



July 12, 2020

The Honorable Frederick County Council
Winchester Hall
12 East Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Re: Climate Emergency Resolution

Dear Council President Keegan-Ayer and Council Members:

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Frederick County is a coalition of local and state organizations representing approximately 16,000 members and supporters in Frederick County. We work to engage residents and policymakers in support of wise land use that values our rural landscapes, protects our natural resources, and builds on the unique character of our towns and cities to ensure a resilient and prosperous future.

We strongly support the proposed Climate Emergency Resolution. Frederick County is already experiencing impacts related to the changing climate, including more frequent flood events that increase County expenditures on infrastructure repairs and emergency services. Additionally, our farming community is doubly impacted from too much water at some times and too little at others.

The Climate Emergency Resolution acknowledges the multiple threats to Frederick County as the result of the changing climate and charts a course for action that includes:

- Establishing a multi-disciplinary work group to assess the County's climate-related risks and develop a plan to achieve net zero emissions and strengthen our resilience in facing climate impacts.
- Setting clear targets to meet necessary net zero goals, increasing the likelihood of a livable future for our children.
- Directing the Council and the Administration to consider all significant decisions following the resolution's passage through the lens of the climate crisis.

To respond to a global climate crisis, every community must do its part to cut greenhouse gas emissions and draw carbon out of the atmosphere. The Interagency Panel on Climate

*Audubon MD-DC • Audubon Society of Central Maryland
Citizens for the Preservation of Middletown Valley • Cleanwater Linganore • Clean Water Action
Coalition for Smarter Growth • Envision Frederick County • Frederick Zero Waste Alliance • Friends of Frederick County
Healthy Soils Frederick • Maryland League of Conservation Voters • Maryland Native Plant Society
Montgomery Countryside Alliance • Multi-Faith Alliance of Climate Stewards (MACS) of Frederick County
Potomac Conservancy • Potomac Riverkeeper Network • Preservation Maryland
Residents Advocating for Land Use and the Environment (RALE) • Sierra Club Catoclin Group*

Change advises the global population to cut current rates of net zero greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

The Climate Emergency Resolution will create an emissions baseline, establish achievable goals, and outline a clear path toward those goals. Additionally, the Resolution will mobilize resources and engage citizens at the level necessary to confront this crisis.

So far, only 8.8% of the US population is protected by a climate emergency resolution (12 Counties and 77 jurisdictions in total). Montgomery County is the only county in Maryland to adopt a resolution thus far. We hope you agree that this is an exciting opportunity for Frederick County to be a leader in responding to the climate crisis with multidisciplinary expertise, a focused and coordinated effort, and broad community mobilization.

Sincerely,

Elly Colmers Cowan
Acting Director, Smart Growth Maryland
Director of Advocacy, Preservation Maryland

Karen Russell
Founder
Climate Change Working Group

Kim Coble
Executive Director
Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Barb Trader
Founder, Healthy Soils Frederick
Steering Committee, Multifaith Alliance of
Climate Stewards, Frederick County

Emmalee Aman
Policy Director
Potomac Conservancy

Paul Walker
Chairman
Sierra Club Catoctin Group

Jennifer Kunze
Maryland Program Organizer
Clean Water Action

cc: The Honorable Jan Gardner, Frederick County Executive