

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
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Historic Bi-Coastal Resolutions From LA & NYC Call For A Global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty *Call on Other Cities to Join Them as Climate Emergency Continues to Worsen*

Los Angeles, CA - November 10, 2020 - LA City Councilmember Paul Koretz introduced today a resolution calling for a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT), in order to exceed the goals of the Paris Climate Accords and keep global warming below an already-hazardous 1.5 degrees Celsius.

“While Trump has been fiddling, California has been burning, Iowa flattened, and the Gulf Coast pummeled and flooded. The climate emergency continues to worsen, seemingly by the day, with lives destroyed, and billions of dollars spent in clean up,” **said Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Koretz.** “With the election of a new President, the United States needs to reassert its international leadership on aggressive climate action. Today, we join with our friends in New York City in calling for a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and ask the other 35,000 cities in the U.S. to join us.”

“The science has been clear for some time that fossil fuels are the driving force behind climate change,” **said Council Member Costa Constantinides, Chair of the New York City Council Committee on Environmental Protection,** who introduced his resolution on October 29th, 2020. “With fires in on the West Coast and historic storms forming in the Atlantic, the time for half measures is long over. We in New York City stand with our neighbors in Los Angeles in calling on the world’s nations to end our reliance on fossil fuels and create a brighter future.”

“In the same way that towns and cities once backed a nuclear freeze and turned it into a potent international effort,” **Bill McKibben, Author and Founder of 350.org said,** “now the localities with the most to lose from climate change are backing this new effort for climate sanity.”

“By introducing a resolution in support of a global FFNPT, LA sends a strong message to governments around the world that now is the time for international cooperation to end the expansion of oil, gas and coal and fast track a fair global energy transition,” **said Tzeporah Berman, Chair of the FFNPT and International Campaign Director at Stand.Earth.** “No city, state, country or corporation can do this alone and we cannot rely on markets alone to do this quickly or fairly.”

The movement for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty calls for a global agreement to wean nations off of fossil fuel energy sources, which account for 80% of carbon dioxide emissions, drive pollution and accelerate ever more severe climate disruption. This pact is essential to hold the global average temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Scientists warn that any higher rise than that will have catastrophic effects on sea level, agriculture, and air quality in just a few years. Mounting evidence of these accumulating impacts around the globe suggest that they are already occurring much sooner than expected.

Councilmember Koretz is the author of legislation to create in LA the world’s first Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization, centered on leadership from frontline communities. The Vancouver City Council on October 15th became the first city to officially endorse the FFNPT. **Seth Klein,** author of the new book, [A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency](#), brought the resolution to Councilmember Koretz.

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