

**RESOLUTION OF THE CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF A LOCAL,
STATE, AND NATIONAL GOAL OF 100% CLEAN
ENERGY BY 2050
AND THE CREATION OF GREEN JOBS**

Whereas, climate change has increased the global average surface temperature by more than 1.00 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1880; and

Whereas, climate change is expected to increasingly impact North Carolina's temperatures, precipitation and sea level with harmful consequences in coming years; and

Whereas, climate change and global average temperature increases are primarily due to human-caused fossil fuels emissions, including coal, oil and natural gas, according to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, National Academy of Sciences, American Meteorological Society, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Defense, and numerous other leading scientific, academic and governmental authorities both in the United States and internationally; and

Whereas, a final agreement of the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP21), which included the United States and a total of 195 nations, was reached in Paris, France on December 12, 2015, that states the aim is to "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels" and entered into force on November 4, 2016; and

Whereas, scientists have concluded the concentration of carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, in the Earth's atmosphere is often over 410 parts per million (ppm) and will likely stay above this level for the indefinite future for the first time in millions of years; and

Whereas, eighteen of the nineteen hottest years on record have occurred in the twenty-first century with 2016 the hottest year on record, 2015 the second hottest, 2017 the third hottest and 2018 the fourth hottest; and

Whereas, an increase in the global average temperature is having and will continue to increasingly have major adverse impacts, if not stopped by eliminating the use of fossil fuels, on both the natural and human-made environments due to longer, more intense heat waves, prolonged droughts, spread of infectious diseases, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, wildfires, and more intense and frequent extreme weather events; and

Whereas, these physical effects are expected to lead to water scarcity, food insecurity, increasing numbers of refugees, increased poverty, and the mass extinction of species; and

Whereas, studies completed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Risky Business Project, Duke University, and others point to the severe economic costs of climate change and continuing use of fossil fuel, estimating billions of dollars a year in costs nationally and trillions globally; and

Whereas, leading economists, policy experts, and business leaders conclude that transitioning to a clean energy economy available for all would create millions of green jobs nationally, improve health and living standards, and boost economic growth in coming years; and

Whereas, low-income communities and communities of color in North Carolina and the United States are inordinately exposed to pollution, that causes serious health problems such as cancer and asthma, from fossil fuels, including the dirtiest coal-fired power plants which produce coal ash, and need to be empowered and have access to educational tools and an awareness of climate issues; and

Whereas, a Stanford University and University of California-Berkeley study concludes the United States energy supply could be based entirely on renewable energy by the year 2050 using current technologies and 80% renewable energy by 2030 while creating numerous green jobs; and

Whereas, municipalities, organizations, businesses, and academic institutions throughout the world have set a goal to achieve carbon or climate neutrality by 2050 or earlier; and

Whereas, some communities in California, in Iowa, and in Vermont currently generate over 90% of their electricity from renewable sources; and

Whereas, over 1,000 mayors have joined the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement since 2005 to commit to significantly reduce carbon emissions in their cities to combat climate change; and

Whereas, over 600 American colleges and universities have made a commitment to reduce greenhouse gases, including Appalachian State University, Blue Ridge Community College, Carteret Community College, Catawba College, Central Carolina Community College, Davidson College, Duke University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Guilford College, North Carolina Central University, Queens University of Charlotte, Southeastern Community College, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Wake Technical Community College, and Warren Wilson College; and

Whereas, North Carolina installed 1,140 MW of solar electric capacity in 2015, ranking it second nationally; nearly \$1.7 billion was invested on solar installations in North Carolina, a 159% increase over the previous year; there are currently more than 200 solar companies at work throughout the value chain in North Carolina, the state companies employing some 6,000 people; North Carolina ranks third in the nation in installed solar capacity, enough to power 260,000 homes; and solar photovoltaic system prices in the U.S. have dropped by 66% since 2010; and

Whereas, North Carolina has more offshore wind energy potential than any other Atlantic state; and

Whereas, the Global Carbon Project predicts there will be a 2.7 percent rise in global carbon emissions in 2019 compared with a 1.6 percent increase last year and this increase in emissions constitutes a record high, dashing hopes that such pollution could finally be coming to a standstill; and

Whereas, the Fourth National Climate Assessment, released in November, 2018 reports global carbon emissions that threaten higher temperatures, stronger storms, increased flooding and longer, more intense droughts; and

Whereas the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C reports drastic consequences with current levels of greenhouse gas emissions but affirms that these impacts could be minimized by developing the political will to cut greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and to nearly zero by 2050.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill that the Council hereby commits to transitioning the Town from a fossil fuel-based economy to a 100% clean renewable energy for all energy sectors-based economy, by January 1, 2050 or sooner to avoid climate catastrophe, to promote job creation and economic growth, and to protect the Earth for current and future generations from climate catastrophe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Chapel Hill urges the State of North Carolina and the United States to join the Town and Orange County in committing to the above transition.

This the ___ day of _____, 2019.