

RESOLUTION OF THE
CALHOUN COUNTY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, climate disruption is a reality, with most scientists in agreement that the impacts are now being seen; and

WHEREAS, in the extreme, climate change could result in an increasing number of droughts, greater risk of forest fires, shifting crop patterns, a reduction in our snowpack, an increase in sea levels, more flooding, and extreme temperature fluctuations; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. National Academy of Sciences and ten other countries recently called for immediate action to curb greenhouse gas emissions tied to global warming; and

WHEREAS, many state and local governments throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing pollutants through a series of activities that simultaneously provide economic and quality of life benefits; and

WHEREAS, emissions reduction programs can benefit communities through reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new technologies; and

WHEREAS, the members of the National Association of Counties (NACo) support immediate and long-range efforts to mitigate possible sources of climate change and have agreed that NACo will provide leadership in the education, discussion, evaluation, and decision making regarding climate change affecting counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Calhoun County Commission is desirous of establishing a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and in that regard elects to join the “Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Initiative.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in declaring the “Cool Counties” initiative, the Calhoun County Commission recognizes the following:

- There is a consensus among the world’s leading scientists that global warming caused by human emission of greenhouse gases is among the most significant problems facing the world today.
- Documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events (i.e., droughts and floods), adverse impacts on plants and wildlife habitats, threats to global food and water supplies – all of which have an economic impact on communities and their local governments.
- Leading scientists have projected that stabilization of climate change in time to minimize such impacts will require a reduction of global warming emissions to 80 percent below current levels by the year 2050.

- The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits cities to reduce global warming emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, and calls for a federal limit on emissions.
- Many counties throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reducing energy bills, preserving green space, implementing better land use policies, improving air quality, promoting waste-to-energy programs, expanding transportation and work choices to reduce traffic congestion, and fostering more economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new technologies.

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED that the County Commission of Calhoun County, Alabama, will take immediate steps to help the federal, state and the County to achieve the 2050 climate stabilization goal by:

- Creating an inventory of County government (operational) greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions and implement policies, programs, and operations to achieve significant, measurable and sustainable reduction of those operational GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050.
- Working closely with local, state and federal governments to reduce County GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050, by developing a GHG emissions inventory and plan that establishes short-, mid-, and long-term GHG reduction targets, with recommended goals to stop increasing emissions by 2010, and to achieve a 10 percent reduction every five years thereafter through to 2050.

Chairman, Calhoun County Commission

I, Kenneth L. Joiner, Administrator/Treasurer of Calhoun County, Alabama, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Calhoun County Commission at a regular meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2008, and the same appears in Minute Book H-H.

Done this 10th day of January, 2008.

SEAL

Kenneth L. Joiner
Administrator/Treasurer