



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: January 24th , 2022

AGENDA ITEM: Consider adopting a resolution declaring a climate emergency in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

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BACKGROUND:

Grand Rapids has just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now. Recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050. Transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect on impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents;

Attached is a resolution declaring that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world and that the City commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization efforts and will:

- Complete and Implement a Climate Action Plan
- Fully Implement our autonomous electric vehicle shuttle pilot program
- Continue serving as a regional leader and share our experience with the Grand Rapids Solar Garden project and autonomous electric vehicle project so other communities may learn from us and implement similar ideas

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion to adopt a resolution declaring a climate emergency in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.