

RESOLUTION NO. M-2045

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, IN
COORDINATION WITH THE OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL CLIMATE ACTION CLUB,
EXPRESSING A COMMITMENT TO PROTECT THE YOUTH OF THIS COMMUNITY FROM
THE RISKS OF CLIMATE DESTRUCTION.**

WHEREAS, the United States of America is the only country in the world that is withdrawing from the landmark Paris Climate Agreement leaving the burden of countering climate change to other national, state and municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden resulting from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be carried by the youngest generation, and all who follow; and

WHEREAS, the risks from an inadequate response are potentially devastating and include economic and environmental disruptions, many of which are already being felt such as more severe storms, longer and hotter heat waves, worsening flood and drought cycles, growing invasive species and insect problems, accelerated species extinction rates, rising sea levels, increased wildfires, and a dramatic increase in refugees from climate impacted lands; and

WHEREAS, the forest fires in the Pacific Northwest during the Summer of 2018 have contaminated and polluted the air breathed by all the citizens of this region; and

WHEREAS, numerous governmental and non-governmental bodies across the nation and the world have already adopted climate action plans to immediately and rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also stopping them entirely within 25 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the City of Olympia passed Resolution No. M-1975, formally adopting community-wide emissions reduction targets of 45 percent below 2015 levels by 2030 and 85 percent below 2015 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia is currently working with Thurston County and the cities of Tumwater and Lacey on a Regional Climate Mitigation Plan (the Plan) aimed at achieving these emission reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, the City has strongly supported having youth participation on the Regional Climate Mitigation Plan Stakeholder Committee and is committed to ongoing engagement with youth on the implementation of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, youth of the Olympia High School Climate Action Club have brought this Council a Youth Climate Report Card highlighting the gap between what we are doing today and actions that would be necessary to protect their future; and

WHEREAS, youth of Olympia have indicated a willingness to work with this Council on such actions;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE that the Council commits to a vision and sense of urgency in becoming a carbon-neutral community. While continuing work on the Regional Climate Mitigation Plan referenced above, the City commits to working with the youth of Olympia on the collective actions and strategies necessary to achieve a goal of net-zero emissions by 2040.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this 23rd day of July 2019.

Cheryl Seby
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Debbie L. Seltzer
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mark Barber
CITY ATTORNEY