

**A motion was made by Alderman Slade, seconded by Alderman Haven-O'Donnell, that this resolution be approved.**

**A Resolution Stating the Town of Carrboro's Support for  
Implementing a Price on Carbon in a Manner that does not  
Absolve Carbon Emitters from Responsibility and Regulation**

WHEREAS, there is a scientific consensus that greenhouse gas emissions are the primary cause of global climate change, and that climate change is a crisis demanding immediate measures to reduce its negative effects; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a threat to public health, national security, food security, and business supply chains, and societal costs of inaction are significant and outweigh the temporary economic impacts associated with the energy transition; and

WHEREAS, assigning a cost to greenhouse gas emissions is one of the most efficient ways to discourage consumption of fossil fuels and encourage development of alternatives; and

WHEREAS the urgent need to transition from fossil fuels can be accomplished with a market – based program, namely a revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend; and

WHEREAS such an instrument would encourage consumers and the market to replace their consumption of carbon based energy with innovative energy sources, whether by being more efficient or by choosing other, less carbon intensive energy sources; and

WHEREAS, this revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend is an effective method to reduce carbon emissions for the following reasons:

1. The fee would motivate everyone to conserve and to adopt renewable energy without the need for extensive governmental regulatory controls or infrastructure;
2. The fee would employ a free market approach to encourage innovative processes, not only in energy production, but also in every other field in which energy is consumed, e.g. electric cars, mass transportation, architectural planning and construction, water heating, lighting and air conditioning in residential and commercial buildings;
3. Levying the fee at the point of production would be more efficient, less expensive and provide more accurate price signals than would doing so at the points of consumption;
4. The fee would incentivize the development and use of alternative energies and attendant technologies;
5. Because the fee is levied on the same basis on all businesses, it is fairer to every business and easier to administer than alternatives, such as a cap and trade system; and

WHEREAS further delay in responding to this crisis increases the risk of catastrophic climate change, imminently threatens low lying coastal areas and land and sea species, threatens water supplies, increases the frequency of severe weather events, increases the cost of undertaking adequate responses and increases risks to the global economy.

Now therefore be it RESOLVED, that the Carrboro Board of Aldermen accepts the position of climate scientists that burning fossil fuels is the primary cause of climate change, and that a necessary measure to address this problem is the enactment of a revenue-neutral fee on carbon production at its source, with the fees being returned to Americans as a dividend.

Be it further RESOLVED: that the Town of Carrboro Board of Aldermen supports the concept of a federal carbon fee-and-dividend approach that levies an annually increasing revenue-neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production and importation, and that would be sufficient to:

- a. Accelerate the phasing out of fossil fuels;
- b. Make the transition from fossil fuels less onerous to consumers and to the economy by returning all the revenues gained from the fee to Americans on an equitable basis;
- c. Reduce US CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions to 40% of 1990 levels by 2020;
- d. Encourage similar actions by other nations trading with the United States, by suitable carbon content-based fees for imports and rebates for exports to nations that have not taken such actions.

Be it further RESOLVED that the Town of Carrboro Board of Aldermen believes that the carbon fee and-dividend should be implemented without reducing or preempting regulatory and legal protections for the public and the environment. In addition, fossil fuel companies should not be absolved from their potential legal liability and existing ethical responsibility. This resolution shall be sent to the Town's federal delegation.

**This the 27th day of June, 2017**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** Alderman Seils, Alderman Slade, Alderman Chaney, Mayor Lavelle, Alderman Gist, Alderman Haven-O'Donnell

I, Catherine Dorando, Town Clerk for the Town of Carrboro, NC do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen.



*Catherine Dorando*  
Town Clerk