

RESOLUTION NO. 12-19

**CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE INDIANA,
COMMON COUNCIL**

A RESOLUTION TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS, INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY USE, AND TO CREATE A CLIMATE CHANGE-RESILIENT CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA TO BENEFIT THE ECONOMY, PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH, AND PROTECT THE COMMUNITY'S CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

WHEREAS, analysis from the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies Surface Temperature Analysis has shown a significant global temperature rise; and

WHEREAS, the Purdue Climate Change Research Center has determined that with continued business-as-usual and no attempted reduction in carbon emissions, the Midwest can expect increased risks to public health, infrastructure, and agriculture due to increased heat wave intensity and frequency, more extreme droughts, increased heavy rain events and flooding, decreased agriculture yield, and degraded air and water quality; and

WHEREAS, the American Meteorological Society has declared there is an unequivocal evidence of a changing climate since the 1950's, caused primarily by the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, numerous other agencies and organizations, including, but not limited to, the American Lung Association, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Department of Defense Quadrennial Defense Review have determined that climate change is a serious risk to life, a threat multiplier, and a threat to national security; and

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana has already experienced detrimental effects due to climate change, including costly and dangerous extreme heat and drought conditions in 2012 and record-breaking rains and subsequent flooding in 2015 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, a shift to clean renewable energy is necessary due to the finite nature of non-renewable fossil fuel resources; and

WHEREAS, the effects of a healthier environment will substantially reduce health costs, especially for those suffering from asthma and emphysema or other respiratory issues associated with poor air quality; and

WHEREAS, various economic analysis have shown that it is possible to introduce measures that mitigate climate change impacts at a low cost and that the projected benefits outweigh the associated costs; and

WHEREAS, investment in energy independence will support efforts to build resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, recycling significantly reduces carbon emissions throughout the supply chain of consumer goods while creating new green jobs within the City of West Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden resulting from an inadequate response to climate change will be borne by our youngest generations and all subsequent generations; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Lafayette has long demonstrated its leadership on climate change issues and dedication to protecting the environment and future generations by joining other local governments in the “Climate Mayors” network, by joining the Environmental Resilience Institute’s Resilience Cohort, by performing a greenhouse gas tracking inventory through the Resilience Cohort, and by developing a climate action plan through the City of West Lafayette’s Go Greener Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Lafayette is the owner of numerous buildings, vehicles, and other energy-consuming items; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Lafayette, to operate these buildings, vehicles, and other energy-consuming items, uses a significant amount of electricity and non-renewable energy annually; and

WHEREAS, by increasing the efficiency of the City of West Lafayette’s buildings, vehicles, and other energy-consuming items, the City of West Lafayette and, as a result, the community as a whole, will save money, conserve energy, reduce waste, reduce pollution, and promote jobs in the rapidly growing clean energy sector; and

WHEREAS, by increasing the efficiency of the City of West Lafayette’s buildings, vehicles, and other energy-consuming items, the City of West Lafayette will reduce its carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Lafayette, in addition to reducing its carbon emissions, is also desirous of taking additional steps to reduce its carbon emissions, track said carbon emissions, encourage the reduction of carbon emissions and the concurrent use of renewable clean energy sources by the community as a whole, to provide education on the causes and risks of climate change, and to support other organizations or entities attempting to prevent climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The City of West Lafayette intends to revise and update its current plans based on the Resilience Cohort’s greenhouse gas inventory, which should be published by November 1, 2022, to incorporate a feasibility analysis.

SECTION 2: The City of West Lafayette intends to publish the results of its Resilience Cohort greenhouse gas inventory ninety (90) days after completion.

SECTION 3: The City of West Lafayette intends to reduce emissions by twenty percent (20%) with a goal of further reductions of twenty percent (20%) every four (4) years thereafter. This reduction includes obtaining a baseline measurement of emissions, the creation of an emissions management plan, the setting of short-term benchmark goals, the establishment of proper measures to ensure the plan is being implemented, and the incorporation of energy efficiency and renewable energy standards where possible.

SECTION 4: The City of West Lafayette intends to review emission reduction goals based on an updated climate action plan at the end of 2022 and then again every five (5) years thereafter.

SECTION 5: The City of West Lafayette intends to organize a resiliency clinic in collaboration with the local resiliency coordinator by January of 2020.

SECTION 6: The City of West Lafayette intends to engage in education and outreach activities for community members and to support individual lifestyle changes that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

SECTION 7: The City of West Lafayette intends to support Purdue University's implementation of the Sustainability Strategic Plan released in 2019.

INTRODUCED ON FIRST READING ON _____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

MOTION TO ADOPT MADE BY COUNCILOR _____, AND
SECONDED BY COUNCILOR _____.

DULY ORDAINED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, ON THE ____ DAY OF _____, 2019, HAVING BEEN PASSED BY A VOTE OF ____ IN FAVOR AND ____ OPPOSED, THE ROLL CALL VOTE BEING:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder				
DeBoer				
Dietrich				
Jones				
Keen				
Leverenz				
Sanders				
Thomas				
Wang				

Peter Bunder, Presiding Officer

Attest:

Sana G. Booker, Clerk

PRESENTED BY ME TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

Sana G. Booker, Clerk

THIS RESOLUTION APPROVED AND SIGNED BY ME ON THE _____ DAY OF
_____, 2019.

John R. Dennis, Mayor

Attest:

Sana G. Booker, Clerk