

Mayor and Common Council

38 Park Avenue
Flemington, NJ 08822

Meeting: 07/25/22 07:30 PM
Department: Clerk of the Borough
Category: Board Policy
Prepared By: Sallie Graziano
Initiator: Sallie Graziano
Sponsors:

DOC ID: 3853

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2022-167

Urging the State of New Jersey to Hold Fossil Fuel Companies Accountable for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Costs

WHEREAS, the Borough of Flemington, in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, is home to many businesses, parks, recreational facilities, schools and other institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Flemington and communities across the State of New Jersey are experiencing the increasingly severe impacts of climate change, including flooding and urban heat. In New Jersey, average temperatures are increasing by roughly twice the global average, with an average of 5 to 8 degrees Fahrenheit above preindustrial levels predicted by the end of the century, and 2021 was the state's third warmest year on record; and

WHEREAS, global warming causes sea-level rise and annual precipitation to accelerate in New Jersey, with sea levels projected to increase 4 to 6.3 feet by 2100 above the year 2000 mean sea level, and annual rainfall projected to increase 5 to 8% by the end of the century; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida is estimated to have caused \$16 billion to \$24 billion in damages in the Northeast U.S. and 30 deaths in the state of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Flemington must plan for flood resilience and stormwater management. Required upgrades to New Jersey's stormwater, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure systems will cost \$40 billion over the next 20 years statewide; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from burning fossil fuels amounted to 76% of total human-caused greenhouse gases (GHGs) and NASA explains the "greenhouse effect" as when carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides trap heat in the atmosphere and cause temperatures to rise, known as "global warming"; and

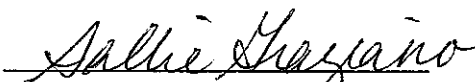
WHEREAS, oil and gas companies have produced, marketed, promoted, and sold fossil fuels over the last 50 years, without protecting or warning consumers about the dangers they knew their products would cause, and have spent millions of dollars on campaigns to obscure the truth to stall climate action and protect their profits; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Flemington Borough, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, does hereby urge Governor Murphy to take legal action against the fossil fuel industry for its role in creating and perpetuating the climate crisis to ensure that the cost of adaptation and resilience does not fall solely on the shoulders of taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and to the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.

Adopted: July 25, 2022

Attest:


Sallie Graziano, Borough Clerk


Betsy Driver, Mayor

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kimberly Tilly, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jessica Hand, Council Vice President
AYES:	Hand, Johnston, Long, Parker, Rosetti, Tilly