

**FNSB SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
JUNE 12, 2019 ACTION MEMO 6:30 PM**

**ROLL CALL, OPENING STATEMENTS, AGENDA AND \*CONSENT AGENDA.**

Commissioners Present:           Ariane Glover           John Davies  
  Jimmy Fox               Morgan Hough  
  Wyatt Hurlbut         Karl Monetti  
  Brett Parks

Others Present:                   Sean Huntington, Liaison/Staff  
  Kielecia Coker, Admin

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

**\*MINUTES**

1. \*Minutes from May 22, 2019.

**MOTION:**       To approve the agenda and consent agenda by **Commissioner Hurlbut** and seconded by **Commissioner Fox**.

**PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION OR ROLL CALL**

**Audio Track 1**

---

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Climate Change Resolution

**MOTION:**       To approve draft Resolution No. 2019-02 by **Commissioner Davies** and seconded by **Commissioner Monetti**.

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION TO AMEND:**   To amend the draft Resolution No. 2019-02 by **Commissioner Davies** and seconded by **Commissioner Hurlbut**.

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION TO AMEND:**   To allow staff to make changes to draft Resolution No. 2019-02 by **Commissioner Davies** and seconded by **Commissioner Hurlbut**.

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Audio Track 1**

---

**Excuse Future Absences, Commissioner's Comments/Communications and Adjournment.**

**Audio Track 1**

1 By: Jimmy Fox, Commissioner

2  
3 Introduced: June 12, 2019

4  
5  
6 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

7  
8 RESOLUTION NO. 2019 – 02

9  
10 A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ACTION ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS

11  
12  
13 WHEREAS, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane gases released  
14 from the Earth's surface are trapped in its atmosphere (thousands of years for CO<sub>2</sub>,  
15 approximately 100 years for N<sub>2</sub>O and about a decade for CH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>1</sup> and over the last 150  
16 years these "greenhouse" gases (hereafter CO<sub>2</sub>equivalent or CO<sub>2</sub>e) have been released  
17 into the atmosphere at an unprecedented rate thereby absorbing heat from the sun and  
18 causing rapidly-rising global temperatures;<sup>2</sup> and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the greenhouse effect was first described and illustrated by  
21 scientists in the 1800s,<sup>3</sup> and today approximately 97% of publishing climate scientists  
22 agree human activities (predominantly the burning of fossil fuels) are the primary cause  
23 of rapidly-rising global temperatures triggering the climate change crisis;<sup>4</sup> and

24  
25 WHEREAS, fossil fuel is truly an amazing natural resource that has been  
26 used in countless ways to support and sustain modern society but now its use must  
27 evolve swiftly; and

28  

---

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. Accessed on May 28, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2bQgLd1>.

<sup>2</sup> National Aeronautical and Space Administration. Accessed on May 26, 2019 at  
<https://go.nasa.gov/2la2ISR>.

<sup>3</sup> *id*

<sup>4</sup> Cook, J. et al. 2016. Consensus on consensus: a synthesis of consensus estimates on human-caused  
global warming. Environmental Research Letters. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2USgxuh>.

29 WHEREAS, in 2019 scientific confidence in climate change science reached  
30 the gold standard of mathematical certainty;<sup>5</sup> and

31

32 WHEREAS, every U.S. president since John F. Kennedy has been briefed  
33 on the threats of climate change,<sup>6</sup> and since 1990 the U.S. military has declared the  
34 consequences a major threat to the safety and security of the nation by destabilizing  
35 other governments and directly impacting military readiness;<sup>7,8</sup> and

36

37 WHEREAS, resistance, in general, to addressing the root cause of the  
38 climate change crisis can be partially explained by behavioral scientists who find  
39 humans are prone to view proposed change as loss rather than gain,<sup>9</sup> and may be more  
40 motivated to address the climate change crisis either through messages of hope or  
41 fear<sup>10,11</sup> and how they will personally benefit;<sup>12</sup> and

42

43 WHEREAS, there is resistance to addressing the runaway climate crisis by  
44 sowing seeds of cultural and political polarization to avoid legislative solutions, e.g.,  
45 internal company and trade association documents show some fossil fuel corporate

---

<sup>5</sup> Santer, B.D. et al. 2019. Celebrating the anniversary of three key events in climate change science. Nature Climate Change. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://go.nature.com/2UjAUw6>.

<sup>6</sup> Juliana v. United States. 2018. United States Supreme Court documents in Case No. 6:15-CV-01517-TC. Accessed on May 27, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2Qptwig>.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Navy War College. 1990. Global climate change: implications for the United States. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2DhgVbY>.

