridge community in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts;

**Section 3.** The City commits to developing a procedure and process whereby the City’s plans and City approved projects will be evaluated through a “Climate Lens”, such as through a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Certification, or similar process, prior to approval to ensure they are consistent with the City’s adopted climate goals and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce our vulnerability to climate change;

**Section 4.** The City commits to educating Island residents and the business community about the Climate Emergency and organizing and advocating for climate emergency mobilization efforts at the local, regional, state, national, and global levels to provide maximum protection for the Island as well as all the people and species of the world; and

**Section 5.** The City commits to calling on higher levels of government to provide financial and regulatory assistance to support the City’s efforts to respond to this Climate Emergency.

PASSED by the City Council this 9th day of June, 2020.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 9th day of June, 2020.

  
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Leslie Schneider, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATE:

  
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Christine Brown, CMC, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:  
RESOLUTION NO.

March 13, 2020  
June 9, 2020  
2020-05