BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER AND RESOLUTION NO: 20-02-04-04

IN THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING A
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR LANE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Lane County recognizes that climate change presents risks and exposes vulnerabilities that threaten long-term human and environmental health, social well-being, and economic vitality of the community; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Global Change Research Program, representing 13 federal agencies and more than 300 federal and non-federal experts, has concluded that the earth is experiencing the “warmest period in the history of modern civilization” and “based on extensive evidence, that it is extremely likely that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases, are the dominant cause of the observed warming” and that without major reductions in emissions, the increase in annual average global temperature relative to preindustrial times could reach 9°F or more by the end of this century (Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume 1 (2017); and

WHEREAS, the physical consequences of climate change are already evident, including rising sea levels; increased hurricane intensity; changes in surface, atmospheric, and oceanic temperatures; melting glaciers; diminishing snow cover; shrinking sea ice; ocean acidification; increasing atmospheric water vapor; increasing heatwave frequency; increasing heavy rainfall intensity and frequency, and increasing tidal flooding; and

WHEREAS, rural and marginalized populations in Lane Country and worldwide, are disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change, and that these populations along with young people and future generations will bear the greatest burden of climate change over time without immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has been committed to environmental stewardship by employing best practices in providing government services and acknowledges that the magnitude of the challenges posed by global climate change requires new strategies and leadership by government at all levels to take concrete actions;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County ORDERS and RESOLVES that Lane County will take action to:

1. Conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and develop an internal plan (Climate Action Plan – Phase 1) for County operations to establish greenhouse gas reduction targets and implementation plans to meet County targets; and

2. Develop a comprehensive countywide plan (Climate Action Plan - Phase 2) with community engagement to outline aggressive goals and strategies, aligned in partnership with city climate actions, to establish countywide community targets and high priority areas of action; and

3. Develop a resiliency plan (Climate Action Plan – Phase 3) to identify adaptation strategies to mitigate the risks and impacts of climate change anticipated for Lane County; and
4. Develop Action Initiatives supporting green jobs, clean energy projects, and climate-friendly industries in Lane County; and

5. Provide open and transparent public communications to monitor and evaluate progress toward climate action goals; and

6. Establish a Climate Advisory Committee to provide recommendations and advise the Board of Commissioners on the County's ongoing climate action work.

Further **RESOLVED**, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledges the attached *Declaration on Human Rights and Climate Change* and endorses the principles contained therein as developed by the Global Network for the Study of Human Rights and the Environment.

ADOPTED this 4th day of February, 2020

Heather Buch, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 1-24-2020

LANE COUNTY OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL
DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

PREAMBLE:

GUIDED by the United Nations Charter; The Universal Declaration of Human Rights; The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; The Vienna Declaration and Program of Action of the World Conference of Human Rights; The Universal Declaration on Rights of Children; The Draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants; The International Labour Organization Convention No. 169; The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; The Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth; The Earth Charter; The Nagoya Protocol; Title II of the 2003 Constitution of Ecuador; and other relevant international rights instruments,

RECOGNIZING the climate destructive and ecocidal results of assuming human separation from nature,

RECOGNIZING the need for all cultures, faiths and traditions to play a role in the fullest development of climate and environmental stewardship, the teaching of respect for all living beings and systems and the development of climate resilient communities,

RECOGNIZING that science confirms the threats of climate change to the Earth’s systems and its most basic biophysical and biocultural values,

RECOGNIZING that science confirms the threat of climate change to the livelihoods and well-being of present and future generations,

RECOGNIZING that climate impacts disproportionately affect irreparably damaged living beings and systems that are intrinsically valuable in their own right and unable to defend themselves,

RECOGNIZING that climate change diminishes populations and that international, cross-border and internal migration is forced due to climate change and is likely to continue to do so,

RECOGNIZING that courts and juries of international standing link the fulfillment of human rights to a secure, healthy and ecologically viable environment, and consequently recognize that harming the environment undermines human rights,

RECOGNIZING that it is the stewardship responsibility of human beings to respond to the climate harms and damage caused by human activities,

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the severe human rights consequences of the continuing political failure to reach commitments on climate mitigation and adaptation, by the domination of the market as the primary value coordinating international responses to the climate crisis; and by the ongoing lack of accountability for corporate acts that violate human, environmental and climate rights,

CONVINCED that the potential irreversibility of climate change effects gives the urgent need for new forms of state and non-state responsibility; accountability and liability.

The Following Principles Are Declared:

I. Human rights and a profound commitment to climate justice are interdependent and indivisible.

II. All human beings, animals and living systems have the right to a secure, healthy and ecologically sound Earth system.

III. All human beings have the right to a secure, healthy and ecologically sound Earth system.

For more information and to endorse this Declaration please go to our website:

www.ghnre.org