

## **RESOLUTION #03072022-2**

### **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INITIATIVES TO REDUCE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, the Purdue Climate Change Research Center has determined that under continued business as-usual “no action” carbon emissions, the Midwest should 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, decreasing agricultural yield, and degrading air and water quality; and

WHEREAS, the average temperature trend analyses from NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies Surface Temperature Analysis show significant average temperature rise; and

WHEREAS, the American Meteorological Society has declared there is unequivocal evidence of a changing climate since the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, numerous respected agencies and organizations including 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, localized risks to Hoosiers affecting human health, infrastructure and agriculture have included costly and dangerous extreme heat and drought conditions (2012), record-breaking rains and subsequent floods (2015 and 2018), and overall chaotic weather extremes; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, 82 of Indiana’s 92 counties, including Henry County, were declared Presidential disaster areas due to winter weather, severe storms, and flooding, and incurred over \$1.9 billion in damage to public infrastructure, housing, and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather and temperature changes associated with climate change, cause accelerated damage to New Castle’s infrastructure of roads and paths, and to our water utilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Castle participated in the 2021 Indiana University Resiliency Cohort to complete a greenhouse gases inventory for the New Castle community; and

WHEREAS, further increasing the efficiency of our buildings, vehicles, and electrical usage, our community will conserve energy, reduce waste, reduce pollution, and promote jobs in the clean energy sector; and

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

WHEREAS, a local, individualized climate plan will allow New Castle to continue to show leadership in improving the quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Castle is already working to better our environment through stormwater management, cleaning of brownfields, and being forward thinking in terms of planning; and

WHEREAS, various economic analyses have shown that it is possible to introduce climate mitigation at a low cost, and the benefits would outweigh costs; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden resulting from an inadequate response to address climate change will be carried by the youngest generation and all who follow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of New Castle, Indiana, that:

- (1) To the extent possible, the City of New Castle will promote and encourage initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint, ensure water and air quality standards, support biodiversity by planting native plants, encourage locally and responsibly grown food, waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, and augment transportation strategies like walking, biking, carpooling, and using mass transit.
- (2) The City of New Castle will work to achieve a 50% reduction in 2019 greenhouse gas pollution levels by the year 2030, utilizing grant opportunities for research, data harvesting, planning, and goal-setting.
- (3) The City of New Castle will work to create and implement a Climate Action Plan by 2025 and investigate the viability of creating an Office of Sustainability to help achieve the aforementioned.
- (4) The City of New Castle will work to engage business leaders, faith leaders, youth leaders, and community leaders from diverse populations to ensure all voices are included in the long-term sustainability planning process.

**REPEALER**: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SEVERABILITY**: Any provision herein contained which is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unlawful or which by operation shall be inapplicable, shall be deemed omitted but the rest and remainder of this ordinance, to the extent feasible, shall remain in full force and effect.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**: This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage and publication as provided for by law.

ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE, INDIANA THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

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Greg York, Presiding Officer,  
Common Council, City  
of New Castle, Indiana

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ATTEST:

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Brenda Grider, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED BY ME THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Greg York, Mayor of the City  
of New Castle, Indiana