

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF CLIMATE CHANGE)
AND STEPS TO ENSURE COUNTY)
RESILIENCY)
)

RESOLUTION NO. C-55-22
Amended

WHEREAS, Island County desires to protect and enhance the quality of life for all those who live, work, learn and play in our community, as well as all future generations; and

WHEREAS, consensus exists among the majority of the world's leading climate scientists that we face a major global climate crisis caused by greenhouse gas emissions, with rising sea levels and melting ice sheets creating increasingly unpredictable and unhealthy living environments as we approach a dangerous threshold of global warming; and

WHEREAS, climate action should be implemented in an equitable way, and accountable to historically marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to the unsafe 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018, the Fourth National Climate Assessment by the US Global Change Research Program illustrated the threat that climate change poses to the American economy, our environment, and climate stability, and the need for immediate action to address the climate crisis at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business, academic, and other community leaders as a worldwide threat with the potential to harm our economy, safety, and public health; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis impact is seen through the recent Category 4 atmospheric river that hit Washington State. More severe "King" tides and strong wind pushed water ashore causing mass flooding throughout Washington. Atmospheric rivers are predicted to continue to hit Washington state as the climate crisis worsens with 38 avalanches affecting the state after record-breaking rain and snow levels; and

WHEREAS, Island County's geographic location makes it particularly vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change, including a projected 1-3 feet of rising sea levels along the shoreline by 2100, drought, flooding, and the associated adverse impacts to infrastructure, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 from June 27th to 29th, three out of the four hottest temperatures ever recorded in Washington occurred throughout the State. Climate Scientists and Meteorologists worry that as climate change continues, heat waves and other extreme weather events could become more frequent and even more severe; and



WHEREAS, efforts to mitigate against further impacts of climate change will have benefits such as cleaner air and water, improved health, increased local employment; cost savings for households, businesses, and the county, and the creation of a stronger and more resilient community; and

WHEREAS, states and local governments are making the effort to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions; reducing petroleum use in cars and trucks; increasing electricity derived from renewable sources; and

WHEREAS, Island County has taken several actions to address climate change, some of which include:

- Island County Public Health partnered to fund a 2020 membership in ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability, as well as with Northwest Clean Air Agency who funded the 2019 greenhouse gas emissions study, and
- Island County Planning and Community Development complete building code energy efficiency updates annually, are updating the Public Benefits Rating System code to consider forest protection, partnering, and preservation, and
- Island County Planning and Community Development completed a sea level rise strategy study in 2020 along with sea level rise monitoring plan recommendations for community planning, and
- Island County Planning and Community Development in partnership with Public Health applied for, and will apply again for, the State Dept. of Ecology Grant for sea level rise education and outreach to shoreline communities, and
- Island County Public Works replaced county lights and has started to convert all Road Shops and Solid Waste facilities to more efficient LEDs, and
- Island County Public Works is looking to continue to install more fuel-efficient roundabouts, and
- Island County Public Works maintains carbon-reducing green spaces, and acquires or partners in acquiring carbon-reducing green spaces, and
- Island County Facilities is working on developing potential future projects under the Energy Savings Performance Contracting program with the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services; and

WHEREAS, behavioral and structural changes are important in achieving climate goals and creating communities that are safer and healthier; and

WHEREAS, the current pace of climate actions may still fall short of reducing the projected harm to people and places and accelerated actions need to be taken to reduce our GHG emissions and implement solutions to prepare and protect our communities; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Island County, Washington:

1. Hereby declares addressing the threats caused by climate change a priority for Island County; and
2. Commits to ensuring the county's actions remain in alignment with the most current scientific findings regarding climate change; and
3. Re-affirms its commitment to climate action and pledges to continue implementation of greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies; and

4. Commits to addressing the concerns of underrepresented and vulnerable communities during the climate planning process; and
5. Intends to plan for resiliency with policies and regulations that reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
6. Will develop a Climate Action Plan and will follow the approved recommendations, and
7. Will make every attempt to involve the public, including our youth, in climate action planning and further recommendations.

ADOPTED this 6th day of September, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON



M. Bacon
Melanie Bacon, Chair

J. St. Clair
Janet St. Clair, Member

J. Johnson
Jill Johnson, Member

ATTEST:

Virginia Shaddy
Virginia Shaddy, Clerk of the Board