



A PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2023 EARTH MONTH IN BOULDER COUNTY

WHEREAS, Earth Day, observed annually on April 22, has, since its first observance in 1970, transformed into a global day of action aimed at changing human behavior and driving global, national, and local policy changes to safeguard the environment and combat the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day commemorates the birth of the modern environmental movement and Earth Month provides a month-long opportunity to take action on shared values concerning a broad range of issues, including air and water pollution, desertification, deforestation, declining wildlife populations, collapsing fisheries, depletion of aquifers, biodiversity loss, climate change, and more; and

WHEREAS, human activity, including the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, have already caused a 1°C increase in global average temperatures since the pre-industrial era, resulting in rising sea-levels, increased spread of diseases and increased risk of wildfires, floods, drought, and extreme weather, as well as the sixth mass extinction of species; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the global climate and ecological crises and has obstructed global efforts to transition toward a sustainable economy, and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to help address these crises; and

WHEREAS, in Boulder County these impacts are already manifesting themselves in the form of wildfires burning twice as much acreage now as they did in 1980, periods of drought, diminished snowpack and spring runoff, and more frequent and more severe flooding, such as the devastating flood of 2013; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County's government is committed to advancing policies and programs that conserve resources, protect the environment, and slowdown or reverse climate change in order to build a sustainable, just, and resilient community; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County's Comprehensive Plan, Environmental Sustainability Plan, Land Use Code and Building Code Amendments promote environmental and land stewardship through coordinated planning, sustainability, energy efficiency, and green building; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County provides resources for residents to learn how to adopt sustainable ways of living by recycling, composting, and commuting in ways that protect our air, land, and water, and learn how to protect themselves and their families from environmental health risks; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County has adopted bold goals to reduce community Greenhouse Gas Emissions to 45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and 90% below 2005 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the major electric utilities that serve Boulder County are shifting towards renewable energy sources and reducing their emissions; and

WHEREAS, of Boulder County's total greenhouse gas emissions, transportation accounts for 31%, commercial buildings account for 38%, and residential buildings account for 22%, and

transitioning the fuel sources for transportation and building heating to electricity is necessary to meet Boulder County's climate goals; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis affects everyone, however, communities of color suffer more because of a lack of assessment of needs related to climate impacts such as extreme heat, dangerous air quality, and response to floods, fires, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County recognizes that low-income communities are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis and is committed to equitable solutions that put community voices at the center of our efforts; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County is supporting residents and businesses to improve energy efficiency, reduce consumption, increase composting and recycling, and electrify their transportation and buildings through programs like EnergySmart and Partners for a Clean Environment; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County is committed to the radical transformation needed to meet the challenges of the climate crisis through programs and policies that foster innovation, coalition-building, and equitable outcomes through cutting emissions, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and supporting systemic change.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF BOULDER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIMS THAT IN BOULDER COUNTY APRIL 2023 IS EARTH MONTH AND A TIME FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE and encourages residents and businesses to improve energy efficiency, reduce consumption and waste disposal, electrify their transportation, conserve natural resources, and electrify their buildings with the support of the county's services.

ADOPTED on this day 4th day of April 2023

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