

RESOLUTION ENDORSING A CITYWIDE GREEN NEW DEAL MOBILIZATION

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a special report that:

- Found that human-caused climate change is causing an increase in extreme weather events that threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure, including wildfires that could devastate the City of Auburn; and
- Projected that limiting warming to the unsafe 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 11 years; and

WHEREAS, the United States should take a leading role in achieving that, but with active resistance at the federal level, it has fallen to the states, to local governments and to individual citizens to lead the way, and

WHEREAS, the United States is currently experiencing several interrelated crises, with life expectancy declining while “basic needs” -- such as clean air, clean water, healthy food, and adequate health care, housing and transportation -- are inaccessible to a significant portion of the United States population; a 4-decade trend of economic stagnation; and the greatest income inequality since the 1920s;

WHEREAS, the Federal Government-led mobilizations during World War II and the New Deal created the greatest middle class that the United States had ever seen, and

WHEREAS, the Green New Deal, which has been proposed at the Federal level, aims to address climate change and other societal problems like economic inequality through the creation of the union jobs required to implement the Green New Deal; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Auburn City Council commits to addressing the climate emergency through the implementation of a citywide Green New Deal Mobilization, and to do so adopts a goal to meet 100% of its electricity needs for City government operations with renewable electricity by 2025, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Auburn hereby adopts a goal of achieving a carbon neutral city by 2030 - that is, reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 100% by 2030, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Auburn endorses the following actions to achieve these goals:

- Create a climate action plan (CAP) by December 31, 2020 to provide details on how to achieve the Auburn Green New Deal, and update the CAP every five years;
- Assign additional staff as needed to implement the plan, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council will work with department heads and city staff, members of appropriate boards and commissions, businesses, community groups, academic institutions, organizations, and federal, state, and local governments to achieve these goals, and will place this issue on the agenda at 6 month intervals to assess the progress toward achieving these goals.