



Climate Emergency Proclamation

Whereas, in April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate disruption and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5C”; and

Whereas, the harm already caused by global warming of 1.35C above the pre-industrial average (1850-1900) is reflected in increased and intensifying harm from extreme heat events and other extreme weather, wildfires, droughts, floods, and rising seas; and

Whereas, in Colorado and Erie these impacts can already be seen in wildfires burning twice as much acreage now as they did in 1980; wildfires burning in all seasons, even in winter; more frequent and more severe flooding; and almost twice as many days in a year with temperatures of 90F or hotter, from an average of 27 between 1954-1973 to 47 between 2004-2023; and

Whereas, the risk of climate disruption is increasingly recognized by major corporations and financial institutions such as The World Bank, which found that climate disruption impacts could push an additional 100 million people into poverty by 2030; and

Whereas, restoring a safe and stable climate requires mobilizing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors to protect all people and species from the consequences of climate disruption; and

Whereas, clean energy resources such as solar, wind, and energy efficiency are providing growing numbers of well-paying jobs and in 2023 were less expensive than fossil fuels and highly reliable due to rapid improvements in technology; and

Whereas, the Town can act as a leader by joining other local, state, and federal governments that are implementing just transition and climate emergency actions; and

Now therefore, be it declared by the Town Council of the Town of Erie that:

Section 1. The Town Council hereby declares a Climate Emergency due to the significant threat climate disruption has on Erie residents and on the world and in recognition of the reasonable and feasible actions we can take to reach a safe and stable climate before irreversible climate catastrophe occurs.

Section 2. The Town Council will lead in addressing the Climate Emergency by the following initiatives, as permitted by law:

- a. Considering the climate impacts of all future decisions and favor action, solutions or paths that are positive for climate, environment, biodiversity and equitable;

- b. Adopting by 2025 a Climate Action Plan that outlines specific actions the Town will take to reduce GHG emissions or adaptation strategies the Town will implement to counter the negative effects of climate disruption;
- c. Implementing actions to ensure that, by 2050, renewable energy accounts for at least 95% of all energy use attributable to all sectors in the Town;
- d. Creating and maintaining multi-modal zero and low emission transportation opportunities throughout the Town; and
- e. Implementing additional zero waste and strategic waste diversion efforts that will reduce the amount of material going to the Front Range Landfill.

Adopted this 9th day of April 2024.

Justin Brooks, Mayor

Attest:

Debbie Stamp, Town Clerk