

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY THIRD COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-19-187 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton, Pat Davis, Diane Gibson

1 RESOLUTION

2 ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY, CREATING A
3 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE, AND
4 REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON A JUST TRANSITION AND
5 EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

6 WHEREAS, in 2016, world leaders from 175 countries responded to the
7 threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris
8 Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial
9 levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C:” and
10 in recognition of the dangers posed by climate change, Albuquerque has
11 committed to meeting the Paris Agreement goals; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico is blessed with a unique culture and history, and
13 our sovereign Tribes, Pueblos, and Hispanic land-grant communities have
14 valuable and relevant traditions of stewarding the land; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico, being primarily an arid desert climate, is very
16 dependent on water from snowmelt that is threatened by drought, wildfires,
17 and other extreme weather events, and the city of Albuquerque is committed
18 to taking all necessary steps to slow and ultimately halt the consequences of
19 fossil fuel extraction and consumption; and

20 WHEREAS, global warming of approximately 1°C is already having a
21 devastating effect on the Earth as attested by increased and intensifying
22 wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, extreme weather, and mass
23 migration of displaced persons; and

24 WHEREAS, climate change and the global overshoot of ecological limits
25 are driving a mass extinction of species, which could devastate much of life
26 on Earth for millions of years; and

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1 WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately
2 contributed to the climate and ecological crises and has obstructed global
3 efforts to transition toward a sustainable economy, and thus bears an
4 extraordinary responsibility to rapidly solve these crises; and

5 WHEREAS, restoring a stable climate requires an emergency mobilization
6 on a scale not seen since World War II to reach zero greenhouse gas
7 emissions across all sectors at emergency speed, to rapidly and safely
8 drawdown or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to
9 implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences
10 of abrupt climate change; and

11 WHEREAS, the term “Just Transition” is a framework for a fair shift to an
12 economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all its
13 members; and

14 WHEREAS, just transition strategies were first forged by an alliance of
15 labor unions and environmental justice groups who saw the need to phase out
16 industries that were harming workers, community health, and the planet, while
17 providing just pathways for workers to earn a living wage in new livelihoods;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, just transition initiatives shift the economy from dirty energy to
20 sustainable systems of energy production, conservation and transportation,
21 from landfills to zero waste, from industrial food systems to food sovereignty,
22 from car-dependent sprawl and unbridled growth to smart urban development
23 without displacement, and from destructive over-development to habitat and
24 ecosystem restoration; and

25 WHEREAS, the city of Albuquerque recognizes that addressing climate
26 change is a matter of social and economic justice, requiring that frontline
27 communities that have historically borne the brunt of the extractive fossil-fuel
28 economy participate actively in the mobilization effort and that they benefit
29 from the transition to a renewable energy economy; and

30 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque can act as a global leader by both
31 converting to an ecologically, socially and economically regenerative
32 economy at emergency speed; and

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1 WHEREAS, in August 2009 the City produced a Climate Action Plan (CAP)
2 that included input from citizens of the community and addressed carbon
3 offset strategies, carbon neutral buildings, livable neighborhoods, renewable
4 energy, local agriculture, zero waste, and transportation; and

5 WHEREAS, with a change of Administration and Council, that plan was not
6 adopted or implemented.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
8 ALBUQUERQUE:

9 Section 1. The City declares that a climate emergency threatens our city,
10 region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world, and
11 recognizes the need for an exponential increase in its ambition to combat
12 climate change, so that it meets or exceeds the current recommendations of
13 the foremost climate scientists working around the world.

14 Section 2. The City commits to its own city-wide just transition and climate
15 emergency mobilization effort, utilizing the 2009 CAP as the basis and
16 framework to reformulate and fully update the plan in recognition of the
17 changes over the past decade.

18 Section 3. The City commits to educating our residents and especially our
19 students about the current climate emergency.

20 Section 4. The City underscores the need for full community participation,
21 and recognizes that the residents of Albuquerque, and community
22 organizations and other such allies who will be integral to and in the
23 leadership of the mobilization effort;

24 Section 5. The City commits to keeping the concerns of vulnerable
25 communities central to all just transition and climate emergency mobilization
26 efforts and to facilitate the active participation of such communities.

27 Section 6. The City joins a national wide-call for a regional just transition
28 and climate emergency mobilization collaborative effort, in full partnership
29 with surrounding Tribal nations and traditional agricultural communities,
30 focused on transforming our region and rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all
31 levels of government to restore a safe climate; promising its citizens to
32 consider climate change in all government decisions.

1 Section 7. The City calls on the State of New Mexico, the United States of
2 America, and all governments and peoples worldwide to initiate a just
3 transition and climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse global
4 warming and creates high-quality, good-paying jobs with comprehensive
5 benefits for those who will be impacted by this transition.

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