

Resolution for a Green New Deal

A Resolution by Cupertino City Council calling for the federal government to pass a Green New Deal.

WHEREAS, Cupertino City Council wants the children and grandchildren of this community protected from the risks of climate destruction;

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C,”

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Agreement in 2017;

WHEREAS, an October 2018 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, criticized by many leading climate scientists as overly conservative, predicts that we have only until 2030 to limit devastating global warming and avoid a climate change catastrophe;

WHEREAS, the October 2018 IPCC report also makes clear that every bit of warming matters, so every fraction of a degree less of warming will save lives and pay dividends across the world’s economies;

WHEREAS, the world is already experiencing serious, costly, and increasing impacts from climate change, including more intense storms, unprecedented flooding, droughts, and persistent wildfires. The latter two which has already made an impact on our community. Droughts have caused a drier and more barren landscape, as well as threatened our water supply. Wildfires have more recently plagued our area, with record-breaking flames sweeping our forests every year, causing millions in damages and displacing thousands of people;

WHEREAS, an inadequate response to climate change will increase economic and environmental disruptions that threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure. These include, but are not limited to severe storms, longer and hotter heat waves, worsening flood and drought cycles, growing invasive species and insect problems, accelerated species extinction rates, rising sea levels, increased wildfires, and a dramatic increase in refugees from climate impacted lands;

WHEREAS, the most negative impacts of climate change are generally falling on frontline communities that are underrepresented, such as lower-income communities or communities of color, are bearing the initial burden of climate change, but are least equipped to adapt to these impacts;

WHEREAS, climate change and the global economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species, which has caused a 60% decline in global wildlife populations since 1970, could devastate much of life on Earth for the next 10 million years, and

may pose as great a risk to humanity as climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a whole-of-society “Climate Mobilization” at all levels of government on a scale not seen since World War II to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors at emergency speed, to rapidly and safely drawdown or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, to end the 6th mass extinction of species, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the increasingly severe consequences of climate change;

WHEREAS, doing what is now necessary to adequately address the climate crisis requires a national mobilization of a scope and scale that is a historic opportunity to address inequities caused and exacerbated by the fossil fuel economy as well as providing unprecedented levels of prosperity and economic security for all people in the United States;

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and extinction emergencies and has repeatedly obstructed global efforts to transition toward a green economy, and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly address these existential threats;

WHEREAS, Cupertino City Council has declared a Climate Emergency on September 18, 2018 and demonstrated the City’s commitment to eliminating all citywide greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible;

WHEREAS, Senator Ed Markey and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez released, on February 7, 2019, [a Resolution](#) Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal;

WHEREAS, federal Green New Deal legislation would create a detailed mobilization plan to:

- within a decade, achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers;
- create millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States;
- invest in the infrastructure and industry of the United States to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century;
- secure for all people of the United States for generations to come:
 - clean air and water;
 - climate and community resiliency;
 - healthy food;
 - access to nature;
 - and a sustainable environment;
- and promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous communities, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth;

WHEREAS, local governments calling for the federal government to pass a Green New Deal will demonstrate widespread popular support for necessary and just climate action and Cupertino can act as a global leader by both converting to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative economy at emergency speed, and by rapidly organizing a regional just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Cupertino City Council calls on the U.S. Government to, as soon as possible, pass a Green New Deal based on H.R. 109 and S. Res. 59 "Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal," the Resolution released on February 7, 2019 by Senator Ed Markey and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cupertino City Council calls on the California State Government to, as soon as possible, pass a Green New Deal such as the one proposed in AB 1276 introduced by State Assemblymember Rob Bonta;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Cupertino commits to calling on higher levels of government to provide all necessary financial and regulatory assistance in support of its efforts to end citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030, to draw down greenhouse gases, and to accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Cupertino commits to educating our residents about the climate emergency and organizing and advocating for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort at the local, regional, state, national, and global levels to provide maximum protection for our residents as well as all the people and species of the world, for instance, by publicizing Meatless Mondays and promoting community gardens throughout Cupertino;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Cupertino underscores the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support, and recognizes that the residents of Cupertino and community organizations, faith, youth, labor, business, academic institutions, homeowners' associations; environmental, economic, racial, gender, family and disability justice; indigenous, immigrant and women's rights organizations; and other such allies who will be integral to and in the leadership of the mobilization effort;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Cupertino calls on the State of California, the United States Federal Government, and all governments and people worldwide to initiate an immediate social and economic mobilization to reverse global warming and ecological overshoot that restores near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations, to immediately halt the development of all new fossil fuel infrastructure, to rapidly phase out the use of fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them, to end greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, to initiate an effort to safely draw down the excess carbon from the atmosphere, to transition to regenerative agriculture, to end the sixth mass extinction of species, to protect and expand workers' right to organize, and to create and guarantee high-quality, high-paying jobs with comprehensive benefits for all those who will be impacted by this emergency response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in furtherance of this resolution, Cupertino shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to Senator Diane Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, Congressman Ro Khanna, California State Senator Jim Beall, and California Assemblymember Evan Low, and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by _____ in _____ on _____ with a quorum present.

Signed by: _____

Attest: _____