

RESOLUTION 2017-78

A resolution declaring Boulder County's Commitment to honor and uphold the Paris Climate Agreement Goals

Recitals

- A. One hundred and ninety-five countries, including the United States of America (the "United States"), vowed to address climate change in agreements reached in Paris in December 2015 (the "Paris Agreement").
- B. President Donald Trump's announcement seeking to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement undermines the global effort to confront one of the greatest challenges facing our community and communities across the one planet we all share.
- C. There is scientific consensus regarding changes to our climate caused by human activity, especially the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases.
- D. Climate change has been widely recognized by government, business, academic, and community leaders as a worldwide threat to our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life.
- E. The Boulder County Board of County Commissioners ("Boulder County") desires to protect and enhance quality of life for those who live, work, learn and play in our community, as well as for future generations.
- F. Boulder County and other Colorado communities throughout the state are already beginning to feel the impacts of climate change such as reduced snowpack, earlier snowmelt runoff, and more frequent and severe floods and extreme weather events, droughts and wildfires.
- G. United States citizens and residents should possess a right to a healthy climate, and Boulder County believes that the United States government's failure to adequately protect communities and ecosystems from climate change and its impacts would violate this right.
- H. Extraction and use of coal, oil, and gas are responsible for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions. Ensuring a healthy climate therefore necessitates ending our reliance on fossil fuels, as well as the implementation of strong local and state protections from the impacts associated with oil and gas development in the interim.
- I. Boulder County supports a fair and just transition from fossil fuels to clean energy to protect affected workers, unions, and communities whose economies are tied to fossil fuel industries.
- J. Boulder County has demonstrated a legacy of leadership to reduce the threat of climate change and will continue to prioritize climate and energy efforts in our community and beyond.
- K. Boulder County's current climate commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions exceeds what the U.S. would have committed to in order to meet the Paris Climate Agreement goal.

- L. Boulder County is committed to continually strengthening these emission reduction targets to ensure that the County is doing everything in its capacity to meet a long-term goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
- M. Boulder County is committed to acting on climate change by joining other counties, cities, states, national governments, and community and private sector leaders who recognize the importance of these actions to protect and enhance the well-being of current and future generations.

Therefore, the Board resolves:

1. For Boulder County to protect and enhance the quality of life for all those who live, work, learn, and play in our community, as well as for future generations, Boulder County re-affirms its commitment to reducing climate pollution with aggressive greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.
2. Boulder County re-affirms its commitment to promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency as important steps in achieving its overall climate goals.
3. Boulder County supports the principles of the Paris Agreement and the United States' participation as a party to the Paris Agreement.
4. Boulder County encourages and supports cities, counties, states, countries, and other public and private sector partners throughout the world to advance action according to the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.
5. Boulder County recognizes the importance of being a founding member in Colorado Communities for Climate Action, a statewide local government coalition dedicated to advancing state and federal climate protective policies.
6. Boulder County acknowledges our partnership with the Colorado Climate Network and the Compact of Colorado Communities, two organizations committed to increasing the capacity of Colorado local governments to develop and implement aggressive climate change mitigation, adaption, and resiliency initiatives thus ensuring the security and economic prosperity of their members.
7. Boulder County encourages all federal representatives to act to reverse federal executive actions that jeopardize the world's ability to combat climate change.

A motion to this effect was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Domenico, and passed by a 3-0 vote.

[Signature page follows]

ADOPTED on this 27 day of June, 2017.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BOULDER COUNTY:**



Deb Gardner, Chair



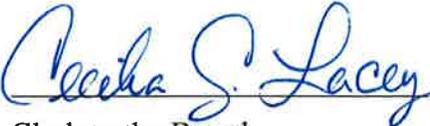
Cindy Domenico, Vice Chair



Elise Jones, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Clerk to the Board