



County of Marquette  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Courthouse Complex  
Marquette, Michigan 49855  
Phone: (906) 225-8151  
Fax: (906) 225-8155  
www.co.marquette.mi.us

Gerald O. Corkin, *Chairman*

Joe Derocha, *Vice-Chair*  
Karen Alholm  
Bill Nordeen  
Johnny DePetro  
Stephen Adamini

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MEASURES TO RESPOND TO A  
CHANGING CLIMATE**

- WHEREAS**, in 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that significant greenhouse gas emission reductions are critical by 2030 to avert irreversible damage; and,
- WHEREAS**, in September 2020, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-182, and Executive Directive 2020-10 to create the MI Healthy Climate Plan, putting Michigan on a path toward becoming fully carbon-neutral by 2050; and,
- WHEREAS**, Marquette County Board of Commissioners has stated pursuit of climate action by promoting a, “community resilient to climate change through mitigation, adaptation, and coordinated public policy” as a goal of the Marquette County 2040 Master Plan; and,
- WHEREAS**, Marquette County is a founding member of the Marquette County Climate Adaptation Task Force (CATF), whose mission is to prepare local leaders and Marquette County stakeholders to develop mitigation and adaptation strategies that will make the Upper Peninsula more resilient and effective when dealing with the consequences of climate change and extreme weather events; and,
- WHEREAS**, Lake Superior’s surface temperature has risen 6.3°F over the last 100 years, three times faster than the global average, resulting in 79% decreased ice coverage since 1973 providing less protection from powerful storms which have damaged public infrastructure and private property, and raising infrastructure maintenance costs; and,
- WHEREAS**, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, may have a disruptive impact on the livelihoods of many in our community, while a well-planned transition may provide financial benefits and improved livability from expanded job opportunities for local residents while creating a more resilient energy portfolio; and,
- WHEREAS**, Marquette County is a prime location for climate migrants looking to relocate due to the impacts of climate change on their current home regions, and affordable and attainable housing and necessary community services should be available to prepare for a potential population increase; and,
- WHEREAS**, use of sustainable forestry practices in the Marquette County Forest has the potential to manage wildfire potential and thus maintain a high level of air quality, and protect the quality of the groundwater stored in the region; and,

**WHEREAS**, a baseline study, monitored and endorsed by the County, assessing the resource availability and quality of water available to county residents, would provide necessary data needed for sustainable planning; and,

**WHEREAS**, climate change has impacted the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, and coordinated emergency response teams with updated mapping and 911 capabilities are necessary to preserve the wellbeing of residents from climate related disasters; and,

**Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED** that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023 supports policies that **will support infrastructure projects and human services that foster resiliency to a changing climate in the Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan based on the best available data:**

- Create a Climate Action Plan;
- Commit to an effort to eliminate the County's greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and seek a facilities wide audit and implement projects to decrease carbon levels in the atmosphere to align with statewide goals;
- Support updates to the State Building Code, as they relate to climate adaptation, and seek state incentives to fund new building requirements from an updated code, and will encourage residents to seek incentives that will assist funding to complete projects that comply with residential, and commercial weatherization and efficiency standards;
- Plan infrastructure development that will support climate adaptation and mitigation, with the understanding that the swift transition to electric vehicles is anticipated;
- Update ranking criteria for Capital Improvements Projects to better align with the Master Plan and Strategic Plan with a resiliency focus, and seek all available funding to subsidize the above efforts; and,

The Board understands the consequences of a changing climate and its impacts on vulnerable communities and demographic sectors and calls upon the municipalities, residents, businesses, and organizations within the County to join in the above stated efforts to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners strongly support collaborative efforts to achieve resiliency goals in a timely manner; and be it further

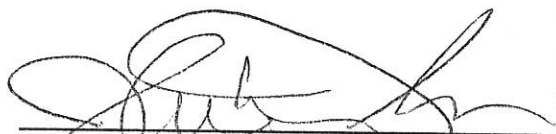
**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the municipalities within it's jurisdiction.

**Moved by:** Comm. Alholm

**Second by:** Comm. Nordeen

**Roll call vote:** Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. DePetro, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen and Vice-Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None

**Absent:** Comm. Corkin

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Joseph Derocha, Vice-Chairperson**  
**County Board of Commissioners**

3/24/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Adopted: 3/21/2023**