

**DRAFT for consideration by EQC**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING A  
FEDERAL, REVENUE-NEUTRAL, MARKET-BASED FEE ON CARBON IN FOSSIL  
FUELS.**

WHEREAS, the costs of climate change – including destabilized weather patterns, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and other serious impacts now pose a substantial threat to the health, prosperity, and security of Northfielders, Minnesotans, and all the world’s citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield recognizes that rising carbon emissions are exposing and will continue to expose Northfielders to the risks of increasingly extreme heat in the summers, heavier rainstorms, more frequent and severe flooding, and stresses on the public health and economy; and

WHEREAS, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in the price of fossil fuels, but rather these internalized costs are borne by all Northfielders, Minnesotans, and all the world’s citizens; and

WHEREAS, the costs and risks to our economy, infrastructure, public safety, and health are real, they are growing, and they are already burdening businesses, taxpayers, municipal budgets, and families; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield and cities across the country have already acknowledged the importance of taking action toward reducing fossil fuel use; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield is taking specific action through its continuing participation in Minnesota’s Green Step Cities Step 4 and its implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) that was accepted on November 5, 2019. The CAP states specifically that we should

*“Engage decision-makers, including local members of boards and commissions, county officials, as well as state and national representatives around elements of the climate action plan”,*

and one of the elements of the plan is to *“plan for the elimination of fossil fuels in the community...”*; and

WHEREAS, economists overwhelmingly support, including over 3500 U.S. economists, all four former chairs of the Federal Reserve, 27 Nobel laureate economists, and 15

former chairs of the Council of Economic Advisers state that “a carbon tax offers the most cost-effective lever to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary;” and

WHEREAS, a Federal, revenue-neutral market-based fee on carbon in fossil fuels will:

1. Send a clear price signal to entrepreneurs and existing businesses to invest in a clean energy economy by placing a fee on fossil fuels at the source (the well, mine, or port of entry).
2. Protect lower and middle-income households, as all revenues collected will be returned to American households as a monthly dividend.
3. Create jobs and economic growth, as the dividend puts money back into local economies.
4. Reduce pollution which will improve the health and productivity of citizens.
5. Discourage domestic businesses through a border adjustment from relocating where they can emit more CO<sub>2</sub>, and thereby encourage other nations to adopt an equivalent price on carbon.
6. Make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change and clean energy technologies, encouraging other nations to do the same without the need for complex international agreements; and

WHEREAS, there is increasing bipartisan support in Congress for economically viable climate solutions, as evidenced by the bipartisan House of Representatives’ Climate Solutions Caucus, and the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018 and 2019 (H.R. 7173 and H.R. 763), calling for the implementation of a Federal, revenue-neutral, market-based fee on carbon in fossil fuels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Northfield as follows:

1. The City Council hereby calls upon the United States Congress to pass legislation, and the President of the United States to sign into law, a Federal, revenue-neutral, market-based fee on the carbon in fossil fuels that will significantly reduce carbon emissions and will return the entire fee minus administrative costs to all households, in order to protect the economy and climate for us and for future generations.
2. Further, the City Council encourages that such legislation include clear processes and objectives, and that the implementation of such legislation should minimize financial impacts to our most vulnerable citizens, including the economically disadvantaged.

3. The City Council encourages other communities to join them in this request for the United States to recognize and address the global problems of carbon emissions in this manner.
4. The City Council directs the City Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to the delegations representing Northfield in both houses of the United States Congress, the State Legislators representing Northfield, and the Minnesota Governor within thirty (30) days after passage of this Resolution.
5. That this Resolution shall become effective as of the \_\_\_th day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

DRAFT