

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION DECLARING EAU CLAIRE'S COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN MUNICIPAL ACTIONS THAT STRENGTHEN THE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGEMENT AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN THIS ENDEAVOR AND SUPPORT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT 2015 [ARTICLE 2].**

**WHEREAS**, in November 2008 the City Council of City of Eau Claire adopted a resolution declaring the City, an Energy Independent Community and pledging to support the State of Wisconsin's vision for energy independence by generating 25 percent of electricity and 25 percent of transportation fuels from renewable resources by 2025, capturing 10 percent of the emerging national bio-industry and renewable energy market by 2030, and leading the nation in making clean energy more affordable; and

**WHEREAS**, in April 2009 the City Council adopted an amendment to the Eau Claire Comprehensive Plan to incorporate a Sustainability Chapter focused on advancing sustainability policies for the community and providing effective and collaborative leadership within the greater Eau Claire metropolitan region regarding sustainability; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2009 the City Council voted to make Eau Claire an eco-municipality - generally defined as a municipality that recognizes that sustainability is key to many decisions made by government and that aspires to develop an ecologically, economically, and socially healthy community for the long term through a democratic and participative community process based on the following key principles:

- Reduce dependence upon extracted fossil fuel deposits, metals, and minerals,
  - Reduce dependence on harmful chemicals and manufactured toxic substances,
  - Reduce encroachment upon nature and decrease those activities which harm life-sustaining ecosystems,
  - Meet the justice, safety, health, and social capital needs of the community;
- and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Eau Claire is a member of the Green Tier Charter for Legacy Communities and is committed to reducing the City's carbon emission footprint in accordance with the Sustainability and Health chapters of the Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Eau Claire's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a community wide effort, many years in the making, requiring many years to attain, involving utilities, businesses, nonprofits and dedicated citizens, and is in keeping with nationwide and worldwide efforts to address the harmful impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the Paris Agreement, ratified by 148 countries to date, resulted in a commitment to take action and enact programs to hold the global average temperature increase to less than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with an expectation that this goal would be reduced to 1.5 degrees in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, our Nation's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement is antithetical to sustainability and environmental initiatives the Eau Claire City Council already ratified by legislative action; and

**WHEREAS**, over 274 US cities and 12 US states, to date, representing 32% of the U.S. population, have joined 194 countries in the Paris Climate Agreement, to ensure that despite our country's absence, critical progress can be made at the local level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Eau Claire supports re-evaluating and strengthening our city government's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through planning, policy making, and municipal practices; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Eau Claire is committed to investing in clean and carbon reducing infrastructure when feasible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Eau Claire, affirms our commitment to collaborate in a public-private partnership with Eau Claire's leaders in business, government and nonprofit sectors, to strengthen efforts to implement the policies put forward in the Sustainability Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan 2005-2025, specifically Objective 4 – Atmosphere, to address and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the city at-large. The City Council requests the help of the Sustainability Advisory Committee in this effort.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council refers review of the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement to the Sustainability Advisory Committee and asks that the Committee return to the City Council with an executive summary report regarding how the City is currently addressing Agreement objectives, and for any objectives not being addressed, a list of suggestions the City may consider for action, and amends the committee's work plan to reflect such referral.

Adopted,  
June 27, 2017


(SEAL)

  
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President Kerry J. S. Kincaid

(SEAL)

  
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City Manager Dale Peters

(ATTESTED)

  
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City Clerk Donna A. Austad