



Office of the County Executive
Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

April 10, 2020

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Committee Assignment
ENV. & PUB WORKS-1

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Adopt a Climate Smart Communities Resolution

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body adopt the attached Climate Smart Communities Resolution.

Climate Action is the theme for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2020. Climate change is one of the biggest challenges for protecting the future of our community. Monroe County is a leader in sustainable policy and protecting natural resources. Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. Monroe County's participation in the CSC program will continue efforts to protect our environment.

Participation in the CSC program will provide better scoring in several grant programs including New York State Department of Environmental Conservation CSC grant opportunities. Additionally, participation will provide a framework and resources for the County's proposed Climate Action Plan. New York State requires that the final resolution be signed by the Clerk of the Legislature.

The specific legislative action required is to adopt the attached Climate Smart Communities Resolution.

This action is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c) and is not subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

This proposed resolution shall have no impact on the revenues or expenditures of the current Monroe County Budget.

I recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,

Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive

AJB:db

Climate Smart Communities Resolution

WHEREAS, the County of Monroe believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the County of Monroe, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, *adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:*

- 1) Build a climate-smart community.
- 2) Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.
- 3) Decrease energy use.
- 4) Shift to clean, renewable energy.
- 5) Use climate-smart materials management.
- 6) Implement climate-smart land use.
- 7) Enhance community resilience to climate change.
- 8) Support a green innovation economy.
- 9) Inform and inspire the public.
- 10) Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

ADOPTION: DATE: _____ VOTE: _____
APPROVED: _____ VETOED: _____

Jack Moffitt
Clerk of the Monroe County Legislature