

## Preamble

Climate change is a grave environmental crisis. A result of our collective human activity, it is accelerating at an alarming speed. The science is clear and non-negotiable, and urgent action is needed to reduce emissions and stabilize temperatures for the future of all living beings.

The Rochester Zen Center views declaring a climate emergency as a way of affirming – to one another and to the wider community - our commitment to the difficult work of addressing climate change and climate justice. This work involves understanding the social and ecological consequences of the crisis, seeing its roots in greed, fear, and denial, and doing what we can to alleviate suffering as it unfolds.

Zen teaching and practice stresses the importance of using only what we need. In the Mahayana tradition, we follow Bodhisattva precepts in vowing to avoid doing harm, to cherish all living beings, and to abandon greed, anger, and delusion. Since the Rochester Zen Center's founding in 1966, we have strived to embody these principles through resource conservation, sustainable land stewardship, and a largely plant-based diet.

### **Declaration of Climate Emergency**

The Rochester Zen Center declares a Climate Emergency, and supports the global community's committed efforts to address climate change and climate justice. From our location on the ancestral lands of the Onöndowa'ga (Seneca) nation of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy, we affirm our interdependence with the ecosystems around us, and join countless Sanghas, communities, and nations around the world in vowing to serve and live in harmony with our planet and all its beings.

In declaring a Climate Emergency, we resolve to:

- Incorporate climate crisis considerations into the life of the Rochester Zen Center, including our decisions, practices, and policies.
- Advocate strongly for greater leadership and action on the climate crisis at all levels of government.
- Offer our spiritual and material aid in efforts to address the climate crisis.
- Treasure and deepen our practice, which enables us to find love, compassion, joy, equanimity, and the courage for action in the midst of uncertainty and change.

*This Declaration of Climate Emergency borrows language from similar declarations by the Auckland Zen Centre (New Zealand) and the Sydney Zen Centre (Australia).*