<sup>8</sup> Department of Defense. 2019. Report on effects of a changing climate to the Department of Defense. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2Fzk5uk>.

<sup>9</sup> Kahneman, D. et al. 1991. The endowment effect, loss aversion, and status quo bias. Journal of Economic Perspectives. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2X9BBdp>.

<sup>10</sup> Smith, N. and A. Leiserowitz. 2013. The role of emotion in global warming policy support and opposition. Risk Analysis. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2Pa10kb>.

<sup>11</sup> Marlon, J.R. et al. 2019. How Hope and Doubt Affect Climate Change Mobilization. Frontiers in Communication. Accessed on June 3, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2MrKZIS>.

<sup>12</sup> Helm, S.V. 2017. Differentiating environmental concern in the context of psychological adaption to climate change. Global Environmental Change. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2UFuGvB>.

46 executives direct the spending of hundreds of millions of dollars<sup>13</sup> per year on  
47 extensive, professional marketing to publicly-discount scientific evidence, spread  
48 scientific misinformation, and stall evidence-based policymaking while privately  
49 acknowledging the role of burning fossil fuels in climate change;<sup>14</sup> and

50

51 WHEREAS, consequences of the climate change crisis are  
52 disproportionately impacting American values of family, freedom, opportunity,  
53 prosperity, security, etc. by increasing economic instability, extreme heat and  
54 precipitation, droughts, sea level rise, biodiversity loss and extinction, permafrost thaw,  
55 ocean acidity, and vector-borne diseases;<sup>15</sup> and

56

57 WHEREAS, Alaska is warming faster than any other U.S. state and  
58 increasingly affects borough residents and their economy directly by: 1) damaging  
59 buildings and roads as permafrost thaws and snowfall melts, summer rainfall increases  
60 and floodwaters rise, 2) destroying buildings and harming health as more forests burn,  
61 3) stressing fish and wildlife species as habitats change, 4) increasing temperatures that  
62 bring new infectious diseases, pests, more intense algal and pollen blooms and mold  
63 counts, 5) disrupting travel for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation, 6) increasing  
64 feelings of depression leading to decreased mental health, 7) decreasing building heat  
65 demands, and 8) increasing vegetation growing season;<sup>16,17</sup> and

66

---

<sup>13</sup> Influence Map. 2019. Big oil's real agenda on climate change: How the oil majors have spent \$1bn since Paris on narrative capture and lobbying on climate. Accessed on May 27, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2HFUpML>.

<sup>14</sup> Union of Concerned Scientists. 2015. The climate deception dossiers: internal fossil fuel industry memos reveal decades of corporate disinformation. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2UkV6Ot>.

<sup>15</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2018. Projected climate change, potential impacts and associated risks. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2UDbWni>.

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2018. National Climate Assessment, Chapter 26: Alaska. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2DF04kg>.

<sup>17</sup> Berman, M and J.I. Schmidt. 2018. Economic effects of climate change in Alaska. Weather, Climate and Society. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2XiswiD>.

67           WHEREAS, the direct economic impacts from damage to infrastructure  
68 just from permafrost thaw, coastal erosion and sea level rise is estimated at \$340 to  
69 \$700 million per year in Alaska<sup>18</sup> while the largest economic impacts are expected from  
70 increased precipitation and road flooding in the interior and southcentral;<sup>19</sup> and

71

72           WHEREAS, in 2007 the Alaska Center for Energy and Power estimated  
73 annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from human activities in the Fairbanks North Star Borough  
74 determining that, likely due to colder temperatures and reduced solar energy in winter,  
75 emissions were 64% higher per capita than the U.S. average,<sup>20</sup> which ranks near the  
76 top in the world for all countries and economies;<sup>21</sup> and

77

78           WHEREAS, Fairbanks North Star Borough residents, businesses and  
79 governments should fear unfolding and future impacts of the climate change crisis but  
80 should have hope because they possess the natural environment, technology and tools  
81 to adapt to and mitigate this crisis while simultaneously eliminating above-average,  
82 cost-burdens on homeowners and businesses via access to world-class winter wind  
83 energy and plentiful solar energy in summer, high-efficiency building designs and  
84 retrofits, high-efficiency lighting, electric heating and transportation, indoor hydroponic  
85 agriculture, minerals needed for renewable energy manufacturing, etc; and ironically  
86 climate change solutions can also solve the local human health problem caused by PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
87 pollution; and

88

89           WHEREAS, despite fear that collectively humans aren't acting quickly  
90 enough to address this existential threat, there is a rising tide of municipalities around

---

<sup>18</sup> *id*

<sup>19</sup> Melvin, A.M. et al. 2016. Climate change damages to Alaska public infrastructure and the economics of proactive adaptation. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2KEc5eL>.

