



Resolution Climate Action

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to "pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius"; and,

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities for local residents; and,

WHEREAS, Lake Superior's surface temperature has risen 3°C in the past four decades, three times faster than the global freshwater average, resulting in 79% decreased ice coverage and therefore less protection from recent powerful storms which have damaged Marquette infrastructure, caused private property damage, increased cost of living for residents, and raised public infrastructure maintenance costs; and,

WHEREAS, the City has adopted a climate adaptation plan as an appendix to the Community Master Plan to identify and prioritize climate concerns; and,

WHEREAS, the City has undertaken significant efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon impact through the Johnson Controls International (JCI) energy optimization project and has already reduced carbon output 36% annually from 8073 to 5176 metric tons of CO₂ as a result of the project; and,

WHEREAS, coal-fired electricity generation accounted for 40% of global CO₂ emissions in 2020 and the Marquette Board of Light and Power (MBLP) decommissioned the coal-fired Shiras Steam Plant in 2018 and WE Energies decommissioned the coal-fired Presque Isle Power Plant in 2019, significantly reducing the carbon output within the City of Marquette; and,

WHEREAS, the MBLP replaced the Shiras Steam Plant with the Marquette Energy Center consisting of three efficient 17 megawatt Wartsila reciprocating internal combustion natural gas engines that adhere to the Tier II NO_x emission standards as set by the International Maritime Organization, a United Nations agency; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of Marquette declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world; and

- that the City of Marquette commits to a citywide effort to eliminate the City's greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and to implement additional projects to decrease carbon levels in the atmosphere; and,
- that the City of Marquette, through its ongoing partnership with JCI, will continue to seek energy saving programs and measures that reduce energy usage and resulting carbon emissions; and,
- that the upcoming Master Plan process will include an update to the current climate adaptation plan; and,
- that the City of Marquette will begin work on a Climate Action Work Plan that identifies targeted strategies for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions (climate mitigation) and for becoming more resilient in preparation for a changing climate (climate adaptation), for both city government operations and in the wider community; and,
- that the City of Marquette will seek available state, federal, philanthropic, and private funding for the above efforts; and,
- that the City of Marquette calls upon the residents and business within the City, the State of Michigan, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to join us and declare a climate emergency, initiate a climate mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world.

Dated this 20th day of December, 2021.

Jennifer A. Smith
Mayor