

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 – 12 – 160

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE CRISIS AND COMMITTING TO ACCELERATED EFFORTS TO LIMIT THE GLOBAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE INCREASE

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors passed and approved Resolution 2017-7-107, *A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND APPROVING LINN COUNTY'S REGISTRATION IN THE "WE ARE STILL IN" COALITION*, committing to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5° above pre-industrial levels; and,

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the *Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C* in October 2018, stating, "Global Warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate" and "Climate-related risks for natural and human systems are higher for global warming of 1.5°C than at present;" and,

WHEREAS, Iowa is currently experiencing the following climate damages:

1. Frequent 500-year flooding throughout the state, destroying farmland, and private and public property.
2. A disruption of agricultural schedules causing significant losses in farm production.
3. A one-quarter decrease in the bird population, threatening the pollinator link in our food supply.
4. A disruption of the jet stream leading to severely dangerous winter temperatures.
5. Increased drought and heatwaves; and,

WHEREAS, as stated in *Uninhabitable Earth*, an aggregate source of United Nations climate studies, by the end of the century we are expected to face existential consequences, including:

1. Extinction of 50 percent of all species.
2. Large regions of the planet made uninhabitable through heat, flooding, and desertification, creating over 1 billion climate refugees worldwide and tens of millions of U.S. climate refugees seeking new homes in the northern central United States, including Iowa.
3. The complete functional collapse of our farming, food, and clean water systems.
4. Large-scale frequent and overlapping climate disasters in all regions of the country, including Iowa, making the rebuilding process implausible; and,

WHEREAS, our adaptation and carbon-reduction actions must reflect the urgency of the following threats:

1. If all carbon emissions stopped immediately, the existing damages to the environment will continue for 200-300 years before restoring to pre-1990 levels.
2. If no action is taken before 2030, humankind's ability to stop this threat diminishes to zero as heat feedback loops trigger unstoppable momentum towards lethal planet-wide heating; and,

WHEREAS, the IPCC Report states, global model pathways with no or limited overshoot of 1.5°C global warming include:

1. A decline in anthropogenic CO₂ emissions by approximately 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and the achievement of net zero CO₂ emissions before 2050.
2. A decline in emissions of methane and black carbon by 35% or more from 2010 levels before 2050.
3. An increase in renewables to supply 70-85% of electricity by 2050.
4. A decline in coal-generated electricity to 0% before 2050.
5. A decline in industry CO₂ emissions by 65-90% from 2010 levels before 2050.
6. An increase in the transport sector's share of low-emission final energy from 5% in 2020 to approximately 35-65% before 2050.
7. The use of carbon dioxide removal on the order of 100-1000 GtCO₂ over the 21st century, which includes measures of afforestation, reforestation, soil carbon sequestration, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, and direct air carbon capture and storage; and,

WHEREAS, Linn County does not have a countywide, multi-sector Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the year 2010 or any year after; and,

WHEREAS, Cedar Rapids is the largest city in Linn County by population and land area, and Linn County is the second most populous county in Iowa, both of which contain numerous greenhouse gas-emitting industries and operations.

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Linn County Board of Supervisors hereby declares a climate crisis given global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if the global average temperature continues to increase at the current rate, and Linn County is committed to limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, given the IPCC Report's model pathways with no or limited overshoot of 1.5°C global warming, Linn County adopts the following seven targets:

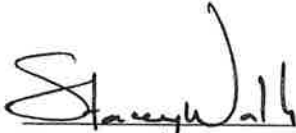
1. Decrease countywide CO₂ emissions by 45% from the first recorded year's levels by 2030 and achieve net zero CO₂ emissions by 2050.
2. Decrease countywide methane and black carbon emissions by 35% from the first recorded year's levels by 2050.
3. Increase renewables to account for 100% of electricity generation in Linn County by 2050.
4. Decrease coal-generated electricity in Linn County to 0% by 2050.
5. Decrease industry CO₂ emissions in Linn County by 90% from the first recorded year's levels by 2050.
6. Increase the Linn County transport sector's share of low-emission final energy to 65% by 2050.
7. Commit to carbon dioxide removal efforts that allow the county to achieve net zero CO₂ emissions in 2050.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, given Linn County has experienced and will continue to experience escalated weather events as a result of climate change, even if the global average temperature increase is limited to 1.5°C global warming, Linn County commits to accelerated adaptation efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Linn County is prepared to work with all other governments to achieve the maximum impact of climate mitigation efforts.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 4th day of December 2019.

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Stacey Walker
Chair



Ben Rogers
Vice Chair



Brent Oleson
Supervisor

ATTEST:



Joel Miller
Linn County Auditor