

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2026 HEAT ACTION PLAN FOR ORANGE COUNTY
(2026-04-15/R-4)**

WHEREAS, in April of 2021, the Town of Chapel Hill adopted a Climate Action and Response Plan, which charts a course for reducing the emissions that cause climate change and adapting to our changing climate; and

WHEREAS, extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related death in the United States and one of the most significant climate stressors in our community; and

WHEREAS, historical weather data shows that Orange County averaged eight days per year above 95 degrees Fahrenheit and that current projections show an increase to between 28-41 days per year by the 2060s; and

WHEREAS, Orange County and the towns of Carrboro, Chapel Hill and Hillsborough collaborated and received expert guidance and national best practice from the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resilience to develop the first Heat Action Plan for Orange County; and

WHEREAS, the plan was directly informed by community meetings, survey feedback, and the Heat Relief Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the plan provides a framework to increase community awareness, reduce-heat related health risks, and build long-term resilience through eighteen specific actions across three goals: Outreach and Education, Enhanced Emergency Response, and Cooling Homes and Neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, communications elements of the plan are already underway, starting with last summer's Beat the Heat Campaign and Heat Awareness Week proclamations across the county; and

WHEREAS, Orange County's Board of County Commissioners formally adopted the Heat Action Plan for Orange County on March 17, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill that the Council approves the 2026 Heat Action Plan for Orange County as described in the April 15, 2026 meeting materials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council directs the Town Manager to charge the Office of Sustainability and Resilience and other relevant departments to collaborate with Orange County partners to support the implementation of the plan.

This the 15th day of April, 2026.