

Resolve 1-23/24

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Effective 8/24/2023

KATE SNYDER (MAYOR)
APRIL D. FOURNIER(A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ (A/L)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

ANNA TREVORROW (1)
VICTORIA L. PELLETIER (2)
REGINA L. PHILLIPS (3)
ANDREW ZARRO (4)
MARK DION (5)

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY OF PORTLAND’S ONGOING
COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT AND
ENDORSEMENT OF THE FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY**

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents one of the preeminent threats to global civilization; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in 2018 that we must achieve net zero in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by the middle of this century in order to have a reasonable chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC released its Sixth Assessment Report from Working Group II, which was approved by 195 member states, in February 2022, which notes that there is high confidence that “the rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt”; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the Working Group II report “an atlas of human suffering... according to current commitment, global emissions are set to increase almost 14 percent...It will destroy any chance of keeping 1.5 alive...coal and other fossil fuels are choking humanity”; and

WHEREAS, changes to the City of Portland’s climate are already being felt, including such impacts as rising seas, increased numbers of high heat days, increasingly frequent high intensity rain events, and dramatic ocean heatwaves in the Gulf of Maine that threaten natural ecosystems and the maritime economy; and

WHEREAS, our entire community is impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-income families, those experiencing homelessness, People of Color and Indigenous people, youth, seniors, those experiencing mental and physical disabilities, and people with health conditions; and

WHEREAS, our youth and future generations have the most to lose from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious diseases, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement is silent on coal, oil and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and production of fossil fuels (the largest source of GHGs) that needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and

WHEREAS, global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce more than double the amount of coal, oil and gas by 2030 than can be burned if the world is to limit warming to 1.5°C and avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of our city to reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels; and

WHEREAS, the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction; and

WHEREAS, our community is committed, as part of our climate emergency response, to a just energy transition and to ambitious investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs and rapidly decarbonize our economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland recognizes that it is the urgent responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel producers to lead in putting an end to fossil fuel development and to manage the reduction of existing production; and

WHEREAS, a new global initiative calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty would end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, and accelerate equitable transition plans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Portland formally endorses a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Portland urges the United States government to support a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland affirms its ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the GHG reduction targets as called for by the IPCC, and pledges to take action to meet its own proportionate greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris Climate Agreement.