

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0546 A Proclamation Honoring Earth Day 54 – April 22, 2024

WHEREAS, clean soil, water and air are essential to the health of our planet, the people and other creatures who live on it and the resources we take from it; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 1970, millions of Americans came together to celebrate the first Earth Day, with students, teachers, activists, elected officials and countless others committing to confront urgent environmental issues of the day; and

WHEREAS, individual behaviors, apathetic corporations, and governmental policies have led to ever-increasing fossil fuel emissions that have already created havoc for our environment, leading to the extinction of animal and plant species, the fouling of our air, land and water and multiple challenges to human health; and

WHEREAS, prevailing science indicates that climate change, exacerbated by human behaviors, is continuing at a dangerous pace that unless reversed quickly will lead to even more serious environmental changes that threaten to alter where we are able to live, work, play and grow our food; and

WHEREAS, while understanding that combating climate change effectively will take worldwide cooperation, we understand that success can only be achieved if all governments look inward, and institute demanding local policies leading to emissions reductions, as well as an emphasis on the need for individual responsibility to solve this crisis; and

WHEREAS, Denver strives to be a leader not only in the state of Colorado but also the nation, and that leading by example starts with how the city functions internally, we call on ourselves as a body, all Denver city departments, agencies, and the administration, to be a champion of change and to begin to implement the same sustainable policies we espouse to our residents, no matter how small; and

WHEREAS, Denver has taken several actions to honor our responsibility as global citizens, included among them: creation of the Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency (CASR) to imbed sustainable practices in all governmental functions and to lead Denver's policy making efforts regarding civic sustainability; the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) expanding our solid waste program to increase recycling pickup and extend composting to all residents and implementing the Denver Connector Microtransit Service in the Montbello, Globeville, and Elyria-Swansea neighborhoods, Department of General Services continued efforts with Environmentally Preferred Procurement (EPP) and a plan to shift city fleets to electric vehicles, Energize Denver building performance ordinance and continued headway from Community Planning and Development on the Denver Green Code, as well as many additional programs too numerous to recite; and

WHEREAS, Denver voters approved a .25% sales tax on the November 2020 ballot to bring in tens of millions of dollars annually to fund these and additional initiatives to combat climate change as aggressively as possible as well as approving the *Waste No More* initiative in 2022 that requires expanding recycling and composting services to multi-family residences and businesses; and

WHEREAS, several offices of Denver City Council recently agreed to implement a policy of Greener by Default, which adopts a sustainable catering policy to offer a 2:1 ratio of plant based to meat food options at all internal functions joining CASR and Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) in their adoption of this policy; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Denver City Council are in full support of efforts to empower residents to create sustainable neighborhoods across the city, and to empower city agencies to accomplish their duties with the least possible impact on resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver joins with citizens around the globe to mark Monday, April 22, 2024, as Earth Day 54; and

Section 2. That this Council takes this opportunity to state our commitment to effective environmentally friendly policies that will promote the health of Planet Earth for future generations.

Section 3. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix this seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be delivered to the Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 22, 2024

PRESIDENT

