

1 RESOLUTION R-2019-

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO
3 DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ESTABLISHING LONGMONT'S INTENT
4 TO TAKE IMMEDIATE AND ACCELERATED ACTION TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE
5 CRISIS

6 _____
7 WHEREAS, climate change is an urgent unfolding crisis that presents a serious threat to
8 human existence; and

9 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued a special report
10 on the impact of global warming and the need to reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
11 earlier than 2030 to hold atmospheric warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avoid the most
12 catastrophic impact of climate change; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2018, the United States' Fourth National Climate Assessment made it clear
14 that climate change will wreak havoc across the United States, and that the current pace and scale
15 of climate action is not sufficient to avoid substantial damage to the economy, the environment
16 and to human health over the coming decades; and

17 WHEREAS, Longmont and the rest of Colorado, already suffers from the impacts of
18 climate change in the form of drought, air pollution, extreme heat, species stress, negative health
19 effects, and floods, and these disasters will become more severe as global GHG emissions continue
20 to poison the atmosphere; and

21 WHEREAS, climate change will increasingly make basic human necessities more
22 expensive and difficult to obtain; and

1 WHEREAS, throughout the United States, frontline communities have historically borne
2 the brunt of longstanding environmental injustice including fossil-fuel created degradation and it
3 is acknowledged that these communities must actively participate in the planning, decision-
4 making, and implementation of climate action and must benefit equally from a just transition to a
5 sustainable and equitable economy; and

6 WHEREAS, to stay within 1.5 degrees Celsius, cities and nations throughout the world
7 will need to significantly reduce their per capita emissions by 2030 or earlier; and

8 WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate will require mobilization at all levels of
9 government and society on a scale, scope, and speed not seen since World War II; and

10 WHEREAS, efforts to control climate change will have many benefits such as cleaner air
11 and water; improved health; local employment; cost savings for households, businesses, and the
12 city; and the creation of a stronger and more resilient community; and

13 WHEREAS, Longmont City Council took a decisive leadership role by committing to
14 100% renewable electricity supply by 2030 and through the Platte River Power Authority Board
15 (PRPA) started our region on a mandate for conversion to renewable energy; and

16 WHEREAS, the Longmont Sustainability Plan, adopted in 2016, provides a road map for
17 Longmont to achieve the vision of becoming an engaged community that promotes environmental
18 stewardship, economic vitality, and social equality to create a sustainable and thriving future for
19 all; and

20 WHEREAS, Longmont has already taken steps to lower GHG emissions by passing the
21 2030 renewable electricity supply resolution above. It is acknowledged that such steps are not
22 sufficient, in and of themselves, to adequately address the magnitude of the climate emergency.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO,
2 RESOLVES:

3 Section 1

4 That the City Council of Longmont hereby declares a state of climate emergency and that
5 the global climate crisis poses a serious, urgent, and pressing threat to the well-being of Longmont,
6 its inhabitants, economy, and environment; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the intent of the City of Longmont to do
8 everything in its power to swiftly convert to an ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable
9 economy and to reduce community-wide carbon emissions as much and as quickly as possible;
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City re-affirms its goal of supporting 100%
12 electric energy generation by 2030 or earlier, and further directs City staff and PRPA to shorten
13 the time period to the earliest technologically feasible date, to more adequately address the severity
14 of the climate crisis; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City government must work and partner with
16 residents, businesses, and community groups to educate our community about the climate
17 emergency, including holding public meetings about the crisis, and must work to catalyze a just
18 transition and climate emergency mobilization effort at the local, state, national and global levels,
19 to provide maximum protection to our residents; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Longmont City Council will convene a climate
21 working group composed of City staff, other subject matter experts, partners, concerned residents,
22 including those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, to discuss further steps the City

1 should take to promote a carbon-free, sustainable city, with the goal of creating and submitting a
2 report outlining such steps within 120 days of this resolution, and quarterly thereafter, and;

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Longmont calls upon the State of
4 Colorado, the United States of America, and all governments and peoples worldwide to initiate a
5 Climate Emergency Mobilization and Just Transition effort to reverse global warming by restoring
6 near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations; that halts the
7 development of new fossil fuel infrastructure; rapidly phases out all fossil fuels and the
8 technologies which rely upon them; transitions to regenerative agriculture; works to end the sixth
9 mass extinction of species; creates high-quality, well-paying jobs with comprehensive benefits;
10 mitigates the potentially adverse impacts to those who will be most impacted by this transition;
11 and results in an equitable, inclusive and resilient community for all.

12 Section 2

13 The Council repeals all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution,
14 but only to the extent of such inconsistency.

15 Passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2019.

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19 _____
20 MAYOR

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22 ATTEST:
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25 _____
26 CITY CLERK

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM

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5 _____
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

_____ DATE

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9 _____
PROOFREAD

_____ DATE

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12 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

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16 _____
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT

_____ DATE

17

18

CA File: 19-000484