<sup>20</sup> Alaska Center for Energy and Power. 2008. Fairbanks North Star Borough Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Base Year 2007. Accessed on May 27, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2yjr0lX>.

<sup>21</sup> The World Bank. 2018. CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions in 2014 (metric tons per capita). Accessed on May 28, 2018 at <https://bit.ly/2PnL54C>.

91 the U.S., including several in Alaska, that are implementing climate action plans  
92 demonstrating a growing sense of urgency and hopefulness that people can address the  
93 climate change crisis through meaningful changes at the local level;<sup>22</sup> and

94

95 WHEREAS, national renewable electricity generation doubled between  
96 2008 and 2018<sup>23</sup> and in Alaska over 100 businesses working in the renewable energy  
97 industry<sup>24</sup> helped displace the equivalent of over 30 million gallons of diesel in 2018<sup>25</sup>  
98 (or over 232,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>26</sup> and an uncalculated reduction in PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
99 pollution); and

100

101 WHEREAS, electric vehicle sales are rising rapidly across the U.S. with an  
102 82% increase in Alaska between 2017 and 2018;<sup>27</sup> and

103

104 WHEREAS, locally the number of homeowners, businesses and borough  
105 buildings with renewable energy systems and the percentage of electricity from Golden  
106 Valley Electric Association renewable energy systems is increasing<sup>28</sup> resulting in an  
107 uncalculated amount of local business revenue and reductions in CO<sub>2</sub>e and PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
108 pollution; and

109

110 WHEREAS, energy efficiency actions for borough facilities since 2017 are  
111 estimated to provide an ongoing reduction of 1.1 million kWh of electricity per year

---

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2018. National Climate Assessment, Chapters 27 & 28: Mitigation and Adaptation Responses. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2KR6yOJ>.

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. March 19, 2019. Accessed on June 1, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2UK2ggb>.

<sup>24</sup> University Of Alaska Center For Economic Development. 2018. Renewable Energy: Growth and obstacles in the renewable energy sector in Alaska. Accessed on June 1, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2JRGGEF>.

<sup>25</sup> Alaska Energy Authority. 2018. Report to Alaskans. Accessed on June 1, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2W4saLn>.

<sup>26</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. 2019. Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator. Accessed on June 9, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/1s2u3t3>.

<sup>27</sup> McDonald, L. 2019. EV Market Share by State. Accessed on June 10, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2HF9PS7>.

<sup>28</sup> Golden Valley Electric Association. 2018. Accessed on June 2, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2P3r17m>.

112 saving an estimated 957 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e and \$200,000 with an anticipated \$2.2  
113 million in net lifetime savings (and thousands of metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e and an  
114 uncalculated reduction in PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution);<sup>29</sup> and

115

116 WHEREAS, a state-funded weatherization program between 2008 and  
117 2011 also created uncalculated local business revenues while helping homeowners in  
118 North Pole reduce energy consumption an average of 27% saving an average \$2,500  
119 (and uncalculated CO<sub>2</sub>e and PM<sub>2.5</sub> reductions) with the highest energy reduction at  
120 71%, which is saving the homeowner an estimated \$16,000 per year;<sup>30</sup>

121

122 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that after several public meetings in  
123 2018, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Sustainability Commission adopted community-  
124 driven goals, including to reduce energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions recognizing  
125 that climate change is an imminent economic and health threat to borough residents,  
126 directly and indirectly, requiring responses at the local, state, national and international  
127 levels that are not only urgently needed but thankfully present opportunities to improve  
128 personal freedoms, employment opportunities, health, and wealth for current and  
129 future generations; and

130

131 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission requests the  
132 Administration and Assembly give residents hope for the future by creating a climate  
133 action plan that would adopt, support and implement citizen engagement, code,  
134 communications, planning, policies, and projects that assess, adapt and mitigate  
135 physical, economic and social impacts from the climate change crisis; and

136

---

<sup>29</sup> Personal communication with Benjamin Loeffler, Energy Management Engineer, Fairbanks North Star Borough on June 4, 2019.

<sup>30</sup> Home Energy Rebate Program Outcomes. 2012. Cold Climate Housing Research Center report for Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. Accessed on June 1, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2Py849R>.

137 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission respectfully requests the  
138 Administration and Assembly boldly advocate for state and national legislation to make  
139 rapid and substantive progress on the climate change crisis.

140

141 PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14 DAY OF June, 2019.

142

143

144

145

146

147

  

---

Brett Parks  
Chair