

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO REAFFIRMING RIDGWAY'S COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE ACTION, ESTABLISHING A GOAL FOR NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS, AND ESTABLISHING AN ALL ELECTRIC, NET ZERO ENERGY USE POLICY FOR HOUSING PROJECTS WITH FINANCIAL INVESTMENT FROM THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (the "Town") is a home rule municipality and political subdivision of the State of Colorado organized and existing under a home rule charter pursuant to Article XX of the Constitution of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Town has long been committed to sustainability and to preserve natural resources for current and future generations, and endeavors to be a leader in responsible stewardship of the environment; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change affect everyone regardless of age, gender or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS, addressing climate change equitably requires transition from fossil fuels to emission-free, renewable energy that is ecologically sustainable for all people, especially those most impacted by climate change today and those who will be most impacted in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgway Master Plan, adopted on June 12, 2019, contains ***POLICY ENV-4.2: Renewable Energy***, which states: "Encourage the use of carbon-free renewable energy systems within the Town and support the goal of carbon neutrality for Colorado. Support the inspiration and innovation of those who live, work, and visit Ridgway to create a low-carbon economy and lifestyle that improves the health, shared prosperity, and long-term security of our unique mountain community."; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2023 the Ridgway Town Council adopted the ***San Miguel and Ouray County Regional Climate Action Plan***, which has a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 and 90% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has created a roadmap to reach 100% renewable energy by 2040, and in 2019, passed HB19-1261, which sets a statewide goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and 90% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, carbon-free energy resources paired with energy storage, and microgrids, where feasible, are important strategies to build disaster resilience into our communities and will assist with disaster recovery; and ensuring equitable distribution of the benefits of these resources is imperative to adequately prepare for disasters, particularly those exacerbated by climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to establish a goal for net-zero carbon emissions and to promote all electric, net zero energy use in buildings around the Town of Ridgway.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO the following:

1. The Town pledges to address climate change at the speed and scale that it demands by committing to achieve net-zero carbon emissions for all municipal operations by 2030; and
2. The Town pledges to collaborate with other community leaders, residents and stakeholders to build our collective capacity, scaling the right solutions that grow our local economies, protect public health and create a sustainable carbon-free future for all; and
3. The Town commits the Sustainability Advisory Board to develop, for Town Council consideration and approval, a *Net-Zero Carbon Emission Roadmap* for implementation based on annual appropriation by the Town Council; and
4. Housing projects that receive financial investment from the Town of Ridgway, including but not limited to tax and fee waivers, shall be all electric and shall not include natural gas service or another fossil fuel source, or any appliances or equipment which use natural gas or rely upon another fossil fuel source; and
5. Housing projects that receive financial investment from the Town of Ridgway, including but not limited to tax and fee waivers, shall achieve net zero energy use, which is preferred to be achieved on-site to the extent economically practicable and may be achieved by enrolling in San Miguel Power Association's Totally Green Program from 100% renewable sources.
6. By pledging to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, the Town of Ridgway will serve as an example for Town residents and businesses to achieve the same goal. The Town will explore mechanisms and potential incentives to enable Town residents and businesses in this pursuit.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of April, 2025.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO

John I. Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk