



## City of Homer

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Homer City Council

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### Memorandum 20-045

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

FROM: Councilmember Aderhold

DATE: April 7, 2020

SUBJECT: Alaska Climate Change Planning Cohort Support

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During our January 11, 2020 council retreat and through Memorandum 20-015, City Council identified work on our Climate Action Plan as a priority for 2020, championed by councilmembers Aderhold and Evensen.

Councilmembers Aderhold and Evensen, along with Deputy City Planner Julie Engebretsen, participated in a statewide Municipal Leaders Climate Policy Workshop on March 19, 2020. The 3-hour online workshop was sponsored and facilitated by the Alaska Center and included municipal participants from the Fairbanks North Star Borough, Municipality of Anchorage, Kenai Peninsula Borough, City of Seward, City and Borough of Juneau, and, of course, City of Homer. Attendees also included Geos Institute, Lotus Engineering and Sustainability, and the University of Alaska who are interested in forming a cohort of Alaska municipalities to seek grant funds for climate action planning (please see attached support letter and proposal).

The benefits of joining the cohort would include working collaboratively with other Alaska communities toward climate sustainability; support from experts at the University of Alaska, Geos Institute, and Lotus Engineering and Sustainability to achieve our goals for greenhouse gas reductions and climate adaptation; and renewed energy and new ideas for climate action in Homer. Municipalities that may be part of the cohort are in different stages of climate action planning and would each have the opportunity to learn from each other while individually pursuing community-specific goals. In addition, non-profit organizations such as the Alaska Center, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, and/or others may be interested in participating in the cohort and supporting the City of Homer in advancing climate action work.

While we are currently focused on response to the novel coronavirus pandemic, climate action should remain a priority. Formal proposal development, led by Geos Institute, would require minimal city staff time.

Recommendation: Discuss the Alaska Climate Change Planning Cohort proposal and approve the support letter.

Enc:

- Alaska Climate Change Planning Cohort support letter
- Alaska Climate Change Planning Cohort proposal