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# Board of Supervisors Memorandum

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July 11, 2017

Resolution 2017-\_\_\_\_\_

**Furthering Pima County's Commitments to Climate Protection and  
Joining County Governments across the Nation in Signing on to the County Climate  
Coalition in Support of the Paris Climate Agreement**

## Introduction

At the direction of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, this memorandum, along with the attached Resolution 2017-\_\_\_\_\_, are presented for Board of Supervisors consideration and adoption.

## Background

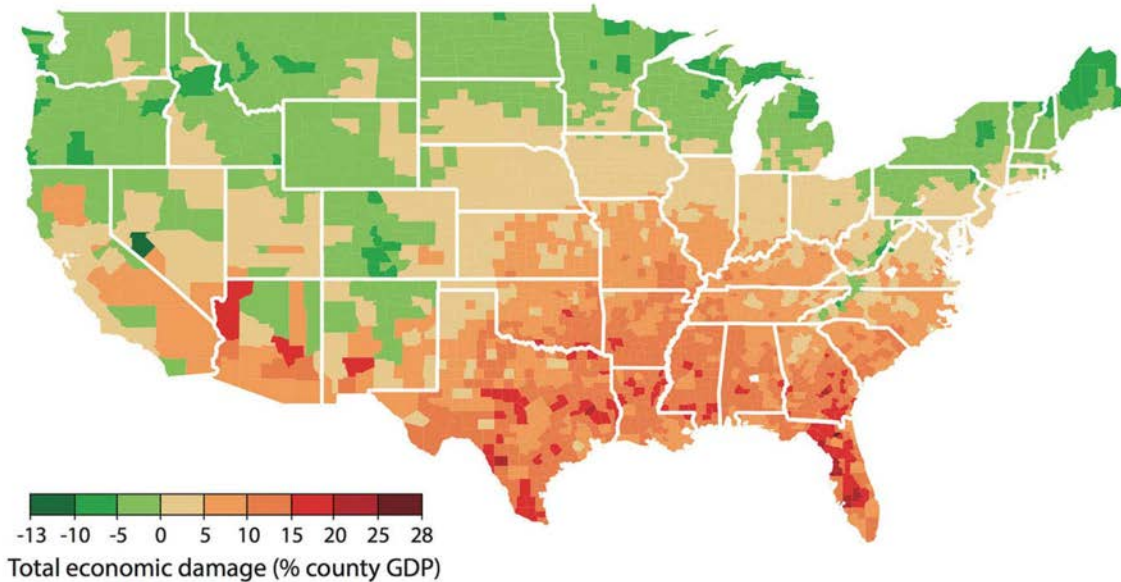
The Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2017-39 on June 6, 2017, which states that County government will align its operational efforts to meet the United States' commitment to the [Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#) that seeks to reduce global carbon emissions by 26 percent to 28 percent below 2005 levels by the year 2025. These targets would in effect, safeguard regional high temperatures near or below 120°F. Based on our sustainability work to date, Pima County is already leading the way and could perhaps be one of the first counties in the country to meet this historic agreement.<sup>i</sup> While achieving these goals will require deep commitments to mitigation and adaptation actions, most of these actions can be achieved through deliberate decision-making and actions recommended below<sup>ii</sup>; these include a combination of positive or revenue neutral investments using new financing structures. There are also many co-benefits associated with these actions, which can be viewed (and calculated) as avoided future costs in healthcare, infrastructure and air quality penalties.

Embracing this commitment not only secures our future but also creates enormous economic development opportunities and trade benefits. Certain investors and CEOs of the world's largest multinational companies, for example, have collectively called climate action "[one of America's greatest economic opportunities of the 21st century.](#)" Conversely, failing to recognize and combat the potential economic effects of climate change could be significantly detrimental to the US economy, including Arizona and Pima County. The map below illustrates the potential economic damage to counties if greenhouse gas emissions continue at the current rates.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: **Furthering Pima County's Commitments to Climate Protection and Joining County Governments across the Nation in Signing on to the County Climate Coalition in Support of the Paris Climate Agreement**

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*Potential economic damages are shown at the county level in a scenario in which emissions of greenhouse gases continue at current rates. Green indicates areas that could see economic benefits. <http://iamamericaearthchanges.blogspot.com/2017/06/mapping-potential-economic-effects-of.html>, accessed July 6, 2017. Hsiang, Kopp, Jina, Rising, et.al/Science.*

Furthermore, a 2016 survey on American attitudes toward climate change found that a majority of Americans in every state say the US should participate in the Paris Agreement<sup>iii</sup> and that [75 percent of Pima County residents believe global warming is happening and 78 percent support policies to regulate CO2 as a pollutant.](#)<sup>iv</sup>

An estimated 16 counties and 188 cities in the United States have formally pledged to support climate action to meet the Paris Agreement. Pima County is uniquely positioned to meet the Paris Agreement effectively and is the only county in Arizona thus far to have passed a similar initiative.

We have already made significant progress in this effort. With over eight years of data collected for the [Sustainable Action Plan for Pima County Operations \(SAPCO\)](#) we can look at past and current greenhouse gas emissions and sources, as well as energy and water use to calculate future trends. Additionally, we have a set of vetted climate goals and objectives in [Pima Prospers](#), the County's comprehensive plan. These tools, in combination with

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recently developed resources such as the Green Infrastructure Prioritization Tool available through Pima Association of Governments (PAG) and AutoCASE™ studies undertaken by the Pima County Regional Flood Control District, provide smart resources for decision making.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Resolution 2017-\_\_\_\_\_.

