

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Climate change threatens the health and welfare of the Athens-Clarke County community and people around the world; and

WHEREAS, climate warming can exacerbate climate and weather disasters including floods, fires, and extreme storms, and such disasters have cost the U.S. nearly \$750 billion since 2017, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

WHEREAS, inaction on curbing climate pollution could cost the US \$14.5 trillion over the next fifty years, according to the Deloitte Economics Institute; and

WHEREAS, immediate and widespread action is required to heed scientists' warnings and avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis by keeping global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees; and

WHEREAS, limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees requires reducing global climate emissions to net-zero by mid-century and in the interim, achieving 45% reductions below 2010 levels by 2030 according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; and

WHEREAS, leaders bear a responsibility to preserve a livable world, safe climate, and thriving economy for the people of today and future generations; and

WHEREAS, our local government strives to be responsible stewards of the environment; and

WHEREAS, local government actions alone are not enough to meet the emissions reductions required to hold warming to 1.5 degrees, but rather such emissions reductions require action at the local, state, and federal level; and

WHEREAS, the United States, as part of its commitment to the Paris Accord, has committed to the world to achieve net-zero climate emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Biden administration has committed to cutting U.S. emissions by 50-52% by 2030, in line with the 2050 goals above; and

WHEREAS, a foundation to meet those goals is achieving 80% carbon-free electricity by 2030 nationally, accompanied by rapid adoption of zero emissions vehicles; and

WHEREAS, rapid transition to clean and renewable energy and clean transportation is feasible and beneficial by reducing pollution, improving health outcomes, reducing household bills, creating jobs, and fostering energy independence; and

WHEREAS, Congressional and administrative policies aimed at hastening the energy transition can support and expand local efforts; and

WHEREAS, the United States is a leading voice in the world, and action here will spur action by other governments; and

WHEREAS, every day climate action is delayed means denying the benefits of clean energy to Americans; and

WHEREAS, ACCUG is committed to achieving a just and equitable transition to 100% Clean and Renewable Energy for ACCUG by 2035 and the community as a whole by 2050.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia (the Commission)


SECTION 1. The Commission hereby calls on the United States Congress to address climate change in 2022 by passing federal legislation that meets the scale of the crisis, investing \$550 billion in the clean energy transition, helping save American families money while growing the clean energy economy, and cultivating justice through the Justice 40 commitment to allocate 40% of investments to disadvantaged communities.

SECTION 2: The Commission hereby calls on the Biden administration to take strong actions through existing authority that protect Americans' health and the environment.

SECTION 3: Upon adoption, the Mayor is hereby respectfully requested and directed to forward a true and correct copy of this Resolution to Athens-Clarke County's Congressional delegation and the White House.

SO RESOLVED 3 day of May, 2022.

APPROVED: _____


Kelly Girtz, Mayor

ATTEST: _____


Jean Spratlin, Clerk of Commission