

**RESOLUTION 100 OF 2022**

**RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
KINGSTON, NEW YORK, TO ACCEPT A MEMORIALIZING  
RESOLUTION TO ACCELERATE EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION TO  
RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE**

Sponsored By: Laws & Rules Committee: Alderman Worthington,  
Scott-Childress, Hill, Olivieri, Frankel

**“A Resolution Recognizing That Our Community and the World Are in a Climate Emergency and Calling on Our State and Federal Elected Officials to Significantly Accelerate Emergency Mobilization to Restore a Safe Climate.”**

**Whereas,** The accelerating pace of climate change and its catastrophic effects worldwide are becoming increasingly obvious, and this situation must inform and influence all of our thinking and planning as a community; and

**Whereas,** The 2018 United States Fourth National Climate Assessment (“NCA4”) detailed the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy, our environment and climate stability—a threat that demands immediate climate emergency action at all levels of government; and

**Whereas,** The United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and extinction emergencies and has at times obstructed global efforts to transition toward a green economy, and thus bears significant responsibility to rapidly address these existential threats; and

**Whereas,** Extreme weather events put us all at risk,

**Whereas,** Kingston New York is a Hudson River town, and the Hudson is an estuary which is at sea level, and Kingston is as vulnerable to sea level rise as any coastal region,

**Whereas,** Our beautiful natural areas, both in Kingston and in surrounding areas, are at terrible risk from the biological outcomes of increasing temperatures, such as invasive species, die-offs of native plant life, floods, and erosion,

**Whereas,** Our Hudson Valley farm land is at great risk from increasing temperatures and extreme weather,

**Whereas,** Our municipal government here in Kingston, New York, has taken great strides to address the climate emergency, including

- committing to 100 percent clean energy by 2050,
- establishing a Roadmap to 100 percent Renewable Energy,
- declaring support for the Principles of the Paris Climate Agreement,
- achieving the rank of a Silver Certified Climate Smart Community,
- being the first city in New York to be designated a Clean Energy Community,
- as well as developing wide-ranging Climate Action plans; and

**Whereas,** Kingston can and should not only continue on its current path to sustainability but extend our efforts to act as a regional leader by both converting to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative economy at emergency speed,

**Whereas,** Even if Kingston is not at this time suffering as many effects of climate change as some other parts of the world, every community has the responsibility of global citizenship; and

**Whereas,** The struggle for economic justice in our times is inseparable from climate justice,

**Whereas** New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act stipulates that we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030, and 85% by 2050 and that at least 35% of all clean energy investment must go into disadvantaged communities.

**Whereas,** Climate justice calls for climate resilience planning that addresses the specific experiences, vulnerabilities, and needs of marginalized communities within our jurisdiction, who must be included and supported in actively engaging in climate resilience planning, policy, and actions; and

**Whereas,** Addressing climate change fairly requires a “Just Transition” from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy that is ecologically sustainable and equitable for all people, especially those most impacted by climate change already and those who will be most impacted in the future; and

**Whereas,** Building and development that is oblivious to the ecological effects of the built environment is increasingly unacceptable, and we must rapidly strengthen building codes to address the needs of the future; and,

**Whereas,** Marginalized populations in Kingston and worldwide, including people of color, immigrants, refugees of war and climate change, indigenous communities, low-income individuals, the elderly, people with disabilities, and the un-housed are already disproportionately affected by climate change, and will continue to bear an excess burden as temperatures increase, oceans rise, and disasters worsen; and

**Whereas,** Taking decisive action to combat climate change will create plentiful job and business opportunities,

**Whereas,** Building a community that is resilient to the current, expected, and potential effects of climate change will protect health, lives, ecosystems, and economies, and such resilience

efforts will have the greatest positive impact if the most dramatic potential consequences of climate change are taken into account; and

**Whereas,** Actions to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and/or drawdown greenhouse gases can be taken in ways that also improve resilience to the effects of climate change, and vice versa; and

**Whereas,** Common sense demands that this unprecedented mobilization effort address the full suite of existential ecological threats facing humanity in a comprehensive, integrated and timely fashion; and

**Whereas,** Restoring a safe and stable climate requires transformative societal and economic change on a scale not seen since World War II to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, to rapidly and safely drawdown or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, to end the 6th mass extinction of species, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the increasingly severe consequences of climate change; and

**Whereas,** Nearly 400 cities, districts and counties across the world representing over 34 million people collectively have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate emergency, including Hoboken, Berkeley, Los Angeles, Montgomery County, Oakland, Richmond, and Santa Cruz in the United States, Bristol and London in the United Kingdom and many cities in Australia, Canada, and Switzerland; and

**Whereas,** the City of Kingston recognizes that the climate crises requires a world wide response and that the United States must lead in this response;

***Now, therefore, be it Resolved,*** the Common Council of the City of Kingston pledges to work toward creating a Climate Justice Plan that treats the international climate crisis as a crisis of community;

***Be it further resolved*** that the Common Council will seek to align the City's climate justice work to the state and federal definitions of climate justice communities and to go beyond those definitions to add factors such as historical inequities, homeownership, financial inclusion, and access to health, education and unemployment benefits;

***Be it further resolved that the Common Council calls on our elected officials at the state and federal levels to act with all due haste to accelerate emergency mobilization to restore a safe climate for all; and***

***Be it further Resolved that this mobilization must encompass the core values of collective fairness, economic equity, and social justice.***

***Be it further Resolved that this document, upon final approval, will be sent to our State and Federal elected officials: Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, Governor Kathy Hochul, US Representative Antonio Delgado, and US Senators Kirstin Gillibrand and Charles Schumer.***

Submitted to the Mayor this 4<sup>th</sup> day of  
May, 2022



Elisa Tinti, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor this 4<sup>th</sup> day of  
May, 2022



Steven T. Noble, Mayor

Adopted by Council on May 3, 2022

**THE CITY OF KINGSTON COMMON COUNCIL**

**LAWS & RULES  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

DEPARTMENT:   Laws & Rules                        DATE:   4/20/22  

Description:   Resolution to Accept Memorializing  
  Resolution to Accelerate Emergency  
  Mobilization to Restore a Safe Climate

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion by   B14  

Seconded by   M10  

Action Required: \_\_\_\_\_


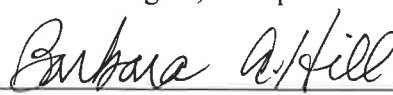
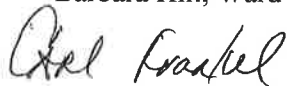
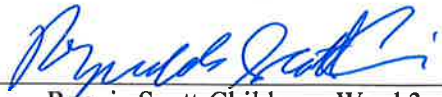
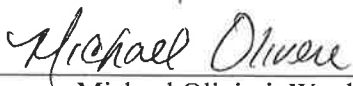
SEQRA Decision:  
 Type I Action \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type II Action \_\_\_\_\_  
 Unlisted Action \_\_\_\_\_

Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

Conditioned Negative Declaration: \_\_\_\_\_

Seek Lead Agency Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Positive Declaration of Environmental Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Committee Vote</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
 Rita Worthington, Chairperson	✓	
 Barbara Hill, Ward 1	✓	
 Carl Frankel, Ward 2	✓	
 Rennie Scott-Childress, Ward 3	✓	
 Michael Olivieri, Ward 7	✓	

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L+R

## Memorializing Resolution of the Common Council of Kingston, N.Y.

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