

Climate Emergency Declaration Resolution

Presentation to the Northfield City Council by:

Bruce Anderson

City of Northfield Environmental Quality Commission

January 18, 2022

Why?

- Proposed to EQC by Councilor Nakasian at its 11/17/21 meeting
- Make a statement, in solidarity with other communities internationally, to take climate change response seriously and act swiftly
- Demonstrate to other communities the specifics of what the City of Northfield has already committed to in its Climate Action Plan
- Call on state legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.
- Call on federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).
- **Northfield-specific resolution passed by EQC at the 12/15/21 meeting**

Who else has declared a climate emergency?

- 2,047 jurisdictions in 37 countries (increase from 2,012 in 34 countries since resolution was drafted in November and December) beginning in April 2019
- Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township

Climate emergency declarations in 2,047 jurisdictions and local governments cover 1 billion citizens

Posted on 4 December 2021



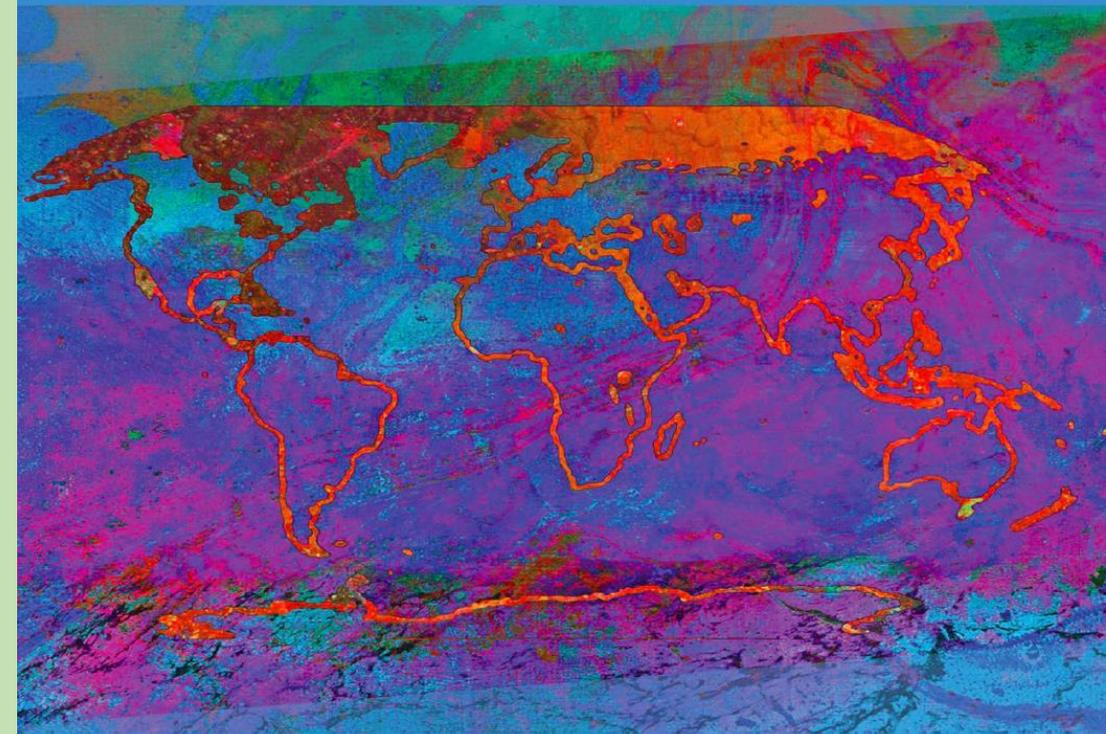
Nature of the emergency

- Scientific findings of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) summarized in their 2021 report
- Critical need to reduce global GHG emissions by 50% by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050
- Goal: limit temperature rise to 1.5°C (2.7°F)

