

Attachment A – Climate Emergency Declaration Draft, Version 1, 9/15/2020

Motion to amend

I move to amend the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP) to include a Redmond City Council declaration of a Climate Emergency, inserted prominently prior to the Overview section of the Executive Summary.

Draft Language and Key Points to Include:

Redmond City Council Declaration of a Climate Emergency

The Redmond City Council is strongly committed to the City of Redmond Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP) and expressly considers this plan as findings of fact of the imminent and growing threats to the public health and safety of the people of Redmond. This is a danger shared with the entire world population, on an already dangerously hot planet, and by declaring a climate emergency, we authorize the Mayor to use all available resources, seek supplemental assistance, and develop strategic partnerships to expedite ESAP initiatives that will:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions rapidly to zero.
- Work to understand and prevent climate change tipping points
- Implement resilience measures, including economic restructuring needed to restore a safe climate and repair ecosystems
- Use measures to track progress appropriate to an existential threat, and
- Prepare and maintain a climate emergency plan, to be approved by council, and review progress annually with the council.

With this declaration, the City of Redmond joins the growing global community that has recognized this Climate Emergency as a threat to human survival and

must take actions that match the scale of this existential threat, as climate-warming consequences escalate.

CLIMATE IMPACT

The megafires in Australia in late 2019, and now a reality in the Western United States are a harbinger of life and death. The Earth is unacceptably too hot now. The threat of Climate Change has moved from the computer projections and the imagination of scientific models and can now be seen and felt by the residents in Redmond in the approximately 20,000 breaths each of us take every day.

Leading scientists have high confidence that global temperatures will continue to rise for decades to come. According to the IPCC the extent of climate change effects on individual regions will vary over time and with the ability of different societal and environmental systems to mitigate or adapt to change. Predictions for impacts in our Northwest region include reduced and unpredictable water supplies, Sea level rises, ocean acidity, increased wildfires, extreme weather, insect outbreaks, and widespread tree die-off.

There are scientific warnings of more extreme consequences such as a “Hot House Earth” scenario, a planetary threshold that may exist at a temperature rise as low as 2°C, in which further warming becomes self-sustaining. Our challenge now is to reverse the human level of contribution to return to a safe climate and avoid tipping points which may initiate further warming.

This requires an emergency response, where climate is a primary concern of leadership at all levels.

LEADERSHIP

Many of our US leaders have done everything possible to prevent the development of serious climate change policy, both in the United States and internationally.

The first duty of a government is to protect the people, their well-being and livelihoods. We simply can't leave our community dangerously unprepared for the disasters that are unfolding, and absent of the extensive actions and changes needed to meet this future. Redmond leaders must join the global community that is working to frame the solutions as a climate emergency.

Climate change is a global problem requiring unprecedented levels of global cooperation. It obviously cannot be solved by Redmond acting alone, but we must be fully committed to do our part in preventing the human catastrophe that awaits us if we do not take urgent and continuous action.