

1. Resolution to Endorse and Commit to the Principles of the Paris Agreement

Council Member Katz moved, seconded by Council Member Makowska, to adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, governments, businesses, universities, academic leaders, and the scientific community have recognized that climate change is a global crisis; and

WHEREAS, protecting our planet is of utmost importance to our children and grandchildren, who are at risk of living in a world with dangerous increases in temperature, coastal destruction, floods, rising water levels, drought and increasingly violent weather, all of which will cause civil unrest, public health emergencies, and a mass migration crises throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, 195 countries, including the United States, vowed to address climate change in a landmark agreement reached in Paris in December 2015 (the “Paris Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Castle has been recognized as a Clean Energy Community by the State of New York, has signed the Climate Smart Community pledge, and has committed to addressing climate change, as set forth in the Town of New Castle Climate Action Plan of 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Castle has been recognized in New York as a leader in reducing expenses for the municipality, residents, and businesses as a result of implementing sustainability initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the United States recently withdrew from the Paris Agreement, constituting a serious dereliction of our moral duty to the planet, threatening the legacy of a sustainable environment for our children, weakening our nation’s global and economic leadership at a crucial time in our history, and leaving it to responsible municipalities, in a global partnership, to take immediate and permanent action.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of New Castle, as recommended by the New Castle Sustainability Advisory Board, hereby directs the following actions.

1. The Town of New Castle hereby endorses and commits to working toward reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26% by 2025 compared with 2005 levels, in line with the original promise made by the by the United States in 2015.
2. The Town of New Castle hereby endorses and remains fully committed to reducing greenhouse gas levels in ways that include (but are not limited to):
 - Replacing fossil fuel generated energy with grid-based renewable energy

- Increasing use of solar, geothermal and other distributed renewable resources
- Advocating for increased use of renewable energy by large power producers
- Advocating for local, state, and national measures to promote efficiency and renewable energy, as will be necessary to assist the Town in reaching its own goal
- Promoting clean energy development and production by encouraging the purchase of renewable energy certificates and carbon offsets
- Employing energy conservation measures
- Eliminating waste and encouraging recycling
- Encouraging transition from fossil-fuel based transportation to bicycles, walking, and electric-based vehicles
- Supporting locally grown and sustainable food systems
- Supporting a carbon tax

3. The Town of New Castle hereby endorses and remains fully committed to quantifying the impact of the Town’s work in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, working with other local municipalities to learn and share best practices for reducing greenhouse gases, and building a more sustainable town.

4. The New Castle Sustainability Advisory Board shall select one member of the Board to be the Paris Accord Director. As directed by the Sustainability Advisory Board, the Paris Accord Director shall:

- Develop and implement methods of tracking greenhouse gas emissions emitted by the municipality, its residents, businesses, schools, and other entities.
- Liaison with other local governments to learn methods of reducing greenhouse gases and provide towns with best practices developed by New Castle.
- Assist the Sustainability Advisory Board and the Town understand the greenhouse gas implications of sustainability initiatives or Town projects.
- Work with the municipality to reduce greenhouse gases in municipal buildings and vehicles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby endorses and commits to the principles of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

VOTE	AYES	NAYS
Supervisor Greenstein	X	
Council Member Katz	X	
Council Member Makowska	X	
Council Member Saland	X	

**APPROVED BY
TOWN BOARD**

8/8/17
M. Makowska
 Town Clerk