

# RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA

RESOLUTION NO. 19530

## A RESOLUTION ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE FOR THE CITY OF HELENA

**WHEREAS**, there is scientific evidence sufficient to conclude that global climate change is occurring, that humans are contributing to it, and that reductions in greenhouse gases (GHG) are necessary in order to avert the negative consequences of a changing climate; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects of global climate change are already present in Montana in the form of decreased snowfall, earlier snowmelt, reduced stream flows in summer months, increased stream temperatures, increased fire activity, and numerous other impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, continued changes may negatively affect Montana's economic viability in sectors such as agriculture, hydroelectric power production, recreation, and tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, government agencies at all levels throughout the west are undertaking a broad range of actions to address the effects of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the importance of action at the local level is underscored by the 720 mayors (representing 76 million Americans and including the mayors of Bozeman, Billings, and Missoula) who have already signed onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection

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Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, actions taken to confront global climate change typically afford numerous ancillary benefits in the form of reduced energy costs, reduced traffic congestion, and reduced emissions of criteria air pollutants; and

**WHEREAS**, it appears to be in the best interests of the City of Helena and the inhabitants thereof that a task force be appointed to address the global climate change and green house gas issues as they affect the Helena citizenry and its environs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA:**

**Section 1.** That the City of Helena move rapidly to assess the City's greenhouse gas emissions by constructing a baseline emissions inventory and forecast.

**Section 2.** That a task force of five (5) to nine (9) individuals with appropriate professional and educational backgrounds and qualifications be appointed to work with the City Commission and staff to undertake and complete the assessment by:

- a.** examining the City's energy use and proposing potential strategies for reducing waste and obtaining power from renewable resources;
- b.** examining the City's current and projected sources of water supply, and the vulnerability of the water delivery and

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management systems to climate-related disruption;

- c. recommending specific actions to the City Commission to:
  - (i) reduce both municipal and community greenhouse gas emissions level; and
  - (ii) increase the resilience of municipal public works in the face of global climate change.
- d. identifying public and private partnership opportunities that can maximize strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the Helena community.

**Section 3.** That a time line be developed to ensure the task force completes its work in a period of not more than nine (9) months, and provide staff assistance to facilitate this process.

**Section 4.** That the task force is authorized to appoint technical working groups as it sees fit to address specific aspects of the overall charge.

**Section 5.** That the task force will sunset in twelve (12) months from and after its first meeting date.

**PASSED AND EFFECTIVE BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA, THIS 3rd DAY OF DECEMBER, 2007.**

ATTEST:

*James E. Smith*  
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MAYOR

*Debbi Havens*  
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CLERK OF THE COMMISSION