



[Your Name]  
[Your Address]  
[City, State, ZIP Code]  
[Email Address]  
[Phone Number]  
[Date]

[Government Leader's Name]  
[Title]  
[City/County Government Office]  
[Address]  
[City, State, ZIP Code]

Dear [Government Leader's Name],

I am writing to you today to express my deep concerns over the climate crisis. As world leaders meet for COP28 right now to discuss climate action, it is imperative that our local government also prioritize actions that address this critical matter and ensure a sustainable future for our region.

Climate change is a global crisis that has far-reaching implications for the environment, economy, and the well-being of our citizens. This year we have witnessed the devastating effects of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and the loss of biodiversity across the world. Greenhouse gas concentrations which trap heat in the atmosphere and increase Earth's surface temperature is currently at its highest levels in 2 million years and continue to rise, **according to the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). Scientists at NASA are predicting** that many parts of the world will become uninhabitable as early as 2050.

These impacts are not only harmful to our environment but also have profound consequences for our community's infrastructure, public health, and the overall quality of life. **The WHO has declared** that between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year.

Time for action is running out. **The UNEP has stated** that 10 years ago, if countries had acted on climate science, governments would have needed to reduce emissions by only 3.3% each year compared to the 7.6% that we now have to achieve. Every year we fail to act, the level of difficulty and cost to reduce emissions goes up.

Here are three focus areas our government can prioritize [Choose three of the options from the action items list or add ones of your choice]:

The long-term costs of inaction are likely to be far greater than the investments required today. Furthermore, the actions we take now can lead to economic opportunities, job creation, and a cleaner, healthier environment for all.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter. I look forward to your response and to witnessing positive changes that will benefit our community for generations to come.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]



## List of Action Items



**Invest in Renewable Energy:** Allocate resources to support and incentivize the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, for both municipal operations and residents. Encourage partnerships with local utility companies to increase the accessibility and affordability of clean energy options.



**Representation of girls and women in decision-making spaces:** Women and girls are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change as they often bear the brunt of water and food security and heightened health risks and potential for gender based violence during natural disasters and displacement. This is why girls and women should fully participate in climate decision-making processes so that policies address their needs and to harness their potential as leaders in the fight against climate change.



**Community Education and Engagement:** Launch community education campaigns about the importance of climate action, sustainability, and individual efforts that can collectively make a difference. Engage with local schools and community organizations to spread awareness.



**Climate Resilience Planning:** Develop and implement climate resilience plans that prepare our community for extreme weather events, including flooding, heatwaves, and wildfires. These plans should prioritize vulnerable populations and infrastructure.



**Improve Public Transportation:** Enhance our public transportation system to make it more efficient, affordable, and environmentally friendly. This could include expanding routes, increasing the number of electric or hybrid buses, and providing bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure to reduce the reliance on personal vehicles.



**Promote Energy Efficiency:** Implement policies that encourage energy efficiency in public buildings and incentivize local businesses and residents to reduce energy consumption. Initiatives like energy-efficient lighting, heating, and cooling systems can significantly reduce carbon emissions.



**Waste Reduction and Recycling Programs:** Strengthen waste reduction and recycling programs, making it easier for residents to recycle and reduce the amount of waste going to landfills. Encourage businesses to adopt eco-friendly packaging and practices.



**Protect Green Spaces:** Prioritize the protection and expansion of green spaces and urban forests. Trees and green areas help absorb carbon dioxide and provide numerous benefits for residents' physical and mental well-being.



**Municipal Green Procurement:** Implement green procurement policies that favor environmentally responsible products and services when the local government makes purchases.



**Collaborate with Regional and National Initiatives:** Join regional and national initiatives and networks focused on climate action to share knowledge, leverage resources, and advocate for policies that support our goals.