

South Portland City Council  
***Position Paper of the City Manager***

***Subject:***

**RESOLVE #1-17/18 – The Council of the City of South Portland Supports Joining the Mayors’ National Climate Action Agenda**

***Position:***

As outlined in the attached memo from Sustainability Coordinator Julie Rosenbach, the City Council is being asked to join the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda and thereby pledging to take actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a manner consistent with the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.

Julie will be in attendance at your meeting on Monday night to further discuss this issue.

***Requested Action:***

Council passage of Resolve #1-17/18.

  
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City Manager



*SUSTAINABILITY  
OFFICE*

JULIE A. ROSENBACH  
Sustainability Coordinator

To: Scott Morelli, City Manager, Patti Smith, Mayor, and City Council  
From: Julie Rosenbach, Sustainability Coordinator  
CC: Jessica Williams, Chair of the Energy & Recycling Committee  
Date: July 10, 2017  
**Subject: Resolve in Support of Joining the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda**

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By adopting the attached resolve, the City of South Portland will join the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda, pledging to take actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a manner consistent with the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement and to support efforts for stronger federal-level policymaking.

In the aftermath of President Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, cities around the nation have chosen to join the [Mayors National Climate Action Agenda](#) (MNCAA), which today includes more than 330 U.S. Mayors representing over 65 million Americans. In doing so, these cities have moved to affirm their commitment to the carbon reduction goals outlined in the Paris Agreement. These goals were set by 195 nations around the world who rallied around a shared interest in taking actions to keep global temperature rise to no more than 2 degrees C, preferably no more than 1.5 degrees C. Like the nations involved in the Paris accords who set their own nationally determined contributions, each participating city identifies the actions it will take as part of this effort. The participating mayors also pledge to use their collective voice to advocate for strong climate policies at the national level.

In joining the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda, the City of South Portland will be aligned with other cities around the nation that are pledging to work aggressively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There are no binding commitments for MNCAA members, only the pledge that cities are pursuing actions to achieve an emissions reduction target through:

1. Developing a community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory
2. Setting near- and long-term targets to reduce emissions
3. Developing a Climate Action Plan aligned with the City's targets.

This is consistent with the work South Portland is already undertaking to develop a Community Climate Action Plan. Adopting this resolve and working with the cities involved with MNCAA will inform the work of the Sustainability Office and present an opportunity to align the City's greenhouse gas reduction goals with other leading cities committed to climate action.



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

PATRICIA A. SMITH  
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI  
City Manager

EMILY F. SCULLY  
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT  
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

**IN CITY COUNCIL  
RESOLVE #1-17/18**

District One  
CLAUDE V. Z. MORGAN

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District Two  
PATRICIA A. SMITH

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District Three  
EBEN C. ROSE

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District Four  
LINDA C. COHEN

\_\_\_\_\_

District Five  
BRAD FOX

\_\_\_\_\_

At Large  
MAXINE R. BEECHER

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At Large  
SUSAN J. HENDERSON

**RESOLVE, that THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND  
SUPPORTS JOINING THE MAYORS NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION  
AGENDA**

**WHEREAS**, there is long-standing scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the recognition that human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, is an important driver of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, members of our community and others are already feeling the effects of climate change through increased temperatures, more extreme weather events, more frequent flooding, and other disruptions that affect our residents, economy, and way of life; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business and academic leaders as a worldwide threat with the potential to harm our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, despite this international scientific consensus, on June 1, 2017, the executive branch of the United States of America announced its intention to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord; and

**WHEREAS**, local and statewide government officials, university presidents, business owners, and others in the United States of America are determined nevertheless to support the Paris Climate Accord and, though their own actions, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of South Portland has demonstrated a legacy of leadership against climate change and has been an active supporter of initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the adoption of the Clear Skies Ordinance in 2014, an Energy Benchmarking Ordinance in 2016, the completion of a Municipal Climate Action Plan in 2017, and the placement of a solar array on the City's capped landfill which is expected to generate 12% of municipal power needs by the end of 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of South Portland remains committed to climate action and is in the process of developing a Community Climate Action Plan which will set a new Citywide greenhouse gas emissions reduction target with strategies and actions for supporting a Citywide transition to more efficient, cost effective, and renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS**, the transition to a low-carbon community reliant on the efficient use of clean energy resources and electrified transportation will improve air quality, enhance public health, increase national and energy security, create local green jobs, and reduce reliance on finite resources; and

**WHEREAS**, taking steps to increase energy efficiency and resilience can attract jobs and economic development opportunities to our community and increase our long-term economic competitiveness;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of South Portland will sign the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda, which as of June 1, 2017 already included over 300 U.S. Mayors representing 62 million Americans; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Portland City Council shall continue to support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by adopting innovative land use codes, building codes, and supporting electric vehicles, solar power generation and whatever other initiatives may meet with its approval for the continued transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon community.

Fiscal Note: Less than \$1,000

Dated: July 10, 2017