

From: Sebastopol Climate Action Committee
To: Sebastopol City Council
Date: July 27, 2022
RE: Recommendation to Sign on to the Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty

Dear Mayor Slayter and Councilmembers:

The Climate Action Committee recommends that the City of Sebastopol endorse and formally sign on to the International Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (Treaty).

In December 2019 Sebastopol adopted its Climate Emergency Declaration committing the City to ongoing actions to restore a safe global climate. That Declaration states that the *“City of Sebastopol joins a nationwide call for a regional Just Transition and emergency mobilization at all levels of government to restore a safe climate, and will partner with local, regional, and State agencies to implement immediate actions...to help safeguard its residents against the consequences of climate change.”* Although support for international efforts aimed at the same purpose are not stated specifically, the Climate Action Committee believes that endorsing the Treaty would be consistent with the spirit of the City’s 2019 Declaration.

Modeled on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, the Treaty calls for an international phase out of the use of fossil fuels and supports a just transition for oil and gas workers and their families. Just as fifty years ago the world needed a treaty to defuse the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction, the world today needs a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to address the global climate crisis.

The Treaty and supporting information can be found at: <https://fossilfueltreaty.org/home>
In particular on the Treaty website, we’d like to call to your attention several of the pages on the website:

- The page that features pathway documents that describe how to actually achieve the enormously difficult goal of the treaty: <https://fossilfueltreaty.org/resources>
- The endorsement page: <https://fossilfueltreaty.org/endorsements>. Note the handful of North American cities that have signed on to date. Sebastopol would be among the early signers in the U.S.
- Information about the origins of the Treaty as an environmental justice matter with Pacific Island Nations, among the least responsible for the crisis facing the most immediate and dire consequences of it: <https://fossilfueltreaty.org/history>
- The strong team that makes up that staff: <https://fossilfueltreaty.org/people>

- The many notable climate leaders who support the Treaty:
<https://fossilfuel treaty.org/champions>

According to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, coal, oil and gas are responsible for 86 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions in the past decade. And as we all know, carbon dioxide, now at an alarming 420 parts per million in the atmosphere, is the number one climate pollutant. Phasing out fossil fuel production, and fast-tracking progress toward safer and more cost-effective alternatives will require unprecedented international cooperation and the more governments, national and subnational that sign on, the more strength there is in the call for a Treaty.

Again, we urge the City to endorse. Thank you.