

TOWN OF BEDFORD

Resolution No. _____ of 2020

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TOWN OF BEDFORD
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2030**

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that climate change poses a massive threat to the American economy, the wellbeing of our community, the environment and climate stability and underscores the need for immediate climate emergency action at all levels of government to reduce greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions; and

WHEREAS, limiting warming to the 1.5°C (2.7°F) target established by the United Nations during this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the impacts already wrought by climate change are evidenced by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, droughts and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that one-half-to-one million species are threatened with extinction, many within the next few decades, due to impacts from climate change; and

WHEREAS, human health has already been and will continue to be impacted by climate change; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the threats posed by climate change, there are strong economic reasons to take local action to mitigate climate change, including but not limited to the following:

- Significantly declining costs to generate renewable energy and more affordable ways to procure renewable energy; and
- Employing efficiencies in our buildings and operations that lower energy consumption and reduce energy waste; and
- Electrification of heating will benefit both the Town of Bedford as well as community members by potentially lowering heating costs and reducing pollution; and
- There is also the benefit of job creation that provides economic opportunity for residents when new businesses start or existing businesses grow in response to greater demand for climate mitigation services; and
- Additionally, actions that result in GHG emission reductions will reduce the need for the Town of Bedford to make unplanned, high cost expenditures in

response to major weather events and climate disasters which are estimated to at least triple in the next 70 years unless GHG emissions are reduced; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2010, the Town Board adopted a Climate Action Plan (the “CAP2020”) as an amendment to the Town of Bedford Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the CAP2020 the Bedford community has already achieved substantial progress in reducing GHG emissions and surpassed its 20% by 2020 community wide reduction goal three years ahead of schedule; and

WHEREAS, a report of Bedford GHG emissions through 2017 showed a 44% reduction in community wide GHG emissions vs. the community’s 2004 baseline GHG emissions inventory; and

WHEREAS, New York State has passed the Climate Leadership and Protection Act that has set into law statewide reductions of GHG emissions of 40% of 1990 levels by 2030 and 85% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Environmental justice, the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental programs, regulations, and policies, is a plan imperative; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bedford and Bedford 2020 has set more aggressive GHG emissions reduction goals based on harms threatening the community and intends to achieve an 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 and net zero GHG emissions by 2040; and

WHEREAS, to achieve the initial goal of an 80% reduction by 2030, the community needs to reduce GHG emissions by an estimated 75,737 metric tons and the Town of Bedford municipal operations by an estimated 1,264 metric tons by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the majority of community’s and the Town municipal operation’s reductions in GHG emissions need to come from the energy and transportation sectors including replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy to power the production of electricity, replacement of fossil fuels with fossil free energy to power heating/cooling of buildings and reducing energy waste and dramatically cutting vehicle emissions; and

WHEREAS, in the proposed Town of Bedford Climate Action Plan Update 2020 (the “CAP2030”) Bedford 2020 and the Town will explore ways to obtain even more detailed community emissions data to better inform actions, programming and progress; and

WHEREAS, Bedford 2020, the Town Board and Department Heads and other community members have invested substantial time and energy into the development of

the CAP2030; and

WHEREAS, the Town and Bedford 2020 have held three Town Hall sessions to review and discuss the CAP2030 and received substantial community input into the development of the CAP2030; and

WHEREAS, Bedford 2020, which is renaming itself “Bedford 2030”, has been and will continue to partner with the Town of Bedford in order to lead community wide efforts to accomplish the CAP2030 goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby adopts the CAP2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as soon as practical and appropriate, relevant guidelines and recommendations set forth in the CAP2030 will be incorporated in the revised Town Of Bedford Comprehensive Plan currently being developed by the Town of Bedford, as well as into the operations of the Town of Bedford’s municipal operations.