



September 30, 2020

Hello Group and Chapter Leaders,

I am writing from the Sierra Club Grassroots Network *Climate Emergency Mobilization (CEM) Team* to invite you to **join our efforts to mobilize, expand, and accelerate local, regional, and national climate emergency actions**. Our volunteer CEM team is working nationally to build an emergency-level response to our climate crisis. We are building a grassroots movement to stop climate disruption and reverse the warming that is already impacting our lives. As Sierra Club's Executive Director Michael Brune said recently, "The climate emergency is here. It is threatening our homes, our families, our livelihoods, and everything we hold dear."

Declaring a Climate Emergency Can Help Build a Movement

In spite of federal inaction, your Chapter can help build a grassroots climate response that energizes activists and helps build a movement by taking three simple steps:

- Pass a Chapter Resolution declaring a Climate Emergency.
- Identify one or more climate leaders in your Chapter to join our CEM Team.
- Share your climate success stories with us so that we, in turn, can share them with activists throughout the country.

Linking our individual Chapter efforts through a Climate Emergency Resolution and shared success stories can help build and sustain a movement calling for immediate and comprehensive climate actions. We are powerful together and joining our voices is an important way for us to demonstrate our common commitment to transformative climate action.

How a Climate Emergency Declaration Helps Individual Chapters

Declaring a Climate Emergency supports Chapter members, staff, programs, and allies by:

- Demonstrating support for all local activists calling for bold climate actions. This can be important whether the goal is supporting coalition allies or attracting support for the Chapter's own climate initiatives.
- Supporting recruitment of new Chapter volunteers or members. This can be especially meaningful for youth who are deeply concerned and passionate about climate and who are looking for an organizational home. It can have the additional benefit of re-energizing existing volunteers while adding capacity to old and new climate related programs.

- Strengthening its messaging on climate as the Chapter engages with new coalition members, works with long-standing coalition allies, or engages with elected officials.

Using the Attached Resolution Template

The attached template resolution makes it easy for your Group or Chapter to declare a Climate Emergency. The template's WHEREAS statements are derived from international and national governmental bodies, climate science, Sierra Club policies and statements, and major institutions and organizations.

The RESOLVED statements both acknowledge the existential threat of climate change and commit to specific actions. These commitments add important value since they demonstrate a Chapter's willingness to meet the challenges of climate disruption by taking the courageous steps that are required of us at this unprecedented time.

A Chapter's WHEREAS and RESOLVED statements can be tailored to local conditions and capabilities. Helpful ideas and explanations are attached with the template itself.

Join our CEM Team and Share Your Success Stories

Your hard work can help others be successful too. Please identify someone in your Chapter to serve as a liaison to our team. Sharing your success stories or "lessons learned" is as easy as subscribing to our discussion listserv (GN-CEM-DISCUSSION) or joining our Grassroots Network CEM Team. You'll also be able to learn about what other climate activists are doing, and bring that knowledge to your Chapter's work.

The Grassroots Network Climate Emergency Mobilization Team

Our CEM Team was formed in late 2019 to mobilize and support activists who are working to address our climate crisis. Our aim is to stimulate and support diverse local movements seeking comprehensive, immediate, and sustained actions to reduce emissions of climate pollutants and/or sequester atmospheric carbon following Sierra Club policies.

[Communities throughout the world are declaring climate emergencies](#) and forging ahead with local actions. We and they recognize that business-as-usual is not an option. We are working together to press for near-term actions which reduce the heat that is continuing to build across our planet. This work represents a growing global movement calling for bold, transformative change and a new climate culture that accepts the challenge of escalating climate disruption and responds with calls for immediate action. We embrace this global movement and invite you to join us.

On behalf of our Leadership Team,

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