

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 08-035

Adopting the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration in Partnership with Clackamas County

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. There is a consensus among the world's leading scientists that global warming caused by human emission of greenhouse gases is among the most significant problems facing the world today;
- b. Documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events (i.e., droughts and floods), adverse impacts on plants and wildlife habitats, threats to global food and water supplies – all of which have an economic and health impact on communities and their local governments;
- c. Leading scientists have projected that stabilization of climate change in time to minimize such impacts will require a reduction of global warming emissions to 80 percent below current levels by the year 2050;
- d. Currently the United States is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollutants;
- e. State, regional and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emissions reduction targets and programs and that this effort is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic leadership;
- f. The State of Oregon has mandated statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050;
- g. Counties have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through their regional jurisdiction over policy areas such as air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, forest preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management;
- h. Many counties throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reducing energy bills, preserving green space, implementing better land use policies, improving air quality, promoting waste-to-energy programs, expanding transportation and work choices to reduce traffic congestion, and fostering more economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new technologies;

- i. More than 100 county leaders signed a letter written by Dane County, Wisconsin, that was sent to the President in March 2006 calling for increased energy investment and development of jobs focused on clean energy technologies;
- j. The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits cities to reduction of global warming emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, and calls for a federal limit on emissions;
- k. The economic arguments for implementing climate solutions are compelling, from the near-term economic gains of energy efficiency to the long-term climate stabilization that can prevent irreparable harm from catastrophic climate change impacts;
- l. Many leading U.S. companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate and operational responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the federal government to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to provide a uniform and predictable regulatory environment to encourage and enable necessary and long-term business investments;
- m. In April 2001, by Resolution No. 01-052, Multnomah County adopted a joint Global Warming Action Plan with the City of Portland to establish a goal of reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 10% below 1990 levels;
- n. Currently, community-wide greenhouse gas emissions levels are approximately 1 percent above 1990 levels, and on a per capita basis, Portland and Multnomah County emissions have fallen 12.5% since 1993;
- o. In November 2007, by Resolution No. 07-173, Multnomah County authorized an update of the joint 2001 Global Warming Action Plan;
- p. The American Public Health Association, of which the Multnomah County Health Department is a member, states that there is a direct connection between climate change and public health, and has chosen climate change as the 2008 National Public Health Week focus issue.
- q. This declaration is consistent with Resolutions No. 01-052 and No. 07-173, and affirms Multnomah County's commitment to protecting the public's health from the affects of climate change.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. As a Cool County, to join Clackamas County in adopting the 2050 climate stabilization goal, and to take immediate steps to help the federal, state, and the governments within our county to achieve the 2050 goal, by making the following commitments:

- i. Continue to maintain an inventory of our county government (operational) greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions and continue to implement policies, programs and operations to achieve significant, measurable and sustainable reduction of those operational GHG emissions to help contribute to the regional reduction targets as identified in paragraph ii;
 - ii. Work closely with local, state, and federal governments and other leaders to reduce county geographical GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050, by developing a GHG emissions inventory and county/regional plan that establishes short-, mid-, and long-term GHG reduction targets.
 - iii. Urge Congress and the Administration to enact a multi-sector national program of requirements, market-based limits, and incentives for reducing GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050. Urge Congress and the Administration to strengthen standards by enacting legislation such as the Renewable Energy standard that would require 20 percent of electricity purchased in the United States to be from renewable sources by 2020.
2. The Health Department and the Sustainability Program shall identify regional climate change impacts, create a county adaptation plan to prepare for and build resilience to those impacts, and present the plan for approval to the Board of Commissioners within one year of adoption of this resolution.

ADOPTED this 10th day of April 2008

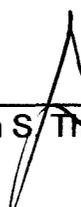


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

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FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
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SUBMITTED BY:
Carol M. Ford, Director, Dept. of County Management