

**TOWN OF NEW CASTLE, COLORADO  
RESOLUTION TC-2020-24**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF NEW CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
CHANGING THE NAME OF THE CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY  
COMMISSION TO THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMISSION AND APPROVING AN UPDATED AND AMENDED  
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2007-5, the New Castle Town Council created a Climate Action Advisory Commission (“CAAC”) to develop and provide recommendations to the Town Council regarding how to meet the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, a copy of which was approved by and attached to Resolution No. 2007-5; and

WHEREAS, on July 16, 2020, the members of the CAAC held a meeting and voted to request that the Council authorize changing the name of the CAAC to the Climate and Environment Commission as a more accurate descriptor of the work it does, which work includes other environmental issues in addition to climate-related concerns, such as recycling, bee gardens, and other projects broadly relating to protection of the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, also at its July 16, 2020 meeting, the CAAC completed work on a revised Climate Action Plan updating and revising its original plan written in 2007; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting on July 21, 2020, the Town Council considered the CAAC’s requests to approve its name change and its updated plan and voted to approve both requests, subject to certain edits to the plan which have been made and are reflected in the version attached hereto as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF NEW CASTLE, COLORADO:

1. Recitals. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein as findings of the Town Council.
2. Name Change. The Climate Action Advisory Commission is hereby renamed as the Climate and Environment Commission (“CEC”).
3. Climate Action Plan. The Climate and Environment Commission Plan for Future Actions is hereby approved and adopted by the Town Council as an advisory document in the form attached as Exhibit A. The Town Council supports the goals of the CEC and encourages the CEC to pursue them.
4. Limitations. The plan approved hereby is for advisory purposes only. The work of the CEC and the Town Council to implement the plan is subject to budgeting and appropriation as may be determined by separate action of the Town Council in accordance with the Town Charter and Colorado law.

## **Climate and Environment Commission Plan for Future Actions**

### **History of the Climate Action Plan**

On April 3, 2007, Mayor Frank Breslin signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as the Town Council fully committed to developing and implementing strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Action Advisory Commission, later named the Climate and Environment Commission (CEC), was created to help the town pursue the goals of this agreement. The goals included inventorying greenhouse gas emissions in city operations; adopting land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space; promote greener transportation options, such as bicycle trails and incentives for public transit or carpooling; making energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, upgrades to water and wastewater treatment facilities, and purchases of vehicles and equipment; promoting tree planting for shading and carbon dioxide absorption; educating the public, schools, businesses, and the community about reducing greenhouse gasses.

Over the next thirteen years, the town made strides in addressing these goals, by installing roof-top solar on municipal buildings, installing electric vehicle charging stations, adopting efficient building codes, planting trees, gaining efficiencies at wastewater and water treatment facilities, and more. In 2020, the CEC decided to update and build upon these goals, as shown in the next section.

### **CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GOALS**

In 2020, the CEC determined that the most important long-term goals were to:

1. Advise the council and educate the community about environmental issues as well as climate change and its effects.
2. Provide guidance on individual and community activities that serve to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment.
3. Advise and assist the town and community in transitioning to a more renewable and energy efficient future.
4. Advise the town in planning for and mitigating climate change impacts.

### **FOUR KEY STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS**

1. Leading by example. Municipal government will continue to make its buildings and operations a model of energy efficiency and renewable energy while reducing energy costs.
2. Strengthening communication and education efforts of the CEC. The CEC should provide accurate and helpful information regarding climate change and environmental protection to stakeholders.
3. Networking with local and regional partners to remove barriers, to provide incentives for wiser energy use, and to increase local renewable energy supplies. The Town will work with Xcel Energy, Garfield Clean Energy (GCE), the Roaring Fork Transit Authority (RFTA), the Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE), the Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER), the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), Colorado Mountain College (CMC), and others to accelerate the transition to a clean energy future, offering programs to households and businesses that combine financing, technical assistance, and education.

4. Collaborating to acquire funding. The CEC and the Town Council will collaborate to seek funding to carry out environmental protection and climate mitigation goals.

## **MEASURABLE ACTION STEPS TO MEET THE LONG-TERM GOALS**

### **1. Providing educational programs and outreach**

- a. Create and implement educational programs for the public

Measurement of progress: Development of an educational program about climate change and environmental protection that can be shared with community groups

- b. Serve as a resource for individuals seeking more information about the topics of climate change, environmental protection, energy conservation.

### **2. Creating opportunities for individual and collective action**

- a. Explore opportunities for planting of appropriate tree and vegetation species, with guidance on use of water-saving mulches and soil amendments

Measurement of progress: Providing list of native trees and vegetation, as well soil amendments, irrigation techniques, and proper planting procedures to reduce water consumption

Measurement of progress: Encouraging and helping the town plant trees/vegetation

Measurement of progress: Networking with the Garden Club and other organizations

- b. Fine-tune use of water and other environmental resources by town and community

Measurement of progress: Communicate with residents regarding most effective and efficient watering strategies through the CEC website and other communication avenues including building permits

Measurement of progress: Work with the town in monitoring irrigation in parks and other spaces

### **3. Transitioning to a more renewable and energy efficient future**

- a. Encouraging energy efficiency activities and audits by homeowners

Measurement of progress: Encourage homeowners to have an energy audit and inform homeowners of free or low-cost energy audits

Measurement of progress: Connect and coordinate with regional partners such as GCE, CLEER, CORE and inform the public through various communication avenues, including the CEC website

- b. Encouraging energy efficiency audits by businesses

Measurement of progress: Encourage business owners to have an energy audit and inform business owners of access to free or low-cost energy audits, incentives, and rebates

Measurement of progress: Connect and coordinate with regional partners such as GCE, CLEER, CORE regarding effective ways to work with local businesses

c. Communicating with stakeholders regarding incentives for renewable energy, addition of insulations, storm windows, electric vehicles, roof-top solar panels, lighting, air conditioners, and other ways to save costs

Measurement of progress: CEC creates a listing of what is available for assisting in renewable or energy efficient changes and develops a strategy for implementation

Measurement of progress: Communicate information in town newsletter, website, and other appropriate media

#### **4. Planning for and mitigating climate change and environmental impacts**

a. Understanding the increased risk of wildfires and how to mitigate and respond

Measurement of progress: Meet with appropriate town and fire officials to learn how to prepare and to improve fire-mitigation/prevention around homes and businesses

Measurement of progress: Communicate and offer guidance to residents. Consult with fire officials on how to best provide information to the community regarding fire dangers and how to minimize fire risk. Offer at least one outreach and educational program.

b. Understanding the increased risk of drought and how to mitigate and respond

Measurement of progress: Meet with appropriate town officials and water conservationists to learn about how to prepare and minimize water usage among the public and the town

Measurement of progress: Communicate and offer guidance for residents.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Town of New Castle  
Town Council held on Aug. 4, 2020.

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE TOWN  
COUNCIL

By:   
Art Riddile, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Melody Harrison, Town Clerk

