

RESOLUTION NO. 4325

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO DECLARING
A CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY IN SAN ANSELMO**

WHEREAS, the Town Council has an interest in protecting and promoting the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town General Plan and Climate Action Plan seeks to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment and to promote the Town's long-term environmental sustainability and livability; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council agrees with the consensus among climate scientists that the climate and ecological crises are underway; and,

WHEREAS, in December 2015, all the members of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) signed on to the historic "Paris Agreement" at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC to "strengthen the global response to the threat of climate chaos by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius" and "strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change."

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, the State of California's Governor Brown signed Executive Order B-55-18, which establishes a goal for California to achieve greenhouse gas neutrality (net zero emissions) by 2045 and after that, maintaining net-negative emissions (sequestering more greenhouse gases than are being emitted) and, on the same day, Senate Bill 100 was passed, which sets a 100% clean electricity goal for the state by 2045; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the 4th Annual National Climate Assessment and California's 4th Climate Change Assessment warned that extreme weather and climate-related events in the United States are worsening, predicting increased drought cycles and heat waves in the western U.S. with a resulting three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires, declined water supply and snow pack, increased flooding, impacted agriculture, as well as substantial damages to the U.S. economy and human health, unless greenhouse gas emissions are immediately and dramatically curbed; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius (October, 2018) to the UNFCCC found that to avoid long lasting or irreversible climate change impacts and stay below 1.5° C warming since the industrial era, global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases need to fall by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching around 2050 'net zero' emissions (greenhouse gas emissions balanced with carbon

removal from the atmosphere) and roughly 500 billion tons of human-caused CO2 emissions already in the atmosphere must be removed over the decades ahead;

WHEREAS, an inadequate response to our climate emergency will threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure due to increased economic and environmental disruptions. These include, but are not limited to: accelerated species extinction rates, food and water shortages, severe storms, longer and hotter heat waves, longer and more severe droughts, growing invasive species and insect problems, accelerated spread of human and environmental pathogens, rising sea levels, increased wildfires, increased floods, and a dramatic increase in refugees from climate impacted lands.

WHEREAS, the critical tipping points that we are rapidly approaching must be avoided, as they will have cascading effects that our species may be unable to survive.

WHEREAS, common sense and morality indicate that humanity can no longer safely emit GHGs and must demand an emergency mobilization effort to rapidly reach zero emissions across all sectors to safely remove excess greenhouse gases from the atmosphere; to preserve and restore the Earth's biodiversity; to implement safety measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt warming in the near-term; and to cultivate a shift toward climate resiliency that prioritizes conservation, community, and independence from fossil fuels and other petroleum products; and

WHEREAS, the Town of San Anselmo has taken a number of important actions to reduce GHG emissions and enhance quality of life in our community including sustainable land use planning, adoption of green building requirements in 2010, adoption of its first Climate Action Plan in 2011, and securing 100% renewable energy with MCE Deep Green for town facilities in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Town of San Anselmo, on June 11, 2019, adopted local Climate Action Plan 2030 with and interim Greenhouse Gas emission reduction target of 54% emissions reductions from a 2005 baseline emissions level by the year 2030 (45% below 1990 levels) and goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 and to develop, adopt and implement actions that aim to achieve the interim 54% emission reduction target by 2030 and that align with the 2045 carbon neutrality/post-carbon community goal; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2020, the Town Sustainability Commission held a public meeting to consider this resolution and recommended the Town Council adopt this resolution;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Town Council declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our town, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of San Anselmo affirms the need for the understanding, participation and collaboration of the broader San Anselmo community for all actions and initiatives the Town may adopt in response to the climate emergency and commits to providing outreach, information and education for San Anselmo residents, businesses, and Town staff on the urgency of climate responses, reduction of GHG emissions, the policies and strategies to advance sustainability and resilience; and to regularly assess its GHG reduction goals, actions and policies and provide progress reports and metrics annually; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Council directs the Town Manager to work with staff to include consideration and prioritization of consistency with the Town Climate Action Plan 2030, as amended or updated, in all relevant staff reports, just as it currently considers fiscal impact, General Plan consistency and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Council directs the Town Manager to work with staff to earmark specific funds for greenhouse gas and climate change mitigation for the fiscal year 2020-2021 and all subsequent years in which atmospheric carbon and carbon equivalents are in excess of 350 parts per million, the amount considered "safe" by climate experts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of San Anselmo joins and will advocate for a nation-wide call for a regional, national, and international climate emergency mobilization effort at all levels of government to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the regular meeting of the San Anselmo Town Council held on February 11, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Greene, Colbert, Fineman, Wright, Burdo
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None



Ford Greene, Mayor

ATTEST:



Carla Kacmar, Town Clerk