

COUNTY OF BUCKS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF READY FOR 100 RENEWABLE ENERGY

A Vision for a 100% Clean Renewable Energy Future

WHEREAS, Climate change is a global long-term threat to civilization and Earth's living ecosystems and thereby poses a long-term threat to survival.

WHEREAS, Extreme weather associated with climate change poses immediate risks as it becomes more commonplace; testing our infrastructure, emergency and social services; impacting our access to food, water and energy supplies; heightening disruption of services, commerce and quality of life; impacting negatively on the quality of life and human health;

WHEREAS, A major contributor to climate change is the continued use of fossil fuels by individuals, businesses and government agencies;

WHEREAS, A rapid and significant reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions will slow climate change;

WHEREAS, The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris resulted in a consensus among all 195 countries to limit the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2°C (36°F) to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions will not exceed sinks (total carbon capture) by the second half of this century, and become carbon neutral between 2050 and 2100;

WHEREAS, On January 8, 2019, Governor Tom Wolf announced an executive order stating, "the Commonwealth will work to achieve a 26 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050";

WHEREAS, Currently, 35 municipalities in Southeastern Pennsylvania, including three in Bucks County, have stepped up as regional leaders and passed "Ready for 100", setting goals for the transition to renewable energy in their communities.

WHEREAS, the County of Bucks is committed to fostering a community characterized by equality, health, safety, livability, prosperity and equity;

WHEREAS, the County of Bucks recognizes that it has a responsibility to future generations to take an active stance to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases within the County;

WHEREAS, The best strategy for achieving a cost-effective and even cost-saving, energy source transition is through collaboration with other Southeastern Pennsylvania energy leaders and participation in acquiring aggregated procurement contracts – Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for regional wind and solar energy; to this end, the County of Bucks also recognizes the importance of developing a close working relationship with its electric energy supplier(s) to create the most advantageous and mutually beneficial plan for integrating locally generated and renewable power;

AND WHEREAS, A renewable energy initiative can produce energy cost savings for residents and local businesses while stimulating new economic activity and local jobs as well as make a significant contribution to reducing the County’s greenhouse gas emissions.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

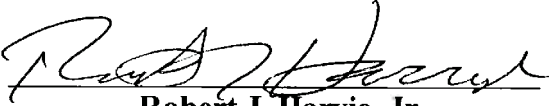
- The County of Bucks will join other leading municipalities and counties in the national Ready for 100 movement to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy for all, and in furtherance of this goal commits to seeking:
 - 100% clean renewable electricity for the County of Bucks’ electricity needs by 2035;
 - 100% clean renewable energy when replacing the County of Bucks’ heating system(s) and transportation equipment by 2050;
 - As County of Bucks’ vehicles are replaced, priority will be given to transitioning the vehicle fleet to 100% renewable energy sources by 2030, where feasible;
- “Clean renewable energy” will be defined as carbon-free and pollution-free energy generated sustainably from renewable sources such as wind, solar, small hydro, tidal, fuel cells and geothermal;
- The County of Bucks will seek to contract to purchase electricity from new solar projects – as Amazon, Google, the City of Philadelphia, and others have done;
- The County of Bucks will prioritize locally owned, produced and distributed energy whenever feasible for the many advantages it provides to the community;
- The County of Bucks will continue to strategically decrease energy usage by implementing energy efficiency improvements;
- The County of Bucks will promote, through the Bucks County Planning Commission, the development of zoning and SALDO regulations for sustainable alternative approaches on water, energy and building materials and practices.

- The Bucks County Board of Commissioners will provide guidance for commissioning a committee and/or contractor to draft an energy transition plan for achieving these goals to include interim milestones, financial impacts, equality metrics, potential financing mechanisms and percentage of clean energy that is locally produced.
- All County of Bucks stakeholders will have the opportunity and will be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation process;
- The Bucks County Board of Commissioners call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to set a goal to use 100% renewable energy for all purposes no later than 2050;
- The Bucks County Board of Commissioners call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to adopt codes and standards to increase the efficiency of buildings and appliances;
- The Bucks County Board of Commissioners call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to increase the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to levels that put us on track to meet 100% renewable energy goals.

ADOPTED as a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners this 17th day of February 2021.

COUNTY OF BUCKS, PENNSYLVANIA

ATTEST:  BY: 
Gail Humphrey **Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW**
Chief Clerk *Commissioner, Chair*
 2/22/2021

BY: 
Robert J. Harvie, Jr.
Commissioner, Vice Chair

BY: 
Gene DiGirolamo
Commissioner