

TEXAS CLIMATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS human-caused environmental change could cost hundreds of millions of human deaths[1-2] and lead to mass migration, global conflict, loss of coastal cities, and the collapse of ecosystems by eliminating over a million species[3] — yet we still have time to greatly limit the worst climate impacts if we act decisively now,

WHEREAS the leaders of diverse communities of faith all over the world have called for immediate and significant changes in how we care for the Earth and its resources[4-10],

WHEREAS today's youth and future generations - our children - who are not responsible for the continued degradation of Earth's ecosystems, will suffer if we continue our inaction,

WHEREAS people in the poorer countries of the world and poorer communities in our nation have created fewer emissions[11] but will suffer the most severe consequences of global warming[12],

WHEREAS scientists tell us that methane gas from fracking is dozens of times more powerful than CO₂[13] and that we have only a few years left[14-15] to enact significant changes before we pass **irreversible** tipping points which will lead to even greater climate chaos,

WHEREAS working people will suffer job losses in the transition to renewable energy there should be a Just Transition for displaced fossil fuel workers, to whom we owe much of our economic strength, with financial support and retraining for jobs in the new economy, which will create millions of jobs[16],

WHEREAS the economic cost of both "business as usual" and its disastrous consequences is estimated to be similar or higher than investing in renewable, sustainable systems[17-18],

WHEREAS concurrent ongoing crises of a global pandemic, mass unemployment, systemic racism, and climate change are all connected and can be understood and addressed more effectively as intersectional challenges[19],

WHEREAS President Biden's Climate Plan contains many good ideas, yet is not sufficient to avoid the worst of climate catastrophes[20],

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, We call for a bold new vision to revive our economy while addressing these interlocking crisis of climate change, racial injustice, public health, and economic inequity with a plan to create dignified jobs for millions of unemployed workers and support a better life for the millions more who remain vulnerable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, there is already so much carbon in the atmosphere that the warming will continue even if we ceased all future emissions from fossil fuels. We will have to employ additional strategies for carbon dioxide removal through improved agriculture and forestry practices and using huge machines all over the world to directly capture carbon dioxide from the air.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The time for half-measures has long-since passed; this transformational plan must start now, without delay, mobilizing on a scale similar to WWII.

FRACKING

Ten years ago, methane (natural gas) was considered a “bridge fuel” as it was thought to be better than other fossil fuel energy but not as good as renewable energy. However, with the groundbreaking work of Dr. Anthony Ingraffea and two other Cornell University researchers, then many other researchers and organizations such as NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), we learned that methane was as bad or worse than other fossil fuels in terms of emissions and other environmental impacts [13]. **Go to [Earthworks](#) for more information.**

EQUITY

Both the Green New Deal and the THRIVE Agenda connect issues of equity with climate change. **See the THRIVE Agenda's 8 Pillars of Equity, their Legislative Sponsors, hundreds of Organizational Sponsors, and a link to call your Representative.** As of Nov 20, 2020, Rep's Sheila Jackson Lee, Rep. Veronica Escobar, Rep. Al Green, and Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas have endorsed it. The THRIVE Agenda presents a bold new vision of many issues, one struggle "to revive our economy while addressing these interlocking crisis of climate change, racial injustice, public health, and economic inequity with a plan to create dignified jobs for millions of unemployed workers and support a better life for the millions more who remain vulnerable in this pivotal moment."

WORKER'S JUST TRANSITION

While the pandemic already threatens oil jobs and some jobs will be lost in the needed transition, nearly 16M new jobs with union access will be created and sustained over the next critical decade. The objective of a Just Transition is to provide a hopeful future for all workers, especially for those in industries that may be impacted by efforts to limit greenhouse gases or introduce new technologies. The transition must offer workers, their families, their communities, and cultures a future they can believe in, look forward to, support, and commit to bringing about. We must fight for a good future for all of us.

The private sector has a role in building a Just Transition bridge to a sustainable future. The principles of sustainable industrial policies and a Just Transition should be baked into all collective agreements, particularly with workers and multinational corporations. Acting responsibly will be good business in the long term.

Search the web for Just Transition to find different perspectives on what the term means.

YEARS TO ACT & AVOIDING THE WORST

It's vital to understand the worst of climate change and how fast we must act to prevent it.

Over two years ago the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which consists of thousands of scientists from all over the world, concluded that we have just 12 years to turn down emissions enough to avoid climate calamity. The problem is that the IPCC operates by consensus and does not consider tipping points because the panel was designed to always issue very conservative estimates. Perhaps most importantly, after IPCC scientists write these statements, politicians from the 195 member nations then edit them line-by-line such that IPCC reports become more political than scientific statements.

Other credible estimates on how many years we have to adequately cut emissions to avoid the worst of climate change range from 0 to 4 years. Many respected climate journalists are now writing about the growing possibility of extinction of many life forms including humans. Another way of saying this is *ecological collapse* or "hellish conditions " which is how the Royal Society, founded in 1660, describes our possible future.

The very good news is that the Green New Deal is up to the challenge of climate change. We still have adequate time to act!

Organization Endorsing Texas Climate Resolution

City _____

Name and title of person(s) authorized to endorse

Date _____