

RESOLUTION 2021-03-517

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON, WASHINGTON,
DECLARING A GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS**

WHEREAS, the world is already seeing the impacts of a warmer climate in rising seas, and more frequent and intensifying wildfires, droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, global warming over 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels will negatively affect human health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth resulting in species loss and extinction. In April 2016 world leaders recognized the urgent need to act by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to pursue “efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. The United States returned, in January 2021, as a signatory to the Paris Agreement, agreeing to pursue “efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”; and

WHEREAS, the need to address climate change and climate resiliency compels the City of White Salmon to participate in a global effort to rapidly and safely reduce existing greenhouse emissions and excess carbon from the atmosphere; to protect our economy, land, people, and all species; and

WHEREAS, the City of White Salmon is committed to resilient infrastructure and sound municipal environmental policy; and

WHEREAS, the City of White Salmon acknowledges that our community and watershed is extremely vulnerable to wildfire and that climate change is one of many factors that intensifies the threat of increasingly severe fire events and associated public health risks; and

WHEREAS, the City of White Salmon recognizes the need to preserve and protect our drinking water supplies from reduced snowpack, increased drought and wildfires, while also addressing groundwater, aquifer recharge and storm water; and

WHEREAS, the City of White Salmon acknowledges climate change adversely impacts our city and regional economy, including tourism, recreation, forestry, agriculture, and fishing; and

WHEREAS, the City of White Salmon recognizes the need for community education and participation, and inclusion in the planning and implementation of large-scale changes at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the City of White Salmon reinforces policy goals of the 2012 Comprehensive Plan, including the implementation of low impact development methods, protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and protection of wetlands and their buffer areas.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON
AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The City of White Salmon declares that a climate crisis threatens our community, our region and planet.
2. The City of White Salmon commits to take steps to:
 - a. Reduce reliance on fossil fuels in municipal operations;
 - b. Pursue local policies and reforms that promote environmental stewardship and overlapping economic sustainability;
 - c. Identify current municipal greenhouse emissions in pursuit of a target reduction in municipal net greenhouse gas emissions of at least 45% by 2030 and net zero by 2050;
 - d. Initiate efforts to formulate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts such as wildfires, drought, reduced water availability, and stormwater runoff;
 - e. Work on climate issues in conjunction with diverse communities within the city and neighboring communities, with whom we share our fragile resources.
3. The City of White Salmon recognizes the need for community education, participation, inclusion, and support, in efforts to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and the city's climate impacts.
5. The City of White Salmon will continue to consider opportunities and funding to address the climate and ecological emergency and its impacts through existing hazard mitigation and emergency management programs.
6. The City of White Salmon commits to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities and impacts to tribal treaty resources central to all climate change mitigation planning processes and to proactively seek participation of such communities.
7. The City of White Salmon joins a call for a regional, tribal and native, national, and international climate emergency mobilization effort.

This resolution shall take effect after its passage by the City Council.

ADOPTED by the Council of the City of White Salmon, Washington. Dated this 3rd day of March 2021.

Marla Keethler, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer

Kenneth B. Woodrich, City Attorney