

Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency in Duluth and Requesting the Duluth Energy Plan Commission to Develop a Community Plan for a Just Transition to a Clean Energy Economy

Whereas, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”;

Whereas, climate change poses a grave threat to human communities both globally and locally

Whereas, the impacts of climate change are already being felt in Duluth and in Northeastern Minnesota

Whereas, to avoid the worst negative consequences of climate change, a rapid transition away from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy is required

Whereas, the economy of Duluth and the broader region is heavily dependent upon fossil fuels and that, for this reason, prudence dictates that we begin planning for a thoughtful transition to a clean energy economy now

Whereas, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents

Whereas, a just transition to clean energy would minimize these disruptive impacts while also addressing the needs of marginalized communities

Whereas, the City of Duluth is uniquely positioned to partner with indigenous communities that have taken a lead regionally in clean energy development

Whereas, the powers and duties of the Duluth Energy Plan Commission include to “promote community best practices and strategies for reducing greenhouse gases,”

Be it resolved, the City of Duluth declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world;

Be it further resolved, the City of Duluth commits to a citywide just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from State and Federal authorities, results in no net carbon emissions on a citywide basis as quickly as is practical and accelerates adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts;

Be it further resolved, the city council requests that the Duluth Energy Plan Commission work in partnership with community stakeholders to develop a Duluth Energy Transition Plan that would outline strategies for a just transition to clean energy citywide