

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the International Governmental Panel on Climate Change calls climate change “the greatest challenge of our time” and predicts that climate change will cause negative, unprecedented changes in the climate system, including increasingly severe and frequent extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, the Union of Concerned Scientists agrees that human activity, such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation, is the primary cause of global warming; and

WHEREAS, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has identified the Virginia region as the world’s 10th most vulnerable area by assets to flooding from storm surges and sea level rise fueled by climate change; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria’s Old Town area has experienced flooding events during heavy downpours in recent past and is vulnerable to sea level rise associated with climate change, as evidenced by the significant damage to local properties caused by the Hurricane Isabel in 2003, in which the lower part of Old Town was under more than 8 feet of water;

WHEREAS, we must reduce carbon pollution to avoid the devastating impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Massachusetts v. EPA* (2007) that greenhouse gases are “air pollutants” as defined by the Clean Air Act, and the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to regulate them; and

WHEREAS, President Obama launched a Climate Action Plan in June 2013 and instructed the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gases from both new and existing power plants, which are the nation’s single largest sources of such pollution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria was among the first 278 signatories representing a total population of 48.5 million citizens, of the 2005 U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement;

WHEREAS, in 2007, Alexandria City Council embarked on a holistic environmental planning program called Eco-City Alexandria, aimed at leading the City toward sustainability. This program resulted in the City Council’s adoption of the Eco-City Charter in 2008, the Environmental Action Plan in 2009, and the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan in 2011.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL

That the City of Alexandria supports the actions of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Gina McCarthy, and President Barack Obama to fully employ and enforce the Clean Air Act and to finalize standards that curb carbon pollution from new and existing power plants; and be it resolved further

That a copy of this resolution be sent to Gina McCarthy, Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2013.

ADOPTED: _____

WILLIAM D. EUILLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC
City Clerk and Clerk of Council