

## Attachment F - Staff Comments to Version 2, 10/1/2020



# M E M O R A N D U M

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**DATE:** October 1, 2020  
**TO:** Redmond City Council  
**FROM:** Jenny Lybeck, Environmental Sustainability Program Manager  
**SUBJECT:** **Staff Comments on Climate Emergency Declaration (version 3)**

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Staff reviewed the draft declaration language distributed on October 1, 2020, by Councilmember Forsythe and offers the following comments.

Staff's primary concern rests in the call for a climate mobilization plan as there is significant overlap between the adopted Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP) and the proposed climate mobilization plan objectives. Rather than create a new plan, staff recommend support to refresh the ESAP. Duplication of planning and reporting efforts through the creation of a second greenhouse gas reduction strategy document has the potential to create administrative challenges, delay progress, and divert critical resources.

Overall, the policy recommendations noted in the Version 3 draft declaration provide helpful insight into Council's policy priorities. Climate emergency declaration targets that are not explicitly aligned with the ESAP – such as achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 as outlined in the ESAP versus carbon neutrality by 2030 as outlined in the draft declaration – provide key guidance for evaluation in the next ESAP refresh. Climate emergency declaration objectives that are already identified within the ESAP – such as green building standards and the development of ROI tools – will be implemented as quickly as feasible.

Aligning Council's objectives with the existing climate and sustainability programming will help streamline implementation and support a faster transition to realize Redmond's climate goals.