

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY-WIDE
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION GOAL**

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the recognition that human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases (GHGs), is an important driver of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business, academic, and other community leaders as a worldwide threat with the potential to harm our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle on September 6, 2017 approved a Resolution to Reaffirm Commitment to Support Local Actions to Reduce Climate Pollution; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle on September 5, 2018 authorized the Board Chair to sign the “We Are Still In” Declaration, an open letter to the international community supporting climate action to meet the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle adopted climate action planning as a high-priority initiative as part of the Board of Supervisor’s Fiscal Year 2020-2022 Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle’s Comprehensive Plan calls for recognizing “changes occurring to the earth’s climate to anticipate and mitigate impacts to the County”; and

WHEREAS, actions that reduce GHG emissions and increase energy efficiencies often have multiple co-benefits, such as a cleaner environment, energy security, long-term cost savings, and a better quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS, taking steps to increase energy efficiencies and community resiliency can attract jobs and economic development opportunities to our community and increase our long-term economic competitiveness and wealth; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle recognizes the role of local governments in influencing the community’s impact on climate change; and


WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle is committed to demonstrating leadership in energy efficiency and GHG emission reductions at the local level, equipping the community to make informed decisions about the impacts of GHG emissions, and promoting actions that enable the community to reap the health, economic, and environmental benefits that accompany sound climate mitigation actions; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle has begun the first phase of developing a Climate Action Plan, which includes setting long-term GHG emission reduction targets and identifying high-level goals and strategies for major emission sectors to achieve these reductions;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded – as communicated in the 2018 “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C” – that, for global warming to be limited to 1.5° C, “global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching ‘net zero’ around 2050”. Net zero – or carbon neutrality – means that any emissions are balanced by absorbing an equivalent amount of GHGs from the atmosphere.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Albemarle, based on IPCC guidance, adopts GHG emission reduction targets of 45% by 2030 and ‘net zero’ by 2050 using the County’s 2008 GHG inventory as a baseline.

I, Claudette K. Borgersen, do hereby certify that the foregoing writing is a true, correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, by a vote of five to zero, as recorded below, at a regular meeting held on October 16, 2019.


Clerk, Board of County Supervisors

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Mr. Dill	<u>Y</u>	_____
Mr. Gallaway	<u>Y</u>	_____
Ms. Mallek	<u>Y</u>	_____
Ms. McKeel	_____	<u>Absent</u>
Ms. Palmer	<u>Y</u>	_____
Mr. Randolph	<u>Y</u>	_____