

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep the increase in global average temperature to “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels,” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville has experienced the disruption and destruction already wrought by climate change through hurricanes, flooding, and other climatic events that is evidenced by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the ecological effects of climate change are driving an increased rate of extinction of species, which could consequently devastate ecological stability and much of the biological life on Earth for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to climate change and the ecological crises and has repeatedly failed to lead global efforts to transition towards a carbon-neutral economy, thus bearing a significant responsibility to solve these crises; and

WHEREAS, reaching zero greenhouse gas emissions around the globe will require a drawdown or removal of all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and other biological species, requiring a coordinated emergency mobilization on scale not seen since World War II; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville is committed to pursuing policies and programs that are ecologically sustainable, equitable, and just for all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville is dependent on a healthy aquifer, our waterways and water resources are considered as vital links to our natural, life sustaining resources; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville wishes to act as a global leader by both converting to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative economy at emergency speed and by catalyzing a unified and coordinated climate emergency mobilization effort; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville commits to a Citywide climate emergency mobilization efforts to reverse climate change, aiming, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from Alachua County, the State of Florida, and Federal authorities, to end Citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to safely drawdown carbon from the atmosphere and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville further commits to educating its residents about the climate emergency and working to catalyze climate emergency mobilization efforts on local, state, national, and global levels to provide maximum protection for its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville understands the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support and recognizes that City residents and community organizations that include faith, youth, labor, academic institutions, homeowners' associations, and a diverse range of civil society institutions will be integral to and in the leadership of the mobilization effort; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville further commits to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to climate emergency mobilization effort and inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby declare that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 27th day of November, A.D., 2019.

*Lauren Poe
Mayor*