

RESOLUTION #13-R-19

Climate Change

Date: October 2, 2019

Submitted By: Alderperson Schultz – District 9, Alderperson Meltzer – District 2, Alderperson Fenton – District 6, & Alderperson Otis – District 15

Referred To: Parks & Recreation Committee

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report in October 2018 titled, “Global Warming of 1.5°C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty”, and the United States Global Change Research Program released the “Fourth National Climate Assessment” (NCA4) in November 2018, which found:

- The global climate is diverting from its prehistoric pattern due primarily to human activity since the Industrial Revolution, including increased greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and other land use changes.
- Human activities have increased the average global temperature by approximately 1.0°C (1.8°F) since the early 1800s, and will likely rise to 1.5°C (2.7°F) between 2030 and 2052, and 2.0°C (3.6°F) under current emissions, making the Earth significantly less habitable for humans and wildlife alike; and

WHEREAS, the August 2016 report by the Environmental Protection Agency on Wisconsin's future climate affirmed that Wisconsin's climate is changing over the past century, has already warmed about two degrees (F), and also finding:

- Ice cover on the Great Lakes is forming later or melting sooner and in the coming decades, the state will have more extremely hot days. These warming trends will lead to greater algal blooms, more frequent and severe storms which increase pollutant run-off into the lakes, and produce heat waves dangerous to vulnerable populations like the young, elderly, sick and poor.
- Wisconsin will likely experience a decline to 1980s levels in agricultural productivity, a downturn in the forest industry as trees succumb to temperature changes and the advancement of invasive species, loss of biodiversity as many plant and animal species go extinct and increased public health problems from poorer air quality due to increases in ground-level ozone, extended length of pollen seasons, and deadlier than ever urban heat island effects; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, of which the United States is a Member State, adopted the Paris Agreement (Paris Climate Accord) in 2016, a global plan to counteract climate change and prevent the average global temperature from rising to or above 2°C, and

WHEREAS, The overwhelming threats from climate change and human induced stressors to our environment, infrastructure, economy, and residents' health require that we take bold mitigation and adaptation measures to address these consequences of climate change well beyond the many successful measures already employed on City properties, grounds and facilities; and

WHEREAS, Climate change will impact all residents of Appleton, but will disproportionately affect communities already facing disparities in socioeconomic and health resources, and as such,

climate action is necessary to advance social equity; and

WHEREAS, Efforts to reduce carbon emissions, adapt to climate change impacts and address issues of environmental pollution and waste will benefit Appleton residents through cost savings, stable energy prices, job opportunities and increased local revenues, social equity, improved air and water quality, and improved public health; and

WHEREAS, A climate action plan is the best platform to outline urgently needed comprehensive mitigation and adaptation strategies to address a changing climate, excessive waste, persistent non-point pollution as well as introduce new opportunities to embrace localized alternative energy production, reforestation for carbon sinking, enhanced focus on smart buildings and environmentally sound growth, composting and rainwater retention and reuse, increased public transit and non-motorized transportation opportunities, and expansion of locally grown and ready available non-processed food sources, and more;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Appleton hereby establishes a taskforce named the "Appleton Taskforce on Resiliency, Climate Mitigation and Adaptation" to convene area leaders for the purpose of making practical recommendations consistent with the 2018 IPCC and NCA4 reports so our community may move significantly toward the goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, or sooner, mitigate the adverse effects of multiple sources pollution, reduce waste in energy and food production streams, address resource depletion and other human-induced environmental stressors, increase our protection efforts of native biodiversity and reduce the spread of invasive species, and adapt to the growing threats of climate change by establishing enhanced conservation and alternative use policies that empower corporations, business and individual citizens to deploy alternative methods of traditional resource management and energy production;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Taskforce will be composed of 10 members appointed by the Mayor which shall include a city department head, 2 members of Common Council, 2 individuals from Intergovernmental Agencies and/or Institutions of Higher Learning, 2 individuals from NGOs working on Climate Change mitigation and/or resiliency, and 3 other volunteer residents of Appleton. The Taskforce will elect its own Chair and the Chair will be empowered to create subcommittees as necessary for research and recommendations to the Taskforce. Taskforce members will serve 2-year terms subject to reappointment by the Mayor.; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Taskforce shall advise the City of its recommendations which shall include, but not be limited to, providing:

- A roadmap of required and measurable governmental actions to accomplish greenhouse gas reduction goals consistent with IPCC goals;
- A comprehensive list of actionable initiatives to address climate mitigation, all aspects of waste management, biodiversity protection and enhanced resiliency, including potential costs for implementation where practical,
- A list of outside experts, the City may contract with for technical expertise who may further the goals of the Taskforce; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Taskforce shall be formed and meet as soon as practicable and shall present their findings to the Common Council within six months of resolutions' passage and bi-annually for the two year duration of the taskforce service.