



EXECUTIVE ORDER AND DIRECTIVE 19-01
Issued by
ALBANY COUNTY EXECUTIVE DANIEL McCOY

WHEREAS, consensus exists among the world’s leading climate scientists that we face a major global climate crisis caused by greenhouse gas emissions, with rising sea levels and melting ice sheets creating increasingly unpredictable and unhealthy living environments as we approach a dangerous threshold of global warming; and

WHEREAS, documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events, significant impacts to human health and safety, destruction of ecosystems, and reduced economic productivity; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Paris Climate Agreement (“Paris Agreement”) is a 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; and

WHEREAS, all but two countries in the world have signed the Paris Agreement, committing to enact programs to limit global temperature increase to less than two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with an expectation that this goal would be reduced to one and a half degrees in the future; and

WHEREAS, 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;

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, President Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the United States’ withdrawal could result in an additional three billion tons of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere each year, and an additional increase of as much as 0.3 degrees Celsius in global temperatures by end of the century; and

WHEREAS, states and local governments are leading the effort to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions; reducing petroleum use in cars and trucks; increasing electricity derived from renewable sources; increasing the energy efficiency savings achieved at existing buildings and making heating fuels cleaner; reducing the release of methane, black carbon, and other short-lived climate pollutants; managing farm and rangelands, forests, and wetlands so they can store carbon; and periodically updating the County’s climate adaptation strategy; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albany’s geographic location makes it vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, drought, flooding, and the concomitant adverse impacts on human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, proactively responding to climate change provides opportunities to be at the forefront of innovation with respect to a broad range of technology, products, services, and know-how that transitioning to a climate-compatible future brings; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albany has taken significant efforts to address sustainability, such as installing renewable solar energy, transitioning its fleet to energy saving vehicles, reducing its building energy and water use, promoting energy and renewable energy in the community, providing electric vehicles charging stations for public use, and completing the Albany County Rail Trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel McCoy, Albany County Executive, by virtue of the powers vested in me pursuant to the Albany County Charter and the laws of the State of New York, HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT THAT:

- 1) The County of Albany opposes President Trump's withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement and urges the federal government to maintain and actively work to achieve its commitment to the emissions reductions under the Paris Agreement.
- 2) The County of Albany joins the County of Santa Clara and counties and states across the country in committing to the goals of the Paris Agreement to combat climate change and promote environmental sustainability.
- 3) The County of Albany 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 Climate Action Plan, regardless of whether the United States' withdraws from the Paris Agreement.
- 4) The County of Albany will join with other groups and coalitions such as the County Climate Coalition and to sign onto other documents supporting the Paris Agreement and reflecting the County's continued commitment to combating climate change.
- 5) The County of Albany calls upon all counties 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.

Dated: 13th day of June, 2019

Albany, NY


Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive