

Climate Inheritance Resolution

A Resolution expressing the commitment of the San Rafael City Council to protect the children and grandchildren of this community from the risks of climate destruction.

WHEREAS, 195 countries, including the United States and every country that is a member of the United Nations, reached an agreement in Paris, France on December 12, 2015, that recognizes the greatest burden resulting from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be carried by the youngest generation, and all who follow;

WHEREAS, the risks from an inadequate response are potentially devastating, and include economic and environmental disruptions, many of which are already being felt globally including more severe storms, longer and hotter heat waves, worsening flood and drought cycles, growing invasive species and insect problems, accelerated species extinction rates, increased wildfires, a dramatic increase in refugees from climate impacted lands, increased asthma cases, and sea level rise, which could inundate some heavily populated areas, roadways, and thoroughfares;¹

WHEREAS, leading climate scientists² have indicated that further delay in significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions will rapidly push humanity past the point where disastrous consequences can be avoided;

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;

WHEREAS, the youth of San Rafael have brought this Council a Youth Climate Report Card highlighting the gap between what our city is doing today and actions that would be necessary to protect our future;

WHEREAS, the youth of San Rafael have indicated a willingness to work with this Council on such actions, we therefore declare it:

RESOLVED, that San Rafael City Council commits to working constructively, using ingenuity, innovation, and determination to update the current Climate Change Action Plan in order to protect our community's children and grandchildren from the risk of climate destruction.

¹ "Sea Level Rise: Threatened Areas Map." *Cal-Adapt -- Exploring California's Climate Change Research*. U.S. Geological Survey, n.d. Web. 10 Jan. 2017.

² Hansen J, Kharecha P, Sato M, Masson-Delmotte V, Ackerman F, Beerling DJ, et al. (2013) Assessing "Dangerous Climate Change": Required Reduction of Carbon Emissions to Protect Young People, Future Generations and Nature. PLoS ONE 8(12): e81648. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0081648

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a mechanism will be created for the ongoing inclusion of young people in the process of creating and executing climate related policies and actions.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by _____ in _____ on _____ with a quorum present.

Signed by: _____

Attest: _____