

P034201903

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-019

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE GOAL OF CARBON NEUTRALITY FOR MISSOULA COUNTY OPERATIONS BY 2035 WITH AN INTERMEDIATE GOAL OF REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS 30% BELOW 2016 LEVELS BY 2025 AND ESTABLISHING A CLIMATE ACTION TEAM TO CREATE A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING THE AFOREMENTIONED GOALS.

WHEREAS, there is overwhelming scientific consensus that carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere have a profound effect on the Earth's climate; and,

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 2018 Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, which was written by 91 scientists from 40 countries and based on more than 6,000 scientific studies, found that human activities have already caused the Earth to warm by 1°C, and that allowing warming to exceed 1.5°C degrees will result in massive impacts on ecosystems, human health, and economic and social wellbeing; and,

WHEREAS, the IPCC further states that limiting global warming to 1.5°C will require unprecedented global action, including phasing out greenhouse gas emissions entirely by 2050; and,

WHEREAS, in 2016 the United States became a signatory to the Paris Agreement and, as part of that agreement, pledged to reduce nationwide greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025; and,

WHEREAS, despite the Trump Administration's intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, Missoula County plans to join the over 280 cities and counties, 10 states, and 9 tribes that have committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the aims of the Paris Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the 2017 Montana Climate Assessment determined that impacts of climate change in Northwest Montana, including Missoula County, will include reduced low-elevation snowpack, earlier spring snowmelt, more frequent and intense droughts and wildfires, and impacts to agriculture and recreation, and that these impacts will be more severe if global greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced sharply in the near future; and,

WHEREAS, Goal #4 of the 2016 Missoula County Growth Policy is to:

Reduce Missoula County's contribution to climate change while promoting resiliency and adapting to its impact on the natural environment and communities; and,

WHEREAS, Missoula County's first greenhouse gas inventory, which determined that county government operations emitted approximately 7,583 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent in 2016, was conducted for the express purpose of setting reduction targets and climate action goals in a future climate action plan; and,

WHEREAS, a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2016 levels for Missoula County operations by 2025 is approximately in keeping with the United States' 2025 pledge in the Paris Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the initial emission reduction targets of the Paris Agreement are not enough to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C; and,

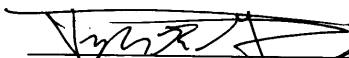
WHEREAS, by pledging to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035, Missoula County seeks to lead by example and inspire county residents and other communities to take action on the issue of climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF MISSOULA adopts a policy goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2035 and reducing greenhouse gas emissions 30% below 2016 levels by 2025 for Missoula County government operations; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF MISSOULA directs the Energy Conservation and Sustainability Coordinator to establish and lead a Climate Action Team composed of county staff to create a Climate Action Plan to achieve this goal. The Climate Action Plan shall include, at a minimum, specific action items aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from county buildings and facilities, county vehicles, and county employees' commutes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 14TH DAY OF MARCH 2019

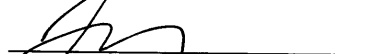
ATTEST:


Tyler Gernant, Clerk and Recorder



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MISSOULA COUNTY


Nicole Rowley, Chair


Josh Slotnick, Commissioner


David Strohmaier, Commissioner