



RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND RESTORATION OF A SAFE CLIMATE TO CREATE AN ECOLOGICALLY, SOCIALLY, AND ECONOMICALLY RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the City of Montague shall provide for the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of persons and property in the City, and seeks to lead efforts in our community to create an ecologically, socially, and economically responsible community; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders recognized the urgent need to combat climate change by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to engage in efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 2.7°F (1.5°C) and no more than 3.6°F (2°C) above pre-industrial levels; and

WHEREAS, the current average global temperature has already increased by 1.8°F (1°C) which is impacting the welfare of people and communities throughout the world by increasing extreme weather events such as wildfires, floods, rising seas, droughts, and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the increase in, and intensity of, extreme weather events cause the loss of homes and property, jeopardize livelihoods, damage crops, impact travel and supply corridors, increase soil erosion and vegetation loss, decrease access to water, and damage public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes region is already experiencing an increase in annual temperatures, precipitation and flooding; and

WHEREAS, climate change is impacting humans as well as stressing the integrity of the ecological community by causing the extinction of species, loss of habitat, decreased water quality, and increases in detrimental organisms such as the Lyme disease bacterium; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate begins by tackling issues at the local level to directly benefit our local community; and

WHEREAS, the City's local actions will positively impact the quality of life for populations around the globe as well; and

WHEREAS, the ability to limit the global temperature increase to 2.7°F (1.5°C) requires immediate and focused efforts by the City to facilitate steps necessary to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy, to safely remove and decrease all excess carbon, and to implement measures to protect people and the ecological community from climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, the scope of action necessary to stabilize the climate requires public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop effective, just, equitable and compelling programs and policies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Montague recognizes that we have taken initial steps to reduce our ecological footprint and minimize our climate impact, and we wish to move quickly to further our efforts to address the crisis at hand.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the City of Montague declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens all of humanity and our natural world; and

- that the City of Montague commits to a citywide effort to eliminate the City's greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, and to implement additional projects to decrease carbon levels in the atmosphere; and

- that the City Council directs the City Manager and all City Departments, authorities, and commissions to report, within 180 days of adopting this resolution, on greenhouse gas emissions that can feasibly be reduced by 1) the beginning of the next fiscal year, 2) by the end of 2030, and 3) by the end of 2040. The City Council and City administration will utilize this information to develop a Climate Mobilization Action Plan (*Climate MAP*) and integrate objectives within fiscal year budgets; and

- that the City Council directs the City Manager and Zoning Administrator to report on opportunities within the City's Code of Ordinance and the City's Master Plan to implement policies and ordinances to address climate change and ecological impacts, including activities that prioritize decreasing the use of fossil fuel and increasing the use of land in ways that are adapted to climate change; and

- that the City Council directs the City Manager and City Departments to seek out and report back on opportunities and funding to implement this resolution, and to include reduction statements in all relevant budgets, actions, and motions; and

- that the City Council directs the City Manager to oversee the City's efforts to coordinate climate and environmental programs that address such factors as climate adaptation, engagement, and education, plus the development of the *Climate MAP* to guide the City's climate emergency response; and

- that the City will engage its residents, visitors and businesses on the climate emergency so their input informs the creation of the *Climate MAP*; and

- that the City of Montague calls upon the residents and business within the City, the State of Michigan, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to join us and declare a climate emergency, initiate a climate mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Montague, County of Muskegon, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on December 21, 2020.

*Kathy G. Pelleran Mahoney
City Clerk*