



Resolution NO. 113

A Resolution in support of B.C. Earth Keepers: Climate Action Now, Climate Emergency Declaration.

BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN - 4/13/2021

Resolved by the Commission of the City of Battle Creek:

That the City of Battle Creek recognizes that current evidence indicates that a climate emergency threatens our citizens, city, region, state and the natural world.

The intent of this declaration is to both affirm existing commitments and support the City of Battle Creek in implementing its Environmental Sustainability Plan by urging the ongoing development of specific metrics that can be used regularly to review and evaluate progress toward the mitigation of the causes of climate change.

The City of Battle Creek pledges to regularly update its Environmental Sustainability Plan and mitigation activities based on the latest scientific evidence.

The City of Battle Creek will continue to seek partnerships with other regional governments, businesses, community groups, educational and other anchor institutions to best utilize expertise and resources to meet shared climate change mitigation goals.

The City of Battle Creek will seek available state, federal and private funding for this effort and consider alliances with other Michigan cities that have declared a climate emergency or have a written climate emergency action plan to lobby for such funding.

The City of Battle Creek recognizes the need to continue to build community participation, inclusion and support for the climate mobilization effort.

The City of Battle Creek supports B.C. Earth Keepers: Climate Action Now, Climate Emergency Declaration.

I, Victoria Houser, City Clerk of the City of Battle Creek, hereby certify the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Battle Creek City Commission at a Regular meeting held on April 13, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria L. Houser".

Victoria Houser

Battle Creek City Commission

4/13/2021

Action Summary

Staff Member: Shawna Allen, Executive Assistant

Department: City Manager

SUMMARY

A Resolution in support of B.C. Earth Keepers: Climate Action Now, Climate Emergency Declaration.

BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

HISTORY, BACKGROUND and DISCUSSION

The Battle Creek City Commission adopted the United States Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement on August 15, 2006.

The City of Battle Creek adopted an Environmental Sustainability Plan on February 5, 2019, that established seven areas of concern along with goals and objectives.

The City has moved forward with initiatives to ensure a sustainable future such as transportation options including bike paths and expanded bus routes, new light detection lights, LED lighting, wood chip boiler heater for City Hall, upgrades to Verona Pumping Station energy efficiency, plus more initiatives covering energy, water, transportation, waste management and land use.

The global, national and local effects of climate change threaten all of the City of Battle Creek's environmental sustainability goals and the welfare of all its inhabitants.

The consensus conclusion of scientific and policy assessments from the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations calls for urgent and decisive actions by governments around the world 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 disastrous impacts.

The United States Government's Fourth National Climate Assessment detailed the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy and underscored the need for emergency climate action at all levels of government.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Goddard Institute for Space Studies, global temperatures in 2018 were 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than the 1951 to 1980 history.

World Wildlife Fund's 2018 Living Planet report finds that there has been a 60% decline in global wildlife populations between 1970 and 2014, with causes of overfishing, pollution and climate change.

According to the 2019 Intergovernmental Science Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, human activity has already severely altered 40% of the marine environment, 50% of inland waterways and 75% of the planet's land, and it is projected that 500,000 to 1 million species are threatened with extinction, many within the next decades.

The 2019 Assessment of the Impacts of Climate Change on the Great Lakes highlights the significant impacts in our unique backyard. Here in Battle Creek and all over southwest Michigan, we are increasingly experiencing the predicted impacts of climate change including heavy rain, rising water levels, flooding of streets and homes, power outages and heat waves. Farmers cannot plant or delay planting due to flooded fields. Insects infest new areas bringing with them new diseases. Record low temperatures with snow and ice close schools and businesses.

As of 2021, over 1,788 local governments and 31 countries, including at least 68 cities, towns and counties in the United States, have already signed emergency declarations, including Kalamazoo, Lansing, Ann Arbor, San Francisco, Miami, Boston, Los Angeles, New York City.

A formal Declaration of a Climate Emergency by the City of Battle Creek is a critical and courageous next step in laying the foundation to address the climate emergency. A formal declaration will provide the catalyst to mobilize residents, businesses, institutions, faith and community organizations to work together to prioritize the immediate reduction of CO₂ emissions and support the City in current efforts to plan for community resilience and adaptation while keeping the concerns of vulnerable populations central to a just transition.

POSITIONS

The Sustainable BC Committee has reviewed and recommended this action be taken by the City Commission.

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
No Attachments Available	