

Resolution declaring a climate emergency, committing to policies ~~opposing fossil fuel expansion that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions~~ and accelerating the clean energy transition, and ~~endorsing the call for a global fossil fuel nonproliferation treaty supporting intergovernmental cooperation to reduced GHG emissions.~~

AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the city of La Crosse is impacted by the health and safety risks of ~~fossil fuel expansion~~ greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions, and particularly citizens who face socioeconomic and health inequities, including youth, elders, Indigenous people, people of color, low-income people, those experiencing mental and physical disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, and people with health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report warns that ~~the continued installation of unabated fossil fuel infrastructure will 'lock-in' GHG emissions~~ "Global warming, reaching 1.5°C in the near-term, would cause unavoidable increases in multiple climate hazards and present multiple risks to ecosystems and humans."; and

WHEREAS, ~~the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels~~ GHG emissions exposes communities to untenable risks to the public's health and safety at the local and global levels; and

WHEREAS, the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by ~~expanding fossil fuel use and extraction~~ GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, our community is committed to a just energy transition and to appropriate investments that offset the impacts of evolving industries and employment as well as ambitious investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs, decarbonize our economy, and reduce future climate change; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of La Crosse Common Council declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, citizens, and environs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crosse Common Council opposes the rollback of climate policy and affirms its ongoing commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050 outlined in Resolution 19-0471; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crosse Common Council ~~endorses the call for a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that will end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, and accelerate equitable transition plans~~ supports intergovernmental cooperation to reduced GHG emissions because the City of La Crosse cannot mitigate the worst impacts of climate change on its own; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of La Crosse Common Council intends to implement policies ~~limiting or preventing fossil fuel expansion~~ reducing GHG emissions and promoting electrification because of the inherent dangers to the public's health and safety ~~in extraction, transport, storage, and combustion of fossil fuels~~; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Environmental Planner in collaboration with other City staff is requested to explore and develop policy recommendations in keeping with our local law-making power ~~that limit fossil fuel infrastructure expansion~~ that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote electrification and a clean energy future in order to protect public health and safety.