



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Electric Utility Commission

Recommendation No. 20190715-019

Date: July 15, 2019

Subject: Urging the Austin City Council to declare a climate emergency

Motioned: Stefan Wray

Seconded: Karen Hadden

Recommendation:

Whereas since 2017 over 730 local governments in 16 countries have declared a climate emergency and are committed to action to drive down emissions at emergency speed.¹

Whereas on May 1, 2019 the UK Parliament, driven by local government actions, declared "an environment and climate emergency," making it the first country in the world to do so.²

Whereas on June 24, 2019 more than 70 health organizations³ issued a "U.S. Call to Action on Climate, Health, and Equity" which urged government, business, and civil society leaders, elected officials, and candidates for office to recognize climate change as a health emergency.⁴

Whereas the New York City Council on June 26, 2019, became the first U.S. city with more than 1 million residents to adopt a resolution declaring a climate emergency and called for an immediate emergency mobilization to restore a safe climate.⁵

Whereas on July 3, 2019 Los Angeles became the first government in the world to create and fund an official City Office and City Commission to develop and implement a mobilization plan, in response to the climate emergency.⁶

¹ See [The Climate Mobilization, Emergency Campaign](#)

² See [UK Parliament declares 'climate emergency'](#), CNN, May 1, 2019

³ See [Climate Change is a 'Health Emergency,' 74 medical and public health groups warn](#), NBC News, June 24, 2019

⁴ See [U.S. Call to Action on Climate, Health, and Equity](#)

⁵ See New York City Council [Res 0864-2019](#) adopted June 26, 2019

⁶ See [Los Angeles Moves Toward Mobilization](#)

Whereas on July 9 a joint House and Senate resolution was introduced “expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes.”⁷

Whereas historically the Electric Utility Commission has addressed and made recommendations to City Council on matters related to global warming and climate change such that it is by precedent within its purview to do so again.

Be It Resolved that the Electric Utility Commission urges the City Council to review and analyze climate emergency declarations of New York, Los Angeles, and other governments in order to draft and adopt its own resolution declaring a climate emergency, including discussion of local impacts and of social equity.

Be It Further Resolved that the EUC urges City Council to articulate support for climate emergency declarations by other local governments in Texas, by the State of Texas, and by the Federal Government.

Adopted by the Electric Utility Commission on July 15, 2019 by a vote of 10-0-0

Vote: 10-0-0

For: Vice Chair Marty Hopkins, Commissioners Jim Boyle, Carrie Collier-Brown, Erik Funkhouser, Karen Hadden, Cyrus Reed, Rachel Stone, Dave Tuttle, Matt Weldon and Stefan Wray.

Against: None

Abstentions: None

Absences: Chair Cary Ferchill

Vacancies: None

Attest:


Jeff Vice, Staff Liaison

⁷ See [Concurrent Resolution](#), Introduced by Sen. Sanders