

RESOLUTION DECLARING GREENWICH'S COMMITMENT TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY - Version 8/2/22

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenwich has experienced extreme weather events, including severe storms, drought, and intense heat, which have resulted in increased risks to public health, loss of power and basic utilities, high riverine floodwaters, inland and coastal flooding; and

WHEREAS the state of Connecticut's average annual air temperature has warmed 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit in the past century¹; and higher temperatures may have a direct impact on air quality and people's health, triggering heat-related illness, as well as cardiovascular and respiratory disorders and the higher probability of mortality; especially for our most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS there have been 14 extreme weather events in the state of Connecticut since 2012, including Ida, which caused an estimated \$16 to \$24 billion in flooding damage in the Northeastern United States, making it the costliest storm to hit the region since Hurricane Sandy in 2012², with an estimated \$44 billion in insured loss³; and

WHEREAS predictions by CT Institute of Resilience & Climate Adaption (CIRCA) show Connecticut sea level rise could increase 1.5 feet by 2050 and up to 3 feet by 2100, based on the level of action taken today to reduce carbon emissions⁴. Portions of coastal communities and sections of I-95, rail lines, and local airports are expected to experience tidal flooding, *without* storm action and over-development, due to increased sea levels⁵; and

WHEREAS there are numerous national and international reports and panels that have studied the effect of climate changes on ecosystems and humans, including but not limited to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP); and

WHEREAS, according to the EPA climate changes are projected to increase the frequency and intensity of storms in all regions of the United States; the EPA has established a Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center; and

WHEREAS the EPA's Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center and CT DEEP are available to assist municipalities in determining strategies for adapting to the potential impacts of climate changes, including, but not limited to, the impact of drought, storms, and flooding; and

WHEREAS local communities play a crucial role in addressing climate change as they are on the front lines of its consequences and their actions can have a measurable impact on the region; and

WHEREAS the Town has a Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) that recognizes the adverse impact of development on inland flooding, and

WHEREAS the Town of Greenwich recognizes and continues to address the challenges presented by a rapidly changing climate.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GREENWICH BOARD OF SELECTMEN declares:

1. The existence of a rapidly changing climate which threatens the future of our natural world upon which our community, region and country rely; and
2. The Town of Greenwich will continue to prioritize, considering other Town priorities and policies, ways to advance sustainability and climate resiliency whenever Town departments develop future departmental priorities, policies, plans, budgets, and actions, and that the Board of Selectmen hereby encourages other Town bodies to do the same; and
3. that the Town of Greenwich sets forth the following goals: the development of a Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Plan by December 2023 may include strategies in the areas of new buildings, energy efficiency, transportation, renewable energy, solid waste, water and wastewater, land use, natural systems, and the Town operations, to move Greenwich toward carbon neutrality and increase community resilience to a changing climate.

Adopted on this day of August 11, 2022.

¹ <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/education/kellogg/CT-Changing-Climate-Booklet.pdf>

² <https://www.corelogic.com/press-releases/corelogic-estimates-16-billion-to-24-billion-in-insured-and-uninsured-flood-losses-in-the-northeast-from-tropical-storm-ida/>

³ [https://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20210916/NEWS06/912344585/Hurricane-I-da-loss-estimate-up-to-\\$44B-RMS](https://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20210916/NEWS06/912344585/Hurricane-I-da-loss-estimate-up-to-$44B-RMS)

⁴ <https://circa.uconn.edu/sea-level-rise/>

⁵ <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/climate-change-ct.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>