Climate Change 2021

The Physical Science Basis

Summary for Policymakers



Nature of the emergency

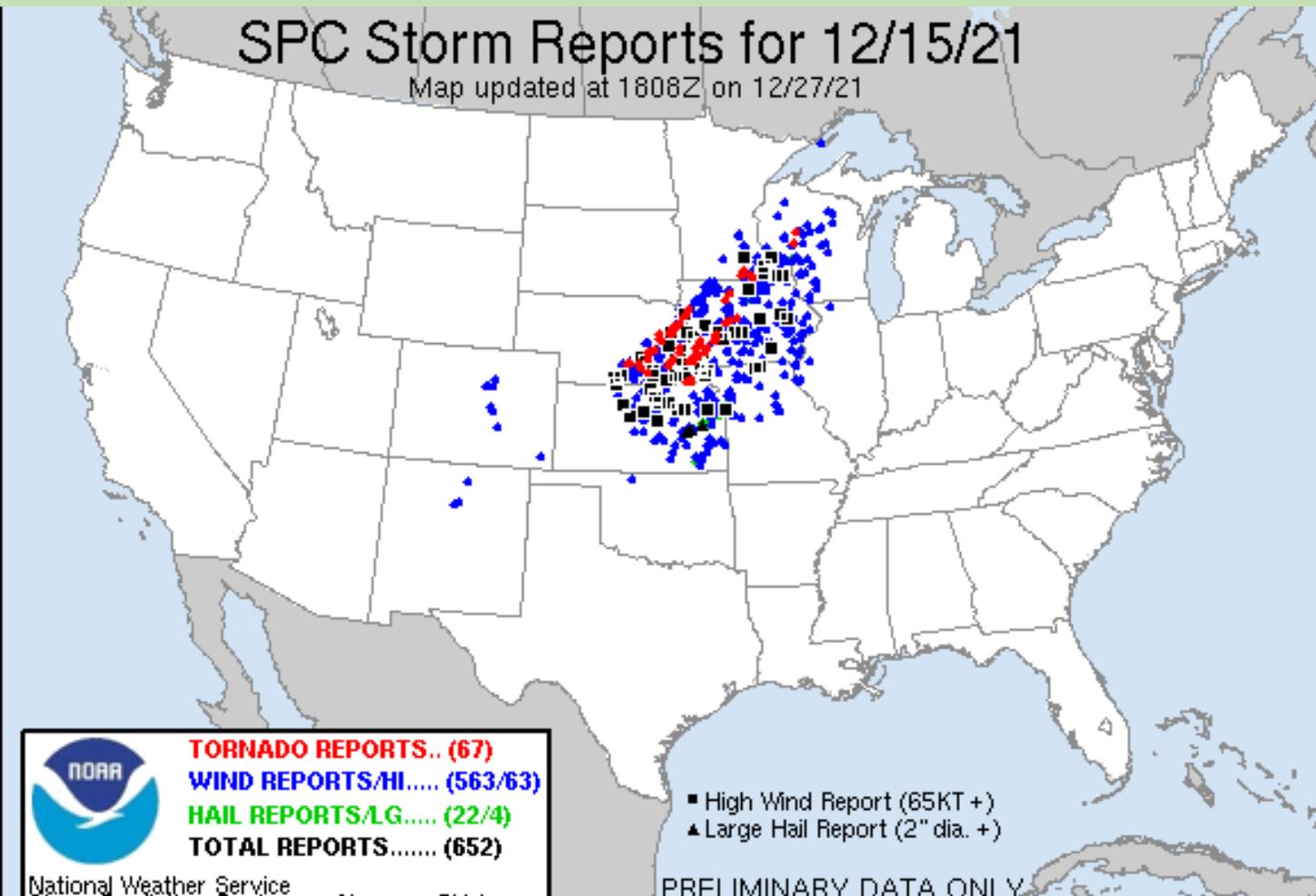


In Northfield:

Increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including drought, record high temperatures, damaging hail, and heavy precipitation events leading to downtown flooding

Residents work to prevent the Cannon River from flooding into downtown properties on Friday in Northfield. ■ Sam Harper | MPR News

