

Position Statement to Build a Climate Smart America

DPOE Board Approved (6/13/19) DPOE Membership approved (7/30/19)

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, President Donald J. Trump withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement;

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, the U.S. Climate Alliance was established to empower state and local governments to provide leadership to build a carbon-neutral American economy;

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2018, the Evanston City Council unanimously approved the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP);

WHEREAS, CARP is enabling Evanston to become the first city in Illinois to set a goal of achieving 100 percent renewable electricity for all properties, aiming to do so by 2030, and the first to target zero net emissions, or carbon neutrality, with plans to achieve that goal by 2050.

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2019, Illinois became the 18th state to join the U.S. Climate Alliance

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2019, speakers at the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank's *Confronting Climate Change* forum "described the need to prioritize action at the local level rather than waiting for government intervention at the national, regional or state levels."

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Evanston (DPOE) is a volunteer member organization that is accountable to Democrats residing within the attendance areas of the Public School Districts 65 and 202, and;

WHEREAS, the DPOE is committed to amplifying the voices of those Democrats; electing progressive Democrats to local, state, and federal offices; and promoting progressive ideals and progressive elected officials.

WHEREAS, the DPOE encourages youth participation in the political process through local-level actions that remedy problems caused by climate change.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The DPOE will work with Evanston Township High School students and the Evanston City Council to advance CARP implementation by:

- Urging Cook County to expand its climate action policy to include encouragement for each of the more than 130 municipalities countywide to adopt climate action and resilience plans;

- Urging the Illinois General Assembly to approve, and Gov. J.B. Pritzker to sign, the Clean Energy Jobs Act--proposed legislation that would place Illinois on a path to 100% renewable energy while growing the clean energy economy that expands equitable access to public health, safety, a cleaner environment, and quality jobs and economic opportunities, and;
- Urging State of Illinois policymakers to incentivize each of the 1,299 incorporated municipalities statewide to adopt climate action and resilience plans, and;
- Urging all presidential candidates to sign on to the stated goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.