

# DENVER CITY COUNCIL



## Proclamation No. 25-0561 A Proclamation Honoring Earth Day 55 – April 22, 2025

**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**, 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**, 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**, the historic reality of environmental degradation and injustice in this country has been felt primarily by low income Black and Brown Communities, and that current federal policies are poised to accelerate those impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, our current federal administration is hell-bent on further aggravating the climate crisis in exchange for capitalist gains, and although the need for individual responsibility is apparent, the largest corporations, institutions, and governments are not adequately aligned to solve this crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, realizing current federal indifference and objectives, we understand that local governments stand in a place of opportunity to institute policies that lead to rapid emissions reductions; 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 City Council as a body, all City and County of Denver departments, agencies, and the administration, to be outspoken champions of change and to ourselves implement the sustainable policies we espouse to our residents, no matter how small; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and County of Denver has taken many 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 in that regard; expansion of the solid waste program by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) to increase recycling pickup and extend composting to all residents as well as implementing the Denver Connector Microtransit Service in the Montbello, Globeville, and Elyria-Swansea neighborhoods with new expansions to multiple neighborhoods on the westside; and Community Planning and Development's (CPD) institution of the Denver Green Code and commitment to the Resilient Landscape Project, among many others; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Mike Johnston has included Climate Resiliency in Denver's Citywide Goals for 2025 to increase electrification through heat pumps, solar arrays, and EV chargers, as well as plant thousands of more trees and reduce the city's municipal water usage; 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**, 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 DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council joins with citizens around the globe to mark Tuesday, April 22, 2025, as Earth Day 55; 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, Groundwork Denver, and the Bluff Lake Nature Center.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 21, 2025

PRESIDENT