

Resolution Number 6274-2019

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY  
AND COMMITTING TO ON-GOING ACTIONS TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

**WHEREAS**, all the nations of the world have signed the 2015 Paris Agreement which has a stated objective of "...keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5° Celsius;" and

**WHEREAS**, in October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the largest collaborative, consensus-based effort among the world's scientific community, released a Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, stating that "Human activities are estimated to have [already] caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels;" and

**WHEREAS** an increase in global average surface temperatures results in numerous secondary effects, including: rapidly rising sea levels, decreased snowpack, accelerating melting of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica, accelerated melting of Arctic permafrost, increasing incidence and intensity of extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts, hurricanes, etc., increasing incidence and intensity of wildfires, spread of diseases, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C states that the nations of the world must limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial averages in order to maintain environmental conditions on earth that are compatible with life as it has evolved; and

**WHEREAS**, the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C states that in order to have a 2-in 3 chance of limiting global warming to 1.5° C, our remaining 'carbon budget' is equal to 10 years of current greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 12, 2018 Governor Jerry Brown signed "Executive Order B-55-18 To Achieve Carbon Neutrality" committing the State of California to economy-wide "...carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative emissions thereafter," a target that accords with the recommendations of the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C; and

**WHEREAS**, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a Climate Mobilization at all levels of government and society on a scale, scope, and speed not seen since World War II to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors at emergency speed, to rapidly and safely draw down or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS**, marginalized communities worldwide—including people of color, indigenous communities, low-income people, those with disabilities, and the unhoused—are already disproportionately affected by climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, a Just Transition to a safe climate must encourage the active participation and protection of marginalized communities and work to ensure that they benefit first from a sustainable and equitable economy, including good-paying jobs and other tenets of a Green New Deal effort; and

**WHEREAS** , the City of Sebastopol has been a leader in addressing human-caused climate change, having made significant investments in municipal solar and pioneered adoption of solar building requirements and has made bold commitments in its participation in the greenhouse gas reduction efforts enumerated in the Regional Climate Protection Authority's (RCPA's) Climate Action 2020 Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Sebastopol must continue and strengthen its leadership role by converting to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative economy at emergency by speed and helping to rapidly organize a regional Just Transition and climate emergency mobilization effort.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of Sebastopol declares a climate emergency threatens our city, region, and all life on Earth; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Sebastopol commits to working with the RCPA to update the City of Sebastopol's content in the RCPA's Climate Action 2020 and Beyond Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** , the City of Sebastopol commits to a city-wide Just Transition and climate emergency mobilization which includes 1) **mitigation**: reducing city-wide greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by no later than 2030 (or on a timeline that guarantees the highest odds of success), 2) **drawdown**: immediate removal of carbon from the atmosphere to near pre-industrial levels, and 3) **adaptation and resilience**: measures in preparation for the inevitable consequences of a rapidly warming planet; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Sebastopol will begin an immediate evaluation of all existing and future policies, projects, purchases, and priorities in accordance with the goals of mitigation, drawdown, and adaptation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Sebastopol commits to keeping the considerations of disadvantaged, medically sensitive and minority communities central to all climate emergency mobilization planning processes and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Sebastopol commits to ongoing education and active engagement of all city staff, businesses, contractors, consultants, residents, and independent community groups in alignment with the goals of mitigation, drawdown, and adaptation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Sebastopol will create a new entity or body, or expand the purpose of an existing one, that will carry forward these climate-related efforts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Sebastopol acknowledges that full public participation of its residents, including its disenfranchised communities, youth, elders, community organizations, labor groups, businesses, and academia, is essential to the success of this effort; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Sebastopol will work with agencies, groups, and organizations to assess current citywide activity-based GHG emissions and GHG emissions from consumption of goods and services—and to track GHG emissions and publicly report annually on progress toward the City’s goal of zero net emissions;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, City of Sebastopol commits to contributing to the RCPA’s development of a countywide 2030 Climate Emergency Mobilization Strategy that focuses on identifying key local actions – including a 10-year Emergency Policy Package prioritizing a short list of the most impactful local policies that will drive systems change and identify the key areas for state level advocacy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Sebastopol will review during the FY 20-21 City budget hearings the potential creation of a Climate Emergency Mobilization Liaison to drive this effort in our jurisdiction and to review potential funding resources to support the participation of this staff member (or a designated RCPA staff member) in the RCPA coalition of local governments mobilizing regional climate action; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** , the City of Sebastopol joins a nationwide call for a regional Just Transition and emergency mobilization at all levels of government to restore a safe climate, and will partner with local, regional, and State agencies to implement immediate actions -- including, but not limited to, those in Attachment A -- to help safeguard its residents against the consequences of climate change.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 3rd day of December 2019.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City of Sebastopol City Council by the following vote:

**VOTE:**

AYES: Councilmembers Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Councilmember Carnacchi  
ABTAIN: None

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Patrick Slayter, Mayor, City of Sebastopol

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Mary Gourley, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Larry McLaughlin, City Attorney

**Attachment A:**  
**List of Climate Actions for the City of Sebastopol**  
**By Sebastopol Climate Action**

**1. All Electric Reach Code** - Building ordinance would require new residential construction to use only high-efficiency electric appliances. As new building types have been reviewed and analyzed by the California Energy Commission, the All Electric Reach Code would apply to them.

a. Estimated upfront savings of \$6,171 per home (or \$3,361 per multifamily units). Estimates from Santa Rosa city staff report 06/11/2019

b. Assuming 36 housing units are built over the next three years, 86 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e) would be avoided which would be a reduction of 2.4 CO<sub>2</sub>e annually for a standard single-family home compared to a 2019 code compliant house.

c. Needs State approval for reach codes that go beyond Title 24 regulations. Sonoma Clean Power has a template for State approval documentation.

d. [Berkeley first city in California to ban natural gas in new buildings](#)

**2. Municipal Solar.** Solar assessment of additional sites.

a. Possible new sites include the public parking lots and the city corporate yard.

b. Examine the possibility of micro-grid power storage, such as the SRJC has done.

**3. Moratorium on New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure** - Applies to new gas stations

**4. Oversight of Procurement** - "Sustainable purchasing" for the City of Sebastopol.

**5. Data Gathering**

**a. Annual Reporting of Consumption** - Local Gas and Electricity Baseline Data

i. The city on an annual basis makes a request to PG&E for a breakdown of consumption based on residential, commercial and industrial sectors for gas and electricity for the 95472-zip code. This data is then posted on the City website. [Public energy data request portal](#)

**b. Evaluation of existing municipal solar**

i. Evaluate the savings (KWh, GHG, \$) the city has achieved since installing solar arrays on most of the municipal buildings and water/sewage pumping stations. This could be done with possible assistance of SSU students.

**c. Evaluation of existing building requirements for residential and commercial solar**

i. Estimate the savings (KWh, GHG, \$) the solar building requirement has saved. This could be done with possible assistance of SSU students.

ii. Pass on lessons learned implementing it to other jurisdictions since all of California is now having to implement solar in new buildings.

**6. Education** - The city embarks on multiple public education initiatives. For example:

a. Travelling exhibit based on a 10' x 10' pop up shade structure, display table, graphics and interactive exhibit components that provides community education around action items that citizens can take to reduce GHG emissions, decrease household and business waste and increase resiliency.

- b. Publicize on the city website and newsletter all available local resources for climate and zero waste actions. Examples include:
  - i. Launch before year end of Sonoma Clean Power's incentives for Heat Pump Water Heaters, Heat Pump Space Heaters and other energy saving devices.
  - ii. Sonoma Climate Challenge
  - iii. Zero Waste best practices for households
- c. Provide handouts available at city hall for climate best practices.
- d. Leverage community groups to put on climate education events and help tell the success stories.

- i. Climate speaker series

- ii. Climate workshops for teachers

**7. Begin the discussion to create climate committee or expand the scope of the Zero-Waste committee to encompass broader climate actions.**

**8. Work to accelerate transportation electrification**

- a. Team with RCPA/CCP (and others) to encourage EV (purchase/lease)

- b. Address local EV infrastructure enhancements (See RCPA Shift Sonoma County Plan).

- i. Make electric car charging stations more visible.

- ii. Increase numbers of DC fast chargers

- c. Organize EV Rides/shows (include E-bikes).

- d. Sharing purchase/lease strategies for new buyers. Share info for buying/leasing used EVs.

**9. Fund a grant writer to find money for climate initiatives, such as:**

- a. Climate Action Coordinator contract position. This person would be responsible for measuring/monitoring/reporting on progress of any action items that are adopted. Civicspark/Climatecorp provides training to these new hires. For example, the City of Alameda hired a coordinator as intern via Civicsparks or ClimateCorp

- b. Youth climate corp summer jobs.

- c. Zero Waste initiatives.

- d. Conducting free solar evaluations, developing/implementing communication/outreach tools/strategies.

- e. Stipends for SSU/SRJC students to conduct studies/research/monitoring

- f. Incentives for converting to electric in homes (fuel switching).

- g. Energy and/or lighting retrofits in city-owned buildings

- h. Solar + battery storage capacity in critical city infrastructure for emergencies and PG&E planned power outages.