

1 Introduced by: Councilmember Dyballa

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3 **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

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5 **RESOLUTION 2019-15**  
6 **DECLARING A CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

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8 WHEREAS, recent reports from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the  
9 National Climate Assessment have made clear that we are in a global climate  
10 emergency, by documenting the extent, speed and acceleration of global climate  
11 change and planetary warming, and their dramatic effects on our Earth; and

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13 WHEREAS, climate change is already inflicting and will continue to inflict substantial  
14 damages to our physical, social and economic well-being; and

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16 WHEREAS, these damages, such as an increase in stormwater runoff and extreme weather,  
17 will continue to worsen without immediate significant action; and

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19 WHEREAS, our own community is already feeling these climate impacts, such as more  
20 frequent, more intense rainfall and greater stormwater runoff; and

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22 WHEREAS, communities most vulnerable to climate impacts, both in our own community and  
23 worldwide, tend to be the least prepared to manage and recover; and

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25 WHEREAS, as part of the City's commitment to working toward racial equity in all its actions,  
26 and the Council's established priorities, in particular housing affordability, it is  
27 vital that City climate related actions thoroughly integrate these commitments;  
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30 WHEREAS, a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory has identified residential and  
31 commercial buildings as the largest contributing sources in Takoma Park; and

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33 WHEREAS, Takoma Park strives to be a leader in responding to the challenges of climate  
34 change and in reducing GHG emissions through our many local policies and  
35 actions; and

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37 WHEREAS, the City is publicly committed to action on climate change through the Global  
38 Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Paris Climate Agreement and the  
39 Sierra Club 100% renewable energy pledge; and

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41 WHEREAS, the City in Resolution 2018-9 (January 30, 2018) recently affirmed its  
42 commitment to aggressively implement its current Sustainable Energy Action  
43 Plan and related actions for all sectors of the City as its resources allow, and  
44 acknowledged and supported Montgomery County's aspirational goals of 80%  
45 reduction in GHG emissions by 2027 and 100% reduction by 2035.

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

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

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

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

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66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Plan should:

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

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83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council seeks results of this planning effort and  
84 recommendations from the City Sustainability Manager on specific methods (as well as budget  
85 implications, and costs and savings for affected stakeholders) to accelerate the City's sustainable  
86 energy action program by December 31, 2019; and

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88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park will address a strategy for local  
89 actions for climate adaptation and resiliency, with a focus on managing stormwater from  
90 increased rainfall in our region, as well as tree canopy, green space, and carbon capture and  
91 sequestration, as our authorities and resources will allow.

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93 Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this 13th day of March, 2019.

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95 Attest:

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98 Jessie Carpenter, CMC

99 City Clerk

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