

**OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Adopted: February 8, 2022

Effective: February 8, 2022

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment detailed the massive threat posed by climate change to the American economy and underscored the need for emergency climate action at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Assessment of the Impacts of Climate Change on the Great Lakes highlights the significant impacts of climate change in our region, including many observed, and predicted effects of climate changes (e.g., increased flooding, power outages, heat waves/record high temperatures, out-of-season tornados, record low temperatures, delayed planting/growing season changes, etc.), which disproportionately impact the Township’s most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, the consensus of scientific and policy assessments from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change calls for urgent and decisive action by local governments to make “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Oshtemo Township Board has already recognized climate crisis in our area, the importance of taking action to mitigate global climate change, and wishes to promote local solutions and regional cooperation on the climate crisis issue; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board has already taken action to mitigate climate change on a local level through:

1. The 2019 Adoption of GO! Green Oshtemo, a comprehensive and coordinated plan for parks and recreation (e.g., increasing parks/green space by acquiring 65+ acres of land since 2004 and improving facilities), conservation (e.g., revising ordinances to adopt a Natural Features Protection District; encouraging open space communities; and identifying areas of conservation interest for additional preservation), and non-motorized transportation (e.g., requiring sidewalks in new developments, adopting the Complete Streets Policy (to add sidewalks and increasing non-motorized trails and reduce reliance on cars);
2. Establishing an ordinance to allow green burials to: (a) reduce the carbon footprint of maintenance operations, (b) promote biodegradable burial alternatives to residents, (c) preserve natural spaces and provide native prairie/savannah reconstruction habitats;
3. Acting as good stewards of our publicly owned natural resources by: (a) reconstructing native prairie, constructing raingardens, planting trees, removing invasive vegetation, (b) updating the Township's ordinances to allow for "planned native landscaping", and (c) integrating sustainable landscaping at Township facilities;
4. Promoting non-motorized transportation by constructing sidewalks and trails on Drake Road, Stadium Drive, Green Meadow Road, and Croyden Avenue in 2020 and 2021 and by creating a road cyclist trailhead with a wide variety of amenities for cyclists at the Grange Hall;
5. Promoting sustainable practices and energy use reduction including: (a) revising Township Ordinances to minimize excessive areas of pavement to limit the urban heat island effect and decrease runoff, (b) requiring monitoring and limiting of natural resource loss for issuance of all clear-cutting permits, and (c) transitioning street lighting (and lights in Township facilities) to LED lights to reduce energy consumption;
6. Requiring all new developments within the Business Research Park (BRP) districts to incorporate one (or more) sustainable products and/or methodologies (e.g., Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Counsel, installing solar technology, etc.) for Planning Commission and/or Board of Appeals approval;
7. Installing an electric car charging station on 9th Street at Flesher Field (funded by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA));

8. Updating the Master Plan to preserve the Township's rural character by reducing allowable density in the Rural Residential area, updating Township Ordinances to encourage sustainable development and preserve natural habitats within and outside the Natural Features Protection District;

WHEREAS, hundreds of municipalities have pledged to adopt and uphold the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement, committing to: the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, an increase in investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, the creation of a clean energy economy, and building relationships to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, over 1,000 local governments in 18 countries (including Kalamazoo County's Board of Commissioners) have already signed emergency declarations; and

WHEREAS, Oshtemo Township residents have requested that the Township Board take action to declare a climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, a formal Declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Township Board is a critical step in addressing said crisis to (1) provide a catalyst to mobilize residents, businesses, faith and community organizations, and others to work together to prioritize an immediate reduction in CO2 emissions, (2) support the Township's current effort to mitigate climate change, and (3) assist with future plans for community resilience and adaptation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Oshtemo Charter Township Board declares that a climate emergency threatens our citizens as well as the larger region, state, and natural world, and further resolves as follows:

1. that the intent of this Declaration of a Climate Emergency is to both affirm the Township's existing commitments and to support current efforts to develop a local climate action plan and to set measurable goals to achieve and implement such a plan; and
2. to accept a role of leadership in the local community and seek partnerships with local and regional governments, businesses, community groups, educational, and other organizations to utilize existing resources and expertise to meet our shared goals; and

3. to take action to seek any available state, federal, or other funding available for its climate change mitigation plans, and form alliances with other Michigan municipalities that have declared a climate emergency (or have an established action plan) to lobby for such funding; and

4. commit to keeping the concerns of its residents (including the most vulnerable communities) in mind when making plans, adopting policies, and planning for changes by actively encouraging resident participation and advocacy in its climate change mobilization efforts to ensure inclusivity and that community needs are being met.

Motion was made by **Kristine Cole** and seconded by **Zak Ford**, to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Upon roll call vote the following voted "Aye":

Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Dusty Farmer, Clare Buszka, Zak Ford, Cheri Bell,
Kristin Cole, Kizzy Bradford

The following voted "Nay":

None

The following were Absent:

None

The following Abstained:

None

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the Resolution duly adopted.



Dusty Farmer, Clerk
Oshtemo Charter Township

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO)

I, Dusty Farmer, the duly appointed and acting Clerk of the Township of Oshtemo, certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Oshtemo Charter Township Board held on February 8, 2022, which meeting was preceded by required notices under the Michigan Open Meetings Act, being 1976 PA 267; that a quorum of the Board was present and voted in favor of said Resolution; and that minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Open Meetings Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed my official signature on this 9 day of February, 2022.



Dusty Farmer, Clerk
Oshtemo Charter Township