

## CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, climate change has reached a critical or emergency level and the United States is not acknowledging nor taking action as a nation even though the U.S. contributes 25 percent of all greenhouse gases (GHG) annually with climate change happening much faster than predicted; and

**WHEREAS**, New York City and others are calling climate change a Climate Emergency to communicate this urgency, because we have passed the tipping point requiring major action to slow it down, prepare people and preparedness services for the severe heat, and prepare for sea levels rising when many will experience flooding of rivers and oceans reclaiming land and buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. has chosen to abandon the world's Paris Climate Change Agreement which is at least a world consensus on action, although still too little, too late; and

**WHEREAS**, this Climate Emergency will impact women and children, people of color and people living in poverty more severely. Devastating disasters and rising pollution have already claimed lives, cost the economy billions and threatened the places Americans live, work and raise families; and

**WHEREAS**, everyone deserves the right to clean air and water regardless of where they live and the color of their skin; and

**WHEREAS**, 80 percent of world's population lives and/or works on or near a coast with little or no preparation being done in the U.S. which will result in the relocation of people, loss of assets and contamination of ground water, etc.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) will refer to climate change as a Climate Emergency; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOW calls upon all agencies of the federal government and elected officials to reinstate the U.S. participation in the Paris Climate Change Agreement and to push the world to take even more drastic steps; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOW demands immediate and widespread action by the US government both to reduce or delay further climate change to include:

- Immediate and significant investment in carbon capture or other ways to reduce GHG in the atmosphere, especially in agriculture.
- Increased inspections for methane emissions particularly at natural gas mining locations.
- Overhaul our infrastructure to include expanding access to light rail and low-emissions public transit, replacing lead pipes, building a smart grid for increased wind and solar power, replacing stormwater systems to prevent flooding and toxic runoff, and restoring wetlands and other natural buffers that protect communities.
- Leveling the playing field with priority given to projects that benefit low-income families and communities of color, with community benefit agreements used to ensure support for community-defined priorities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOW demands Climate Emergency preparation and implementation both for the extraordinary heat and the storm flooding and sea level rise that is already happening and will increase rapidly; and

**BE IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED**, that NOW demands that the Federal Emergency Management Agency take action to assure that the rebuilding of homes or businesses in flooding or sea level rise areas not take place and assure that those communities affected are assisted in relocation.