

RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE CRISIS

WHEREAS, anthropogenic climate change is defined as climate change caused by human activity; and

WHEREAS, anthropogenic climate change poses an existential threat to humanity; and

WHEREAS, a major component of anthropogenic climate change is global warming caused by greenhouse gases produced by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas; and

WHEREAS, the burning of fossil fuels also contributes to poor air quality which has a deleterious effect on human health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has concluded that the most severe harms from anthropogenic climate change fall disproportionately upon racial and ethnic minority communities who are least able to prepare for, and recover from, heat waves, poor air quality, flooding, and other impacts.

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are increasingly being felt in West Hartford, and across the globe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD that the Town of West Hartford recognizes the overwhelming scientific consensus and declares that anthropogenic climate change is a crisis that requires immediate action by all levels of government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it shall be the policy of the Town to assess the climate change impacts of all future Town actions, to achieve net-zero carbon emissions from Town activities as quickly as practicable, and to encourage residents to do the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council calls upon federal, state and local governments to take immediate action to address the climate crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Manager shall coordinate and employ the resources of the Town, through consultation with the Clean Energy Commission, the Conservation and Environment Commission, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission, the Sustainability Advisory Group, and other stakeholders, including youth, to mitigate the effects of anthropogenic climate change and to improve air quality through the implementation of projects, practices and policies that reduce, eliminate or counteract the burning of fossil fuels and the emission of greenhouse gases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Manager shall establish a mechanism for tracking and reporting on the Town's progress to achieve net-zero carbon emissions and report back to the Town Council by September 2022, and at least annually thereafter.

(WENOGRA D)
January 25, 2022