



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

CLAUDE V. Z. MORGAN  
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI  
City Manager

EMILY F. SCULLY  
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT  
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

**IN CITY COUNCIL  
RESOLVE #4-19/20**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ACCELERATED CLIMATE ACTION**

District One  
CLAUDE V. Z. MORGAN

\_\_\_\_\_

District Two  
KATHERINE W. LEWIS

\_\_\_\_\_

District Three  
MISHA C. PRIDE

\_\_\_\_\_

District Four  
APRIL L. CARICCHIO

\_\_\_\_\_

District Five  
DEQA DHALAC

\_\_\_\_\_

At Large  
MAXINE R. BEECHER

\_\_\_\_\_

At Large  
SUSAN J. HENDERSON

**WHEREAS**, on April 22, 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C,” which is in itself not safe for humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, the 4th Annual National Climate Assessment was released and illustrates the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy, our environment and climate stability, and underscores the need for immediate action to address a climate emergency at all levels of government; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a special report which 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 12 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts and extreme weather brought on by climate change demonstrate that the earth is too hot to be a safe environment; and

**WHEREAS**, current trends and projections show that Cumberland County can expect more frequent extreme precipitation events- categorized as coastal floods, flash floods, heavy rain and tropical storms- and increased months of drought alike; and

**WHEREAS**, waters in Casco Bay and the Gulf of Maine are warming at a rate faster than 99% of the world’s ocean, which is projected to shift marine species, contribute to ocean acidification, and disrupt traditional fisheries; and

**WHEREAS**, the past five years are collectively the warmest in modern history and according to the National Weather Service, July 2019 was the hottest month on record in the Portland area, with temperatures 3.6 degrees above the average for the month; and

**WHEREAS**, these climate changes have cascading effects on the City's economy, infrastructure, public health and safety, and other critical systems; and

**WHEREAS**, humanity can no longer safely emit greenhouse gasses and must demand an emergency mobilization effort to rapidly reach zero emissions across all sectors; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress has the responsibility to act swiftly and effectively on the issue of climate change through legislation that does not economically burden local governments or residents; and

**WHEREAS**, a Carbon Fee and Dividend as put forth by the Citizens Climate Lobby would greatly help fight climate change, help protect South Portland and its residents from the worst effects of climate change, and could be a net economic boost to South Portland and the region; and

**WHEREAS**, building a climate-resilient and adaptive society will have positive impacts on the health and wellbeing of residents and businesses, and will offer protections from the adverse potential consequences of climate change to South Portland's ecosystems and economies; and

**WHEREAS**, just climate action means that efforts must simultaneously address the specific experiences, vulnerabilities and needs of marginalized communities, and that these members of our community must be included and supported in actively engaging in climate action planning, policy, and actions; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, the City has already demonstrated leadership in climate action through the adoption of the Clear Skies Ordinance and Pesticide Ordinance, implementation of the state's largest municipal solar array, energy upgrades in municipal buildings, the deployment of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, implementation of an Energy Benchmarking Ordinance, establishment of a citywide Food Waste Recycling Program, receipt of a Coastal Community Planning Grant to prepare for coastal hazards, and advocacy for state energy policies; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 17, 2018, the South Portland City Council adopted the goals of reducing citywide greenhouse emissions 80% by 2050 and using 100% clean energy in municipal operations by 2040; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of South Portland is partnering with Portland to develop a regional plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the resiliency of our communities that will provide strategies to transition each community from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy, recommends a path to transition to a zero-waste economy, prepares each City for anticipated impacts of climate change, identifies policy opportunities at the state regional and federal level, and ensures that all strategies incorporate the needs of all members of the community in order to create equitable outcomes;

**WHEREAS**, the City of South Portland firmly believes that South Portland and the surrounding communities have the insight, drive, capacity, and resources to work for environmental justice and make transformative change, fully understanding that when we work together across social and city borders, we can build stronger networks to combat climate change in our region; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of South Portland is joined by a coalition of city, state, and national governments, and community and private sector leaders across the world who have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate emergency, and recognize the importance of actions to protect and enhance the well-being of current and future generations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of South Portland hereby declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, our region, our state, our nation, humanity, and the natural world and reaffirms its commitment to local climate action; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Portland City Council continues to support immediate actions to safeguard against the current, inevitable and potential consequences of the climate crisis; and will set specific policy goals, provide emergency funding to address these goals, and mobilize our community to implement these goals once the *One Climate Future* plan is completed in 2020; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council directs staff to continue its development of the *One Climate Future* plan, and provide options for aggressive interim targets to accelerate the reduction pathway by 2030; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The City of South Portland re-commits to ensuring that the City's actions remain in alignment with the most current scientific findings regarding climate change; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of the South Portland City Council commit to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to the *One Climate Future* planning process, and invites and encourages those communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Manager is directed to incorporate climate resilience policies identified in the *One Climate Future* plan in all updates of the South Portland Comprehensive Plan, Economic Development Plan, Waterfront Master Plan, and other City plans to ensure climate change and resiliency efforts are strong, effective, and aligned; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Manager is directed to promote inter-departmental coordination to ensure that emergency management plans offer an aligned approach to the threats of the climate crisis and natural hazards, including but not limited to sea level rise and flooding; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of the South Portland City Council commit to educating our residents about the financial and regulatory actions needed to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible - with a priority focus to putting in place policies, programs and actions within the 2030 timeframe; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Portland City Council commits to educating our residents about the climate emergency and advocating for a just and accelerated transition away from fossil fuels at the local, regional, state, and national level through the climate planning process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of the South Portland City Council demand that our federal government, and all governments and peoples around the world initiate an immediate social and economic mobilization to reverse global warming and ecological destruction by:

- Immediately halting the development of all new fossil fuel infrastructure;
- Rapidly phasing out the use of fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them; and
- Ending greenhouse gas emissions within 10 years; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Portland City Council and Mayor call on the United States Congress to address climate change at the federal level by adopting as one important measure among others a Carbon Fee and Dividend as a sound, effective policy tool; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Portland City Council and Mayor urge the United States Congress to increase the carbon fee structure upon implementation to accelerate the rate of greenhouse gas emissions reductions commensurate with the Paris Accord goals; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of the South Portland City Council ask the City Manager to send a copy of this resolution to South Portland's state and federal legislative delegations, to the Governor of Maine, and to the President of the United States.

Fiscal Note: Less than \$1,000

Dated: October 8, 2019