

- DRAFT -  
7-31-17

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU**  
**A Resolution Affirming Juneau's Commitment to Climate Action**

WHEREAS, consensus exists among the world's climate scientists that global warming caused by emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

WHEREAS, documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events (e.g. droughts and floods), adverse impacts on ecosystems, demographic patterns and economic value chains; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has warmed more than twice as fast as the rest of the nation, bringing widespread impacts such as rapid shrinking of sea ice and glaciers, thawing permafrost, more wildfire affecting wildlife habitat and human infrastructure, as well as impacts to valued marine fisheries from rising ocean temperatures and acidification;

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau formed a scientific panel on climate change in 2005 to examine the specific impacts of change on our community; and

WHEREAS, the findings of the scientific panel show that changes in Juneau are consistent with those that have occurred, or are expected to occur, on a statewide basis, including specifically:

- Over the past 60 years, the average winter snowfall at sea level in CBJ has decreased from 106 inches to 82 inches - average winter precipitation (rain plus snow reported as inches of liquid water) has increased by approximately 6 inches;
- During the same period, average winter time temperature has risen by approximately 4 degrees F. The average winter temperature in the CBJ increased above the freezing point of water in the early 1980s;
- By the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, shrubs and trees will have colonized elevations currently characterized as alpine or tundra habitat in southeastern Alaska;
- Rapid changes in the ecology of terrestrial and marine environments will alter commercial, subsistence, and recreational harvesting in ways that cannot be readily predicted;
- Reductions in winter snow cover will negatively impact winter recreational activities in the CBJ;

WHEREAS in 2007, Juneau joined other cities in pledging to conduct a greenhouse gas inventory, establish a greenhouse gas reduction target, develop an action plan, implement the plan and monitor and report progress (Resolution 2397(b)); and

WHEREAS in 2009, Juneau fulfilled two of those commitments by conducting its first greenhouse gas inventory and adopting its first reduction goals (1% for the municipality and 20% for the entire community) (Resolution 2502); and

<http://climatemayors.org/get-involved/city-officials/>

"There are no binding commitments as a Climate Mayors members, only that cities are pursuing actions to achieve an emissions reduction target through:

1. Developing a community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory
2. Setting near- and long-term targets to reduce emissions
3. Developing a Climate Action Plan aligned with the city's targets."

#### ELSEWHERE:

"Although there is no formal mechanism for sub-national entities such as cities and municipalities to join the Paris Agreement, Climate Mayors members 'sign up' by adopting the spirit and goals of the Agreement, supported by tangible local-level action.

"Member cities of Climate Mayors will share progress and best practices through our monthly coordination calls, attended by each Mayor's representative for climate and sustainability issues."

**The goals/guts of the commitments in the Paris agreement are in Article 2. Each country agrees to determine its own contributions to the goal, sets targets, and reports on progress. There is no mechanism to force a country to set (or meet) a specific target.**

#### Article 2

- (1) This Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:
  - (a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
  - (b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
  - (c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.
- (2) This Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

WHEREAS in 2011, Juneau continued to fulfill commitments to climate action by adopting the Juneau Climate Action and Implementation Plan (Resolution 2593), including a goal of reducing emissions by 25% by the year 2032. CBJ also published a second greenhouse gas inventory that documented some progress in meeting emissions goals; and

WHEREAS, the visitor industry is vital to the local economy and the rapidly retreating Mendenhall glacier is a top attraction for visitors; and

WHEREAS, actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—including increasing the energy efficiency of buildings, adoption of heat pumps, waste reduction, and recycling—saves Juneau taxpayers and residents money through decreasing energy and material costs; and

WHEREAS, Juneau has become a leader in adoption of electric vehicles (EV), ranking among the top communities in the nation in terms of per capita EV ownership, with local businesses adopting electric buses and developing electric tour boats; and

WHEREAS, many Juneau residents continue to express a readiness to undertake local action to contribute to worldwide efforts in mitigating and managing climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

1. Affirms its previous commitments to pursue actions to achieve emissions reductions targets including its commitment to reducing emissions through implementation of the 2011 Juneau Climate Action and Implementation Plan within the limitations of available funds and personnel; and
2. Affirms its commitment to exploring the potential benefits and costs of adopting additional policies and programs that promote the long-term goal of GHG emissions reduction while maximizing economic and social co-benefits of such action; and
3. Joins other US cities in the Climate Mayors network in undertaking local action to contribute to worldwide efforts to mitigate and manage climate change, with the goal of limiting global temperature increase to less than 2 degrees Celsius.