Subject: Resolution Recognizing the Existence of a Climate Emergency and Supporting Emergency Mobilization Efforts to Restore a Safe Climate

Summary:

Climate change is a global existential issue that requires urgent and bold local government action to be overcome. In Fall 2019, the Florida State legislature, for the first time in history, acknowledged that climate change was an urgent threat to the health and well-being of our communities, real estate, and economy.

Since 2007, the City of Orlando has taken a leadership role on this issue of climate change, becoming internationally recognized and seen as a model for other cities and communities. Through the Green Works Orlando Community Action Plan, we have also set bold, science-based, and ambitious goals to ultimately achieve net-zero carbon by 2050.

We have become early participants of the Mayor's Climate Protection Pledge, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), and current serve on the national steering committee for the U.S. Climate Mayors network.

In addition to these pledges and participation, we have actually invested in and proven various climate solutions in Orlando, including transitioning our City fleet to electric and alternative fuel, retrofitting buildings for energy and water efficiency, installing rooftop solar on our Fire Stations and neighborhood centers, supporting local solar coops for our residents, and purchasing green power from the OUC solar farms to meet a growing amount of our electricity needs. These investments are not only reducing pollution for the planet, they are saving the City millions of dollars and improving our collective quality of life.

In addition, OUC has committed to a clean energy transition that will achieve net-zero carbon by 2050 for the entire utility. To date, due to these important efforts to transition to cleaner energy sources, Orlando has seen a reduction of roughly 20% over the last 13 years compared to 2007 levels (2019 GHG emissions inventory).

The Climate Emergency declaration is the next step in local climate leadership. It’s an effort to not just acknowledge, but declare an emergency response to climate change and the ecological breakdown we are witnessing today.

The Climate Emergency declaration has now been signed by more than 1,000 governments around the World -- including National governments like Spain and the EU; large cities like New York City, Los Angeles, Austin; and even smaller cities and counties like Ann Arbor (MI), Hoboken (NJ), and Chico (CA), Montgomery County (MD).

See attached for several letters for local students and youth climate leaders advocating for our declaration.

Fiscal & Efficiency Data: No fiscal impact.
Recommended Action:
Adopting a Resolution declaring a climate emergency in Orlando.

Agenda Item attachment(s) on file in the City Clerks Office.

Note: All agenda items must be in the City Clerk's office by Noon Friday, six (6) business days prior to the regular Monday City Council meeting.

Contact: Chris Castro, 407-246-3463

Approved By:

Department                                Date and Time
Budget Outside Routing Approval 10/28/2020 10:53 AM
City Clerk 10/29/2020 3:22 PM

ATTACHMENTS:

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<tr>
<td>Climate_Emergency_Declaration_Letters_5th_graders.pdf</td>
<td>Climate Emergency letters from Orlando students</td>
<td>Backup Material</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orlando_Climate_Change_Resolution_final_1.pdf</td>
<td>Orlando Climate Change Resolution</td>
<td>Backup Material</td>
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"Enhance the quality of life in the City by delivering public services in a knowledgeable, responsive and financially responsible manner."
RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE EXISTENCE OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUPPORTING MOBILIZATION EFFORTS TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders recognized the urgent need to combat climate change by establishing the Paris Agreement with a goal to keep global warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C;”

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, 1.5°C of global warming could expose 500 million people to water poverty, 36 million people to food insecurity because of lower crop yields, and 4.5 billion people to heat waves;

WHEREAS, in October 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to even the dangerous 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy by 2030;

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a mobilization effort in order to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy; to rapidly and safely drawdown and remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere until safe, pre-industrial climate conditions are restored; and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of global warming;

WHEREAS, Orlando, Florida can continue to act as a global leader supporting the mobilization effort to convert to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative local economy, as well as continue advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the climate change crisis;

WHEREAS, such necessary measures to restore a safe climate include, but not limited to:

a) A managed phase-out of fossil fuels;
b) Ending greenhouse gas emissions to establish a zero-emissions economy;
c) A widespread effort to drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere;
d) A full transition to a regenerative agriculture system; and
e) Widespread conservation and restoration of ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The City Council of the City of Orlando, Florida recognizes the existence of a climate emergency and calls for mobilization efforts to restore a safe climate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The City of Orlando, Florida commits to a citywide mobilization effort to restore a safe climate, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from State and Federal authorities, ends citywide greenhouse gas emissions and initiates an effort to draw down carbon from the atmosphere;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The City of Orlando Florida will continue to engage and collaborate with community members on efforts to restore a safe climate and healthy community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The City of Orlando, Florida calls on the State of Florida, the United States Congress, and the President of the United States, to declare a climate emergency, initiate a mobilization effort to reverse global warming and the climate change crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world.
This Resolution was passed and adopted at a meeting of the City Council of the City of Orlando, Florida, this 9th day of NOVEMBER, 2020.

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA:

[Signature]

Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore

ATTEST, BY THE CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA:

[Signature]

City Clerk

Stephanie Ardolino

Print Name

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA:

[Signature]

City Attorney

Sarah Tait

Print Name