



# Resolution



## A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNC-CHAPEL HILL TO CEASE OPERATION OF ITS COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT

**WHEREAS**, coal-fired power plants are an outdated technology; they emit harmful pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide, resulting in poor air quality; this leads to asthma, heart disease, cancer, and can result in premature death; and,

**WHEREAS**, the UNC-Chapel Hill coal-fired power plant is located in the heart of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro community and is a public health threat to children, students, local residents, and workers; and,

**WHEREAS**, public schools in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School District are located in the red zone of heavy pollution from the UNC coal-fired power plant; and,

**WHEREAS**, coal not only puts human health at risk due to local air pollution but is also the most carbon intensive fuel on the planet and is contributing to climate disruption on a global scale; this will harm North Carolinians through increased flooding, increased intensity of hurricanes and tropical storms, the loss of coastal wetlands and barrier islands, and other long-term weather impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has recognized these threats; in its *Clean Energy Plan* of October 2019, it calls for a reduction in electric power sector greenhouse gas emissions of 70% below 2005 levels by the year 2030, and attainment of carbon neutrality by 2050; also, in 2018, Governor Roy Cooper signed Executive Order 80 which calls for a statewide reduction in greenhouse gas emission of 40% below 2005 levels by the year 2025; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Carrboro has also established robust goals regarding greenhouse gasses and climate change; in 2009, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen unanimously approved a resolution stating the town's goal of reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide to 350 parts per million or less; the town's commitment to reducing greenhouse gasses was reaffirmed in its *Energy and Climate Protection Plan*, released in May of 2014; in 2017, Carrboro published its *Community Climate Action Plan* which established the town's goal of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025; in March of 2019 the Board of Aldermen authorized the Mayor to send a letter to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to extend the public comment period on the Air Quality Permit Extension Request by UNC and highlighted that although the Cameron Cogeneration Plant resides in Chapel Hill, it is only a mere 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile from the border of Carrboro; and,

**WHEREAS**, across the United States, people are realizing that modernizing our cities with renewable energy will help create jobs and boost local economies; and,

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is ranked as the second-largest solar energy producer by the Solar Energy Industries Association, and is home to the largest wind farm in the southeast region; and,

**WHEREAS**, UNC-Chapel Hill is an institution with world-class research, a renowned medical program, and a spirit of innovation; it should be leading the charge to a cleaner, healthier future for both the Chapel Hill/Carrboro community, and the entire planet.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Carrboro Town Council calls for UNC-Chapel Hill to shutdown its coal-fired power plant by 2023, and requests that UNC provide a written commitment on this before the end of 2020.