

Resolution 22-05

CONNECT Climate Action Plan

Presented by Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg, Mayor and Immediate Past Chair of CONNECT

WHEREAS in 2020, CONNECT recognized our communities' contributions to and future risks caused by climate change and in 2021-2022, the most recent IPCC report has amplified concern and urgency for action; and

WHEREAS the development and coordination of Climate Action Plans embodies many issues CONNECT has, and continues to, address, such as stormwater flooding, transportation issues, energy concerns, air quality, and utilities coordination; and

WHEREAS in 2020, CONNECT members resolved to support the creation of a regional Climate Action Plan that enables greater collective action on these issues, advocates for necessary federal and state legislation to support local efforts, and seeks to be supportive of existing and future individual Plans within our membership, and at the city, county, and regional levels; and

WHEREAS such a Plan has been completed by member governments and CONNECT Staff through the Infrastructure & Utilities Working Group, in consultation with experts at ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, PADEP, and local partner organizations; and

WHEREAS the CONNECT Climate Action Plan includes recommendations and paths for local governments to lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduce vulnerabilities, and generate cost savings within their communities; and

WHEREAS experienced local environmental and community development NGO's and utilities, such as Sustainable Pittsburgh, Mobilify Southwestern Pennsylvania, and Green Building Alliance have expressed their readiness to help our communities achieve the goals in this Plan through partnerships, MOUs, and applications for funding; and

WHEREAS federal, state, and private funding may be made available to communities and regions who possess a climate action plan

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT formally adopts the CONNECT Climate Action Plan and CONNECT and member governments voluntarily participate toward the implementation of the goals within, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the organization CONNECT commits to implementing identified actions found in the climate plan in areas of energy, transportation, waste, water & wastewater management, land use, and equity and will pursue funding, model policies, and coordinate projects with partner organizations in these sectors on behalf of our municipalities; and

CONNECT's 12th Annual Legislative Session Resolutions Approved on May 19, 2022

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT will continually update the Plan as necessary, share data, and work to provide relevant materials on an accessible online space for members to best utilize; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT will continue to expand its presence as a regional center of excellence for local government climate action planning, and support through partnerships and/or staff capacity any municipality looking to pass and act on a local climate resolution or climate plan, especially those that include language on working to advance the membership-wide climate plan.

APPROVED