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3 Introduced by:

4
5 **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

6
7 **RESOLUTION 2019-**
8 **DECLARING A CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**
9

10 WHEREAS, recent reports from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the
11 National Climate Assessment have made clear that we are in a global climate
12 emergency, by documenting the extent, speed and acceleration of global climate
13 change and planetary warming, and their dramatic effects on our Earth; and
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15 WHEREAS, climate change is already inflicting and will continue to inflict substantial
16 damages to our physical, social and economic well-being; and
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18 WHEREAS, these damages, such as an increase in stormwater runoff and extreme weather,
19 will continue to worsen without immediate significant action; and
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21 WHEREAS, our own community is already feeling these climate impacts, such as more
22 frequent, more intense rainfall and greater stormwater runoff; and
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24 WHEREAS, communities most vulnerable to climate impacts, both in our own community and
25 worldwide, tend to be the least prepared to manage and recover; and
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27 WHEREAS, as part of the City’s commitment to working toward racial equity in all its actions,
28 and the Council’s established priorities, in particular housing affordability, it is
29 vital that City climate related actions thoroughly integrate these commitments;
30 and
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32 WHEREAS, a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory has identified residential and
33 commercial buildings as the largest contributing sources in Takoma Park; and
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35 WHEREAS, Takoma Park strives to be a leader in responding to the challenges of climate
36 change and in reducing ~~GHG~~ greenhouse gas emissions through our many local
37 policies and actions; and
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39 WHEREAS, the City is publicly committed to action on climate change through the Global
40 Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Paris Climate Agreement and the
41 Sierra Club 100% renewable energy pledge; and
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43 WHEREAS, the City in Resolution 2018-9 (January 30, 2018) recently affirmed its
44 commitment to aggressively implement its current Sustainable Energy Action
45 Plan and related actions for all sectors of the City as its resources allow, and
46 acknowledged and supported Montgomery County’s aspirational goals of 80%

47 | reduction in ~~GHG~~greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 and 100% reduction by
48 | 2035; ~~and~~

49 |
50 | ~~WHEREAS, as the City is committed to working toward racial equity in all its actions, and the~~
51 | ~~Council has established priorities including housing affordability, it is vital that~~
52 | ~~City climate related actions thoroughly integrate these commitments.~~

53 |
54 | NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park joins with
55 | communities across the US and the world to declare that we are in a climate related emergency
56 | ~~which that~~ threatens our community and others in our nation and worldwide, and which requires
57 | mobilizing more aggressive action on all our parts; and

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59 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park calls on our county, state and
60 | federal governments to take, and will continue to advocate for, more aggressive action on climate
61 | change, mitigation, ~~and~~ adaptation and resiliency at the county, state and federal levels, to move
62 | rapidly toward net zero GHG emissions, and the City will continue to advocate at all levels of
63 | government for adoption of policies to achieve these goals; and

64 |
65 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park Sustainability Manager will
66 | accelerate an update of its Sustainable Energy Action Plan (Plan) and GHG inventory for all
67 | sectors of the City, to identify the most aggressive local actions its authorities and resources will
68 | allow, along with costs and benefits of these actions; and

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70 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Plan update should identify what steps the City can
71 | take to move ~~rapidly~~ toward net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, including near term
72 | implementation steps and achievable interim goals and dates; and

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74 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Plan should:

- 75 | • Focus on dramatically improving efficiency of all our buildings (single family,
76 | multifamily, commercial and institutional), by far the largest sector of local GHG
77 | emissions; ~~;~~ as well as a transition to renewable energy generated energy in electricity and
78 | heating/cooling, and new construction and renovation;
- 79 | • Propose actions that integrate with other City Council priority goals, such as housing
80 | affordability and racial equity;
- 81 | • Offer methods that consider equity, affordability, and access for all members of our
82 | community, especially renters and low income and energy-burdened residents;
- 83 | • Consider opportunities for reducing GHG emissions in the transportation sector through
84 | local initiatives and collaboration region-wide;
- 85 | • Include a transparent and inclusive public process to gather public input, increase
86 | community engagement, and ensure that community members and local businesses have
87 | opportunities to participate; and
- 88 | • Examine leading policies around the country and build on them to propose nation-leading
89 | policies for our community; ~~and-~~

90 |
91 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council seeks results of this planning effortPlan
92 | and recommendations from the City Sustainability Manager on specific methods (as well as

93 | budget implications, and costs and savings for affected stakeholders) ~~to~~for accelerating the
94 | City's sustainable energy action program by December: 31, 2019; and:

95 |
96 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park will address a strategy for local
97 | actions for climate adaptation and resiliency, with a focus on managingsuch as stormwater from
98 | increased rainfall in our region, as well as; trees canopy, and green space, and carbongreenhouse
99 | gas capture and sequestration, as our authorities and resources will allow.

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101 | Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this ____ day of _____, 2019.

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103 | Attest:

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106 | Jessie Carpenter, CMC
107 | City Clerk

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