

Presented by: The Manager  
Introduced: 08/21/2017  
Drafted by: Assemblymember  
Gladziszewski

## RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2804(am)

### **A Resolution Affirming the City and Borough of 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; and

WHEREAS, the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change acidify the ocean, which threatens Southeast Alaska's \$273 million annual sport fisheries; and

WHEREAS, less productive oceans due to climate change and ocean acidification threaten the income of 396 commercial fishing permit holders and 496 commercial crew license holders who live in Juneau, along with the \$22.5 million in seafood they deliver here; 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, 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 six inches;

- During the same period, average winter time temperature has risen by approximately four 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 21st 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; and
- 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 (one percent for the municipality and 20 percent for the entire community) (Resolution 2502); and

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 percent by the year 2032. CBJ also published a second greenhouse gas inventory that documented some progress in meeting emissions goals; and

WHEREAS, actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—including increasing the energy efficient of buildings, adoption of heat pumps, waste reduction, and recycling—save 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 BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

**Section 1.** The City and Borough of Juneau 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

**Section 2.** The City and Borough of Juneau affirms its commitment to exploring the potential benefits and costs of adopting additional policies and programs that promote

the long-term goal of greenhouse gas emissions reduction while maximizing economic and social co-benefits of such action; and

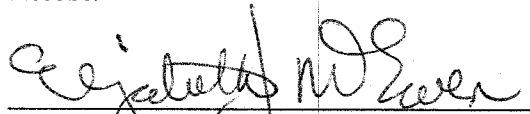
**Section 3.** The City and Borough of Juneau joins other cities to undertake local action to contribute to worldwide efforts to mitigate and manage climate change.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2017.

  
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Kendell D. Koelsch, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Laurie J. Sica, Municipal Clerk