Nature of the emergency



Unprecedented December
tornados in Minnesota

Nature of the emergency

Devastating
Kentucky
December
tornados



Nature of the emergency



Colorado wildfire caused \$513 million in damage, officials say

Nation Jan 6, 2022 8:32 PM EST

Most-expensive natural disasters in 2021

Climate change drives 13% jump from 2020, to \$170 billion

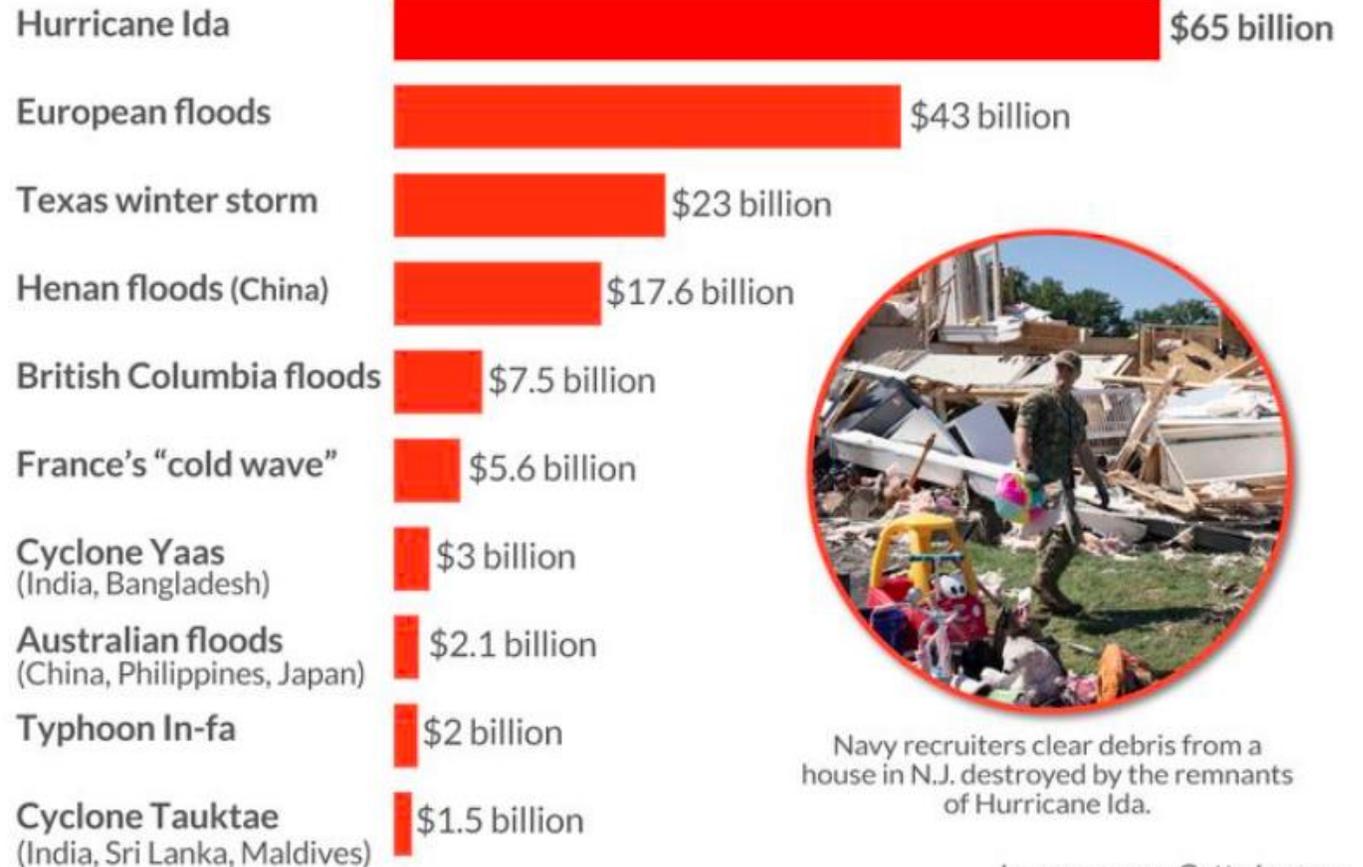


Image source: Getty Images

SOURCE: CHRISTIAN AID, USING AON AND SWISS RE INSURANCE FIGURES, WORLD WEATHER ATTRIBUTION, REUTERS, AND OTHER NONPROFITS AND NEWS OUTLETS.

What does the Climate Emergency Declaration call for?



Northfield commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Continue to implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and resilience
- Redouble its efforts to implement the Climate Action Plan (CAP) the City adopted in November 2019, including meeting its goals of:
 - 100% carbon-free electricity community-wide by 2030 and
 - Being a 100% carbon-free community by 2040

What does the Climate Emergency Declaration call for?

Support the following key actions:

- Deep energy efficiency retrofits for nearly all buildings and facilities
- Cleaning the generation of electricity in cooperation with the electric utility, Xcel Energy, both from electricity provided by the utility and from in-boundary renewable energy development
- Switching energy sources from fossil fuel use to clean electricity in both buildings and travel
- Reducing the amount that people drive through mode shift opportunities like walking, biking, and public transit
- Eliminating waste that enters a landfill or resource recovery facility
- Sequestering carbon through accelerated tree plantings and sustainable land and agricultural practices
- Align the City's Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan with the CAP to facilitate meeting the goals of the CAP and support the key actions required

What does the Climate Emergency Declaration call for?

Organize these actions under the following umbrella strategies:

1. Expand education and engagement strategies for residents, businesses, industries, and tourists to increase and market sustainable, green projects
2. Incorporate emissions reductions, climate considerations, and resilience into policy and planning processes and decisions
3. Demonstrate climate leadership through innovation and demonstration of energy and sustainability projects
4. Maintain momentum and progress through continued support of the plan

What does the Climate Emergency Declaration call for?

- Northfield calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.
- Northfield calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).