


PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 17-0452 Reaffirming Denver's Commitment to Planet-Friendly Policies

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of scientists from around the world have declared climate change to be the single most critical issue faced by Earth's family of nations; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Defense stated in 2015, "climate change is an urgent and growing threat to our national security"; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Mayors' National Climate Action Agenda declared, "The effects of climate change - extreme storms, wildfires and drought; sea level rise and storm surge; choking air pollution in cities; disruption of agricultural supply chains and jobs in rural heartlands; and coastal erosion, to name a few - are a clear and present danger to American interests at home and abroad"; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper recently stated: "Our efforts to clean our air and protect the natural environment are part of what draws young people, families, and businesses to Colorado. Our outdoor recreation industry, which helps create jobs all across the state, is dependent upon cleaner air and water"; and

WHEREAS, climate models suggest by 2050: temperatures along the Front Range will be similar to temperatures currently occurring near the Colorado-Kansas border; the January climate on Colorado's Eastern Plains will be similar to the climate currently experienced by areas approximately 150 miles further south; mountain snowpack will decline with an increasing fraction of precipitation falling as rain; and peak runoff, which has already shifted earlier by 1–4 weeks over the last 30 years, will shift an additional 1–3 weeks earlier, reducing late summer stream flows; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Michael B. Hancock, in 2014, in an effort to dramatically reduce Denver's contribution to climate change, created Denver's first Office of Sustainability to direct efforts across government agencies and platforms to minimize Denver's carbon footprint and environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, that office has established 2020 Sustainability Goals to reduce CO₂ emissions to 1990 levels, hold total energy usage below 2012 levels while cutting fossil fuel use by 50%, increase citywide recycling, reduce trips in single-occupant vehicles, reduce water usage and more; and

WHEREAS, as a signatory to the Mayors' National Climate Action Agenda, in 2015 Mayor Hancock announced Denver's goal of reducing community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions 80 percent below the level of 2005 by the year 2050 (80 by 50); and

WHEREAS, Denver City Council urges XCEL energy to continue to increase its renewable energy resources so that Denver, as soon as possible, can join cities across the country in pledging to meet 100% of our city's electrical needs through renewable sources by 2030; and

WHEREAS, recent actions taken by the White House have weakened our nation's ability to respond to the dangers of climate change and cast doubt on our commitment to lead the world in meeting this global environmental threat.

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 hereby reaffirms our belief in the science that tells us climate change is real, and a potential disaster that we must address as aggressively as possible by reducing the generation of greenhouse gasses. We believe this reduction can only be accomplished through an increased commitment to sustainability-based policies throughout our communities and an ongoing shift to renewable energy sources. We will continue to support legislation that moves our city and our state in this direction, and ask that the Colorado delegation to the Congress of the United States do everything in its power to advance this agenda on the national stage.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to:

- U.S. Senator, Michael Bennett
- U.S. Senator, Cory Gardner
- U.S. Representative, Diana DeGette (District 1)
- U.S. Representative, Jared Polis, (District 2)
- U.S. Representative, Scott Tipton, (District 3)
- U.S. Representative, Ken Buck, (District 4)
- U.S. Representative, Doug Lamborn, (District 5)
- U.S. Representative, Mike Coffman, (District 6)
- U.S. Representative, Ed Perlmutter, (District 7)

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 17, 2017



PRESIDENT