

CITY OF ROCKLAND, MAINE

RESOLVE #11

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 8, 2021

RESOLVE Encouraging the U.S. Congress to initiate a revenue-neutral fee on Carbon Fuels

WHEREAS, Maine recognizes that the health of our citizens is dependent on the high quality of our air, water, and natural resources and that the health of much of the state's economy, including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and tourism are favored by a stable climate; and

WHEREAS, the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute agrees with the consensus of climate scientists worldwide that climate is changing rapidly and that changes are associated with increased concentrations of pollutant emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases, derived principally from the burning of the carbon fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas); and

WHEREAS, the State has pursued efforts through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to reduce the burning of carbon fuels for energy generation, and most recently by following the Maine Climate Council's recommendations across the State's economy, with the intent of meeting goals set in law to reduce emissions 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the State is responsible for only 0.3% of the nation's emissions, it is vitally important to enact national and international control; and

WHEREAS, a steadily rising price on carbon fuels is widely accepted by economists as being the most effective means to achieve Maine's stated, emissions-reduction goals; and that a revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend system (including a pollution fee levied at the wellhead, coal mine or port of entry, with all revenues returned equally to citizens and legal residents as a dividend) would leverage market forces encouraging investments in energy efficiency and alternate, energy sources by both industry and consumers. This plan is also known colloquially as "**Cashback Carbon Pricing.**" It will **a)** reduce US CO₂-equivalent emissions to 10% of 1990 levels, **b)** be fair to all segments of our population, and **c)** encourage similar actions by other nations.

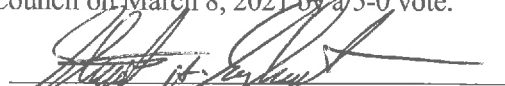
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City of Rockland supports the enactment of a **national revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend system**, that includes **a)** a steadily rising pollution fee levied as far upstream in the economy as possible, **b)** all net revenues returned equally to citizens and legal residents as a dividend, and **c)** carbon-content-based tariffs for imports from, and rebates for exports to, nations that have not taken similar actions.

The record of the vote approving this Resolve will be conveyed to the City's State Legislators, to the Governor of Maine, to the City's Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of this action within 30 days of this vote.

Sponsor: Council Dorr
Originator: Councilor Dorr

A true copy of Resolve #11 passed by the Rockland City Council on March 8, 2021 by a 5-0 vote.

Date: 09/29/2021


Stuart H. Sylvester, City Clerk