

Richmond VA Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency

Whereas: The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s 2018 report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius states that if global temperatures rise above 1.5 C relative to pre-industrial levels we face the flooding of major coastal cities, the breakdown of agricultural systems, mass migration, and catastrophic extreme weather events that pose existential threats to human society,¹ and,

Whereas: The same report confirms that to have any chance of remaining below 1.5 degrees of warming above pre-industrial levels we, “would need to achieve net zero CO2 emissions in less than 15 years,”¹ and

Whereas: The same report specifies, that even achieving net-zero emissions globally by 2035 could only succeed in restraining global warming under 1.5C “if the actual geophysical response ends up being towards the low end of the currently estimated uncertainty range,”¹ and

Whereas: Richmond's RVA Green Plan of reducing emissions 80% by 2050 falls far behind the net-zero deadline of 2035 spelled out in the IPCC report, and

Whereas: Richmond's RVA Green Plan of reducing emissions 80% by 2050 falls below even Governor Northam's inadequate commitment to 100% renewable energy statewide by 2050, and the Democratic Party of Virginia's inadequate commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050², and

Whereas: On 9/21, 2019 in accordance with the IPCC's report, the Arlington County Board in Virginia unanimously voted to to commit to achieving “100% clean, renewable electricity community-wide by 2035; and 100% clean, renewable electricity for government operations by 2025.”³ and,

Whereas: a 2019 report by the UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) asserts that human activity is pushing over 1 million species to extinction, and that “the loss of species and habitats poses as much a danger to life on Earth as climate change does,”^{4,5} and,

Whereas: It is necessary that governments at all levels **tell the truth** about the global climate emergency, and act accordingly, and

Whereas: Over 1000 local governments in 19 countries representing over 266 million people have already declared a state of Climate Emergency, including New York City, Austin, Boulder, San Francisco, and 42 US localities, as well as Ireland, the UK, and France,⁶

Therefore: We, the members of Extinction Rebellion Richmond declare a state of Climate and Ecological Emergency in the city of Richmond, Virginia and ask the Mayor and Richmond City Council to immediately follow suit.

**Public Copy
DO NOT REMOVE**

Works Cited

1. Rogelj, J., D. Shindell, K. Jiang, S. Fifita, P. Forster, V. Ginzburg, C. Handa, H. Khesghi, S. Kobayashi, E. Kriegler, L. Mundaca, R. Séférian, and M.V. Vilariño, 2018: Mitigation Pathways Compatible with 1.5°C in the Context of Sustainable Development. In: *Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty* [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. In Press.
- 2 Main, Ivy. "Governor Northam's Executive Order, Dominion Energy's About-Face on Offshore Wind: Is Virginia Off to the Clean Energy Races?" *Blue Virginia*, 2 Oct. 2019, bluevirginia.us/2019/10/governor-northams-executive-order-dominion-energys-about-face-on-of-fshore-wind-is-virginia-off-to-the-clean-energy-races.
- 3 Lillian, Betsy. "Arlington County Commits To 100% Clean, Renewable Electricity." *North American Windpower*, 24 Sept. 2019, nawindpower.com/arlington-county-commits-to-100-clean-renewable-electricity.
- 4 Tollefson, Jeff. "Humans Are Driving One Million Species to Extinction." *Nature News*, Nature Publishing Group, 6 May 2019, www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-01448-4.
- 5 IPBES. 2019. Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. S. Díaz, J. Settele, E. S. Brondizio E.S., H. T. Ngo, M. Guèze, J. Agard, A. Arneth, P. Balvanera, K. A. Brauman, S. H. M. Butchart, K. M. A. Chan, L. A. Garibaldi, K. Ichii, J. Liu, S. M. Subramanian, G. F. Midgley, P. Miloslavich, Z. Molnár, D. Obura, A. Pfaff, S. Polasky, A. Purvis, J. Razzaque, B. Reyers, R. Roy Chowdhury, Y. J. Shin, I. J. Visseren-Hamakers, K. J. Willis, and C. N. Zayas (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.
- 6 Aidt, Mik. "Climate Emergency Declarations in 1,087 Jurisdictions and Local Governments Cover 266 Million Citizens." *Climate Emergency Declaration*, 4 Oct. 2019, climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/.