



# EXECUTIVE ORDER #020 CREATION OF A COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, substantial greenhouse gas emissions reductions are needed to mitigate the most severe impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS, the federal government has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Agreement;

WHEREAS, through Executive Order 17, Erie County committed to achieving the greenhouse gas reduction goals set forward by the Paris Climate Agreement of 26-28% reduction from 2005 levels by 2025 for both the County's internal operations and the community as a whole;

WHEREAS, Erie County has already achieved that goal in its internal operations and has set even more aggressive goals through its Climate Action and Sustainability Plan for internal operations, developed through the Erie County Green Team;

WHEREAS, a greenhouse gas inventory of community-wide greenhouse gas emissions shows a 12% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 to 2014;

WHEREAS, the community needs to work together to address this issue and protect future generations;

WHEREAS, the most vulnerable residents of Erie County are most impacted by the consequences of climate change;

WHEREAS, the Erie County Environmental Management Council advises the County on environmental issues;

WHEREAS, in January 2019 the Erie County Environmental Management Council established a standing Climate Change Task Force Committee, in accordance with its bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this order is to recognize the Climate Change Task Force Committee will bring in additional expertise to the Environmental Management Council on this pressing issue in order to advise the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK C. POLONCARZ, Erie County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Erie County's Charter Sections 301 and 302, do hereby order as follows:

1. Erie County recognizes that the Climate Change Task Force, a committee of the Environmental Management Council and that said Council:
  - a) Shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Erie County Environmental Management Council and shall elect a Vice-Chair and Secretary from the membership of the Task Force;
  - b) Will include representatives of nonprofit organizations, universities, transportation organizations, utilities, community members, business leaders, and other organizations or stakeholders that will support the mission of the committee;
  - c) Supports the goals and ideals of Executive Order # 17 and the Erie County Commits to Paris Report issued in January 2018;
  - d) Encourages all County residents to participate in events and initiatives that will raise the overall awareness of the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change;
  - e) Meets as a whole on a monthly basis and the Secretary records the minutes of all meetings, which minutes shall be presented to the County Executive and Department of Environment and Planning for review;
  - f) Provides an annual report of the Task Force to the County Executive and Department of Environment and Planning, as well as provides recommendations regarding the Environmental Management Council's annual recommendation report and the County's annual update on the initiatives outlined in the *Erie County Commits to Paris* report.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Privy Seal of the County of Erie in the City of Buffalo this fifth day of April, in the year two thousand nineteen.



County of Erie

By:

Handwritten signature of Mark C. Poloncarz in blue ink.

Mark C. Poloncarz  
Erie County Executive