Respectfully submitted,



C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

CHH/mjk – July 6, 2017

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<sup>i</sup> We Are Still In. (n. D). Retrieved June 27, 2017, from <http://wearestillin.com/>

<sup>ii</sup> Figueres, C. et al. (2017). Three years to safeguard our climate. *Nature*, 546, 593-595.

<sup>iii</sup> Majorities of Americans in Every State Support Participation in the Paris Agreement:  
[http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/paris\\_agreement\\_by\\_state/](http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/paris_agreement_by_state/)

<sup>iv</sup> Public Opinion Estimates, Pima County, Arizona, 2016:

<http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us-2016/>

## RESOLUTION 2017-\_\_\_\_\_

### RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO FURTHER PIMA COUNTY'S COMMITMENTS TO CLIMATE PROTECTION AND JOINING COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE NATION IN SIGNING ON TO THE COUNTY CLIMATE COALITION IN SUPPORT OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

#### The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds:

1. Consensus exists among the world's leading climate scientists that we face a major global climate crisis caused by greenhouse gas emissions, with carbon dioxide levels currently above 400 parts per million (PPM), exceeding the upper limit of 350 million PPM considered "safe" by climate scientists.
2. Documented impacts of global warming include, but are not limited to, rising sea levels, melting ice sheets, and increased occurrences of extreme weather events, resulting in the destruction of ecosystems and reduced economic productivity, as well as unpredictable and unhealthy living environments that may have significant impacts to human health and safety.
3. The United Nations Paris Climate Agreement ("Paris Agreement") is an historic international agreement reached in 2015 aimed at reducing carbon emissions, slowing rising global temperatures and helping countries deal with the effects of climate change.
4. The United States ratified the Paris Agreement on September 3, 2016 and committed to its own target of reducing carbon emissions by 26 to 28 percent by 2025.
5. Pima County's geographic location makes it particularly vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change, including extreme drought, fires, flooding and the concomitant adverse impacts on human health and the environment.
6. June 2017 was the hottest June ever recorded in 130 years in Pima County.
7. On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement.
8. On June 6, 2017, the Pima County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2017-39 affirming its commitment to the Paris Agreement.
9. Many local jurisdictions have resolved to take sharp exception to President Trump's unilateral intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement despite the dire consequences of the planet's rising temperatures and opposition from communities across the country and world.
10. In 2007, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2007-84, which was the basis for the 2008 and 2014 *Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations*, setting targets for reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

11. Pima County has made significant progress in combating climate change by putting in 25 solar installations at county facilities, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing water usage, transitioning its fleet to energy saving vehicles, making efforts to improve its waste diversion rate, and meeting LEED standards in new buildings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Pima County opposes President Trump's intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement and urges the federal government to maintain and actively work to achieve its commitment to the carbon emissions reductions under the Paris Agreement.
2. Pima County joins cities, counties and states across the country in committing to the goals of the Paris Agreement to combat climate change and promote environmental sustainability.
3. Pima County will continue its efforts to further the commitment made by the United States under the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including through its Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations, regardless of President Trump's stated intention to revoke the United States' ratification of the Paris Agreement.
4. Pima County calls upon all counties, cities and local governments across the United States to adopt similar commitments to reaffirm the Paris Agreement and commit to environmental sustainability and to combat climate change.
5. Authorizes the Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Pima County, to join the County Climate Coalition and with other groups and coalitions and to sign onto other documents supporting the Paris Agreement and reflecting the County's continued commitment to combating climate change.
6. Authorizes and directs the County Administrator and staff to prioritize and align efforts with the Paris Agreement and identify the climate adaptation and mitigation needs that should be given the highest operational priorities based on scientific evidence, through implementing the greenhouse gas and carbon and water intensity reduction targets of the Paris Agreement of 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025 through:
  - a. **Solar Installations:** Rapidly scale up renewable energy infrastructure by adding up to 40 to 42 megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaics (PV), combined with battery storage where feasible, to take maximum advantage of current net metering rates. Solar electrical energy facilities will be erected on all County parking facilities, either garages or surface parking areas. Areas of first priority will be those where the County has large electrical energy loads for building or other facilities.
  - b. **Energy Efficiency:** Increase energy efficiency in the highest energy use buildings older than 40 years through a combination of retrofits and improving employee behavior to reduce electricity use by 20 percent. All County-owned buildings in the downtown will be upgraded through window replacement and improved building insulation.
  - c. **Downtown Energy District:** Create a Pima County Downtown Energy District by interconnecting and adding County-owned buildings to the existing downtown Central Plant.
  - d. **Fleet Vehicles:** Continue improving fleet efficiency and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure by replacing gasoline passenger sedans with EVs and improving employee driver behavior (reduction in idling when possible, efficient routing, etc.). The County will

purchase 20 electric vehicles per year for the next six years and will largely replace gasoline powered sedan-style vehicles in the current vehicle fleet.

- e. **Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development with Trees (GI-LID+Trees):** Install GI-LID+Trees on County properties and rights of way that would yield the highest return on investment in terms of carbon sequestration, building cooling, reduction in urban heat island effects and stormwater management and flooding abatement.
- f. **Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations:** Prepare an update to the *Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations* to reflect the County's alignment with the Paris Agreement.
- g. **Biogas Renewable Energy:** The County will construct necessary infrastructure to make biogas generated from the wastewater treatment process into a clean form of methane gas capable for use as a commercial fuel. The County will then sell clean biogas for beneficial use.

Passed and adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Castaneda, Clerk of the Board

  
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